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*(l to r): Clare,
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Story page 28*

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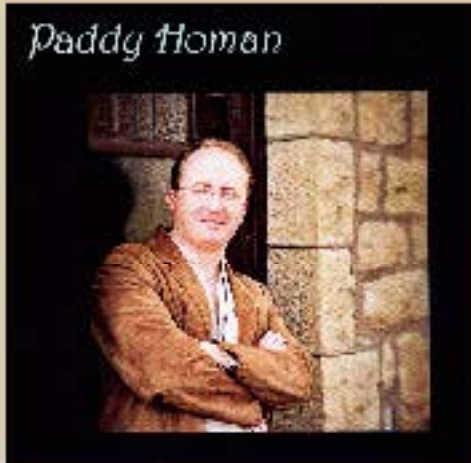


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From the Motherland

Sean Farrell



Lies, Damn Lies... And Statistics

Here are a few to reflect on:

YEAR	GDP	GDP per HEAD	NATIONAL DEBT	AS %
1987	€25,724 billion	€7213	€30,085 billion	115%
2000	€104,553 billion	€23,503	€39,490 billion	38%
2007	€189,751 billion	€45,000	€38,000 billion	25%
2009	€171,000(est)	€42,000	€75,000 billion	64% est.

The Economy returned to centre stage with a bang in the run up to Easter, with the launching of NAMA and the revelations of the cost of bailing out the Irish banks. The fallout continues as I write, with public outrage and shock at the amounts involved, and media commentators and politicians shouting about fiscal and financial Armageddon and a debt burden that will continue for several generations.

The facts seem stark. The building and developing boom collapsed in 2008, throwing the banks which had financed it into financial crisis. These included the two major systemically important Irish banks, Allied Irish and the Bank of Ireland, which cater mainly for the retail market, but also Anglo Irish Bank, a non retail bank which had specialised in loaning to developers, and a savings and loan type institution, Irish Nationwide Building Society. With the spectre of a major bank default looming (just weeks after Lehman Brothers) the Government, at the end of September 2008, issued a blanket guarantee for bank loans, deposits and bonds. The last 18 months have seen the Government grappling to come to terms with the banking crisis as its extent has slowly become clear. This has included taking over Anglo Irish Bank, which has effectively ceased to function. During this period bank credit has virtually dried up, with serious knock on effects for the economy.

The main instrument for cutting what has become in effect a financial Gordian knot has been the setting up of NAMA—the National Asset Management Agency—to relieve the banks of their major development loans (bad, doubtful or otherwise). NAMA has begun “buying” the loans by issuing, in effect, IOUs which the banks can redeem from the European Central Bank, and thus start lending again. NAMA's notes are issued at a discount on the banks' valuations of the loans (euphemistically referred to as a “hair-cut”) and, in theory, when the property market recovers (in say, 8-10 years), the properties can be sold by NAMA to

recoup some or all of the state's investment (a similar smaller-scale scheme in Sweden in the 90s actually netted a profit for the state).

While the cost will be spread over a number of years and there is the prospect of getting at least some of it back as assets are sold, what has outraged public opinion has been the scale of the rescue required, with a figure of roughly \$45 billion being bandied about, and the distribution of the potential losses between the institutions concerned. Anglo-Irish Bank alone is set to cost roughly \$30 billion, with the threat of another \$14 billion to come; the Irish Nationwide a further \$4 billion. The two main banks—used by most of the public—account for \$11 billion. As if this were not enough, the discounts extracted by NAMA will have the effect of reducing the capital bases of both the Bank of Ireland and Allied Irish Banks, thus reducing their lending capacity and ensuring that credit will continue to be in short supply for some time, unless fresh capital is injected by the taxpayer.

While all this is painful, it could have been borne with public resignation, like the other economic steps the government has taken. However, the realisation that Anglo Irish Bank is in effect a zombie bank, casting doubt on whether there will be any return for the \$30 billion, could prove the last straw. A debate on whether it would be cheaper to close the bank forthwith is underway with the government saying it would cost much more and that the state cannot default on its debts but being tight-lipped about giving details. Opposition politicians and some commentators are demanding clarification and more information. The public mood has not been helped by the spectacle of the principal architects behind the Anglo fiasco walking around with impunity.

Current projections for government borrowing—which, remember, continues at \$400 million plus per week just to keep the country running—envisage it peaking at 85-90% of GDP in 2014. These are admittedly before factoring

in the cost of funding the bank bailouts and are based on continued adherence to the strict programme of control and fiscal rectitude on which the government embarked in 2009 and on a sustained global economic recovery. Granting these two conditions Ireland's peak borrowing would have been no worse than many other Euro zone countries, as well as Britain. Adding on the additional burden of bank debt, whatever that proves to be over the next four years, will obviously affect these calculations, for even if the debt itself can be rolled over (the way all Western style governments deal with debt), the annual cost of servicing the total debt will have to be met through further cuts or higher taxes.

There is no doubt therefore that the bank bailout will add considerably to the government's woes and also to Ireland's national debt! However, as can be seen from the rough figures at the top of this article we have a long way to fall to reach the depths (and debts) of 1987. Back then the country really was broke, with a generalised recession, double digit inflation, unemployment at record levels (17% at a very conservative estimate), a spiralling national debt almost one fifth greater than GDP, together with historically high interest rates (I unearthed recently a letter of that era from my bank manager giving me the good news that my mortgage interest rate was being cut to 16%!). In the 20 years that followed, GDP grew by almost 700%, the workforce doubled and the whole (rising) population benefitted from higher incomes, better benefits, services and infrastructure, as well as lower taxes. Even with the “hits” we have taken in the last two years, comparisons with 1987 are risible. It is worth noting that the story that dominated the media in March, before the bank bailout, related to queues at the Passport Office and the backlog of 40,000 applications (1% of the population). Those waiting were overwhelmingly heading for Spring holidays. Recession? What recession?

This is not to deny there are huge problems with the Irish economy. There are, and one is coming steadily down the rails, for the most part ignored, as public attention focuses on the latest high visibility story. For while states can roll over debt, individuals cannot. The level of private debt is awesome, much of it in the form of mortgages (over \$200 billion), many in respect of properties in negative equity, others to finance the autos and second homes that marked the Tiger years. This was certainly not the case in 1987. With interest rates set to rise over the next year this slow squeeze may well prove more damaging than anything a bank rescue can inflict. There is no sign of a NAMA Mark Two.

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Boyle the Kettle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

Tom Boyle



MEMORIAL DAY

I have been reading Ted Kennedy's memoirs, *True Compass*. In chapter 13 he speaks about his second visit to Vietnam in 1968 and his brother, Robert F. Kennedy's opposition to the war. What he wrote then, parallels the war in Iraq and now in Afghanistan. As I read about Teddy's visit to Vietnam, my mind kept flashing back to my lifelong friend Jim Mulroy's letters from Vietnam.

Letter, dated 7 November 1965: "P.S. Had a chance to talk with Ted Kennedy not long ago while he was visiting here. Remember the night we went out to O'Hare to see JFK and I got to shake hands with him? Still a big moment in my life. Ted looks like an 18 year old kid."

Waving the banner of 9-11 we attacked Iraq in 2003. The question some ask is, was it to depose Saddam Hussein or was it retaliation for 9-11?

Again, in reference to Vietnam, Teddy pointed out that, "Our country was not attacked. Our cities were not threatened. We do not seek to overthrow an enemy government, capture ground, or achieve unconditional surrender. We seek only to allow the people a free choice. For these reasons the war is nebulous, more vague in its ends, than the conflicts of our past... we must be careful in applying the traditional canons of patriotism, or the cliché's of the past, in judging this war."

He also pointed out that, "political ideology meant little to the suffering peasant of Vietnam. Their concerns and hopes were not identical to ours. I brought up the question of refugees: 'twenty-five percent of that nation's population, all of whom are disaffected, all of whom hold a strong resentment for whatever side tore them away from...

their lives... I found a great deal of resentment to the United States among these people."

So is it any wonder when innocent civilians are killed, the people hate us? The issues are complex and I would never be presumptuous enough to offer solutions. Teddy Roosevelt said, "Speak softly and carry a big stick." He took this phrase form an old West African proverb. Times have changed. Although we have the biggest stick, it is often useless against a teenager wearing a suicide bomb. So much for the necessity and the morality of war.

Once again, a letter from Jim Mulroy, Captain, USMC, 3 September 1965: (In the last paragraph he said, "when we can use our own troops and not ARVANS (Army of the Republic of Vietnam) we will win this war.") This brings into focus the troop surge in Iraq and the troop surge in Afghanistan. Teddy also wrote... "I began to outline my observations that corruption was rampant in the government of the Republic of Vietnam, to the extent that it was inhibiting our goals, and that President Thieu of South Vietnam showed no inclination to combat this corruption." Again, paralleling what happened in Vietnam, we are facing a corrupt government in Afghanistan and President Hamid Karzai seems to be unwilling to address the problem.

*"Da Nang, S. Vietnam
Dear Tom,
Just a short note to say hello and give you a situation report. Da Nang is a real hell hole. Dirty, muddy, shitty and just about every other adjective you can find. Flight Operations are unbelievable. Every kind of aircraft made flys out of Da Nang. All heading North to bomb the piss out of the V.C. or fly cover*

for helicopter assaults. We have some big missions planned and I'm sure you'll hear about them. At 20 missions per air-medal (those on which you took enemy fire), I should have my first one by the end of September. I only hope it's not posthumously. I really hope I don't get one at all. I would like very much to go home. This is a very ugly, filthy war. I flew my first medical evacuation hop last night and had to go into a zone and pick up a private USMC who had lost both legs in a V.C. booby trap while out hunting them in the mountains. I almost barfed when I saw him. They pumped 20 pints of blood into him trying to save his life. He was still alive when I got him to the hospital, but don't know if he made it or not. His legs had been hacked off by a machete knife in a spring hidden in the bushes. These V.C. are dirty little bastards. They don't want to win a war, they want to terrorize human beings. We get four or five of these evacuate missions per night, either bullet wounds or booby trap victims. Flying this damn chopper at night in the mountains where if your engine quits you fall right into their hands or they may just shoot your ass down, is not the best thing going. And for what—you tell me? I'll do it to save a Marine's ass anytime, but what's he doing there anyhow?

I'm living in an old French Barracks right now. Dirty, filthy, a septic tank right outside the door and 32 guys crammed into spaces for 15. We have sand bag bunkers surrounding the building and slit trenches between them. This place is not completely safe from mortar attack as was witnessed about a month ago. We have howitzer emplacements all the way around the base and they fire all night, just to harass the V.C. in the mountains surrounding us and keep them from massing too many troops at one place. Those things are really loud and sleep is just about impossible. The listening posts have at least one small fire fight per night. I'm trying to take slide pictures of this whole thing, so I should have a good showing

when and if I get home again. Don't know yet how long this tour will be yet. Hope only 13 months as usual, but looks like a lot longer right now. We aren't winning this war. Not by a long shot. I never realized how many V.C. there were, believe me there's more than we can handle unless they give us a complete go ahead to use all the weapons available to us. It will slowly come to this, I'm sure. This is a political war to many back at the home front who read the papers, but believe me, it's as bloody as war can get. I'm new and inexperienced to all that is happening here, but I'm learning fast. When we can use our own troops, and not ARVANS (Army of the Republic of Viet Nam), we will win this war. Best go back to work now. Take care and let me know what's happening at home. Will send you that picture when I get a chance.

Your Friend,
Jim"

Unlearned Lesson
by Dorothy Brown Thompson

Memorial Day
Of every year
The little valiant
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On every fallen
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And we who see
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Are we no wiser
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Paul Dowling Joins CIIS

Chicago Irish Immigrant Support has been offering quality services to the Irish community for almost twelve years and are expanding the range of services they provide. Paul Dowling (pictured), who hails from Gorey, Co. Wexford, joined the staff at the end of January. Paul trained as a social worker in Ireland and recently graduated from Galway University. With Paul on board they



plan to grow their social services by launching their senior outreach programme, which seeks to identify and provide services for the most vulnerable and isolated seniors within our community.

Paul will also be running the well established senior group meeting. If you have any questions in relation to the senior programme or think you may know someone who could benefit from their services, please contact the CIIS office at 312-534-8445 or Paul directly at 312-371-0937.

Visit the websites at www.ci-is.com.

The Chieftain Irish Pub To Open May 14 In Worth

Irish Country Music star, John Staunton, from Westport, Co. Mayo, is pleased to announce the opening of his new authentic Irish pub, The Chieftain, on Friday, May 14, 2010. The pub is located at 6906 West 111th Street in Worth, Illinois.

John, along with his wife, Evelyn, also run John's Bar, a thriving business on lower Peter Street in Westport, Co. Mayo (www.johnsbar.ie). He has years of experience on the country music scene and plays to packed audiences all

over Ireland, the UK and the USA.

The Irish pub will be open from 11am-2am Sundays through Thursdays, and from 11am-3am on Fridays and Saturdays. Four large flat screen television screens will cater to sports fans. A cozy atmosphere awaits you at The Chieftain. One can sit back, relax and enjoy a drink by the cozy fire. The Chieftain will feature live music every weekend. Pub food will be available. It will be an ideal location for "get togethers" with friends.

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Acting Irish International Theatre Festival

Shapeshifters, the resident theatre company of the Irish American Heritage Center, will host the 18th Annual Acting Irish International Theatre Festival May 17-23. Companies from Ireland, Canada and across the United States will participate in the competition. The Irish American Heritage Center is located at 4626 N. Knox Avenue in Chicago.

The Festival opens on Monday, May 17, at 8pm with a presentation

of *And Neither Have I Wings to Fly*, written by Ann Noble and staged by the host company, Shapeshifters. In this play, sisters Eveline and Kathleen have just lost their mother Moira, and deal with the changes this will mean to the home and with their father Peter. Kathleen is engaged to marry Leo, adoring, loving and steady. Then comes his brother Charlie, followed by a friend, Freddy, who is now a traveling actor. Eveline and Kathleen receive the

opportunities of a lifetime: to follow their hearts and dreams. Events in their lives take an interesting turn as Moira's spirit still roams the home and interjects herself into their plans. The tender story of deciding a path, while letting go and keeping the love of family, unfolds in the 1950s in a small town in Ireland.

The Festival continues with Frank McGuinness's *There Came A Gypsy Riding* by Dublin's Estuary Players on Tuesday, May 18, at 2pm. The McKenna family convenes at their remote West of Ireland holiday home to mark what would have been the 21st birthday of their late son Gene.

At 8pm on Tuesday, May 18, *My Brilliant Divorce*, written by Geraldine Aron, will be presented by The Tara Players of Winnipeg. A monologue charts a middle-aged Irish American woman's comic attempts to put her life back together after her marriage falls apart.

On Wednesday, May 19, at 2pm, Gaelic Park Players of Oak Forest, IL, will stage *The Patrick Pearse*

Hotel by Hugh Leonard. An upwardly mobile couple living in an upscale Dublin suburb and their business partner show what real patriotism is all about by selling it in the form of hotels. Each room in the Patrick Pearse Motel is decorated with a portrait of a national hero. Unbeknown to her loving husband, the lady of the house plots a tryst with an old flame, a television personality famous for his rudeness. The stage is soon filled with mistaken identities, dropped trousers, a flimsy negligee and false accusations. On a rainy night at the Patrick Pearse Motel, the characters criss-cross paths, threaten one another with a shillelagh, and hide in closets. This bedroom face will have the audience wondering how all of this will turn out, and who will emerge alive.

Cincinnati's Irish American Theatre, will present John B. Keane's *Moll* at 8pm on Wednesday, May 19. This hilarious look at life in a parochial house in 1960s rural Ire-

land. Keane lampoons the natural perceptions of parish order, and leaves the audience in no doubt as to who is running the local affairs. The story follows the fortunes of Moll, a dominant priest's housekeeper who is a dedicated but also somewhat intimidating woman. Moll has her own agenda, and wastes no time in putting her plans into action and she attempts to enhance both her own and the parish finances.

On Thursday, May 20, Calgary's Liffey Players will perform *Portia Coughlan* at 2pm. Beautiful and blessed with a wealthy, adorning husband and three young sons, Portia Coughlan would seem to have it all. However, grief over the drowning of her twin brother Gabriel in the Belmont River fifteen years earlier continues to torment her and prevents her from being the mother and wife she wishes she could be. Meanwhile, the confining village of Belmont that Portia calls home is populated by hilarious, brazen and cantankerous characters. From Portia to her husband Raphael to her vicious-tongued octogenarian Granny Blaize to her loving aunt, the ex-prostitute Maggie-Mae, Marina Carr's characters are exquisitely drawn and profoundly human.

At 8pm on Thursday, May 20, Dublin's Heads on Stage (formerly Holding Court Theatre) will stage Dermot Bolger's *The Passion of Jerome*. Jerome Furlong is a successful businessman whose life has been carefully constructed from layer upon layer of lies. That ends when, in the squalid flat he is using to have an affair, he is suddenly confronted with a manifestation of the supernatural beyond both his comprehension and control.

Southwest Symphony Orchestra Dance International!

On Saturday, May 8th, 2010 the Southwest Symphony Orchestra will present *Dance International!* at Trinity Christian College's Ozinga Auditorium, 6601 West College Drive in Palos Heights, and begins at 8pm. It will be a collaboration of music and dance featuring Cross Keys Irish Dancers, Ensemble Español, and The Lira Dancers. In addition, the SSO Youth Concerto Competition Winner, Madalyn Frigo, will perform.

Ticket prices are \$5 for students, \$15 to \$19 for seniors, adults \$19 to \$24, children under 12 are free. southwestsymphony.com, 708-802-0686, email southwestsymphony@gmail.com.

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MAUREEN O'BRIEN

EXPERTISE: Maureen knows the Gold Coast market and due to her involvement in both the real estate and restaurant industries around the area for many years, her clients benefit from her wealth of knowledge of the Near North Side. Maureen is a licensed broker in Illinois, Indiana and Michigan and is eager to help you buy and sell properties.

HISTORY: Maureen O'Brien has been a resident of the Gold Coast for over 40 years, growing up as a child here and raising her own children on Astor Street. She served as President of the Gold Coast Neighbors Association for three years, has been a Board member of GCN for over fourteen years, and is currently active on the Zoning Committee of GCN. She also chaired 'Evening on Astor,' the highly successful block party for three years.

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Pictured from the left is Commissioner Mariyana Spyropoulos; Joseph Sobanski; Commissioner Shore; President Terrence O'Brien. Joseph Sobanski, Director of Engineering for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, recently retired and was given a Resolution by the District congratulating him on his 35 years of service. Sobanski joined the MWRD as an assistant civil engineer in the then relatively new Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP) Section. Prior to his present position, he served as project manager for engineering design of TARP Phase I tunnel systems, and other related design contracts.

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The Aqua Isle Irish Bars Thrive in the Heart of Honolulu's Chinatown

By Seamus Hogg

It's St. Patrick's Day in Honolulu, Hawaii, and there are 15,000 people packed into an unlikely corner of the city—Chinatown. The action centers around a pair of Irish bars, Murphy's and O'Toole's, that manage to swim strong, despite being fish out of water.

Both bars offer everything you'd expect from a good Irish pub; causal atmosphere, warm hospitality, and a nice array of Irish whiskeys and beers on tap. But each bar also brings a unique style, adding to the variety of the surrounding area.

"I think we complement each other quite well," said Don Murphy, owner of his namesake bar. "They don't serve food, we do; they have live music, we don't; they have a younger, more raucous crowd, we're more of a family-oriented place. It brings a diversity of people down here, and that's what we want."

Murphy's opens to a spacious dining room where families feast on traditional pub grub like fish n' chips and shepherds pie, as well as new favorites like the Blarney burger, topped with imported white cheddar and Guinness cheese. In the back, a cozy, L-shaped bar hosts regulars nursing pints while gazing at the latest sports event. The bartender is as quick to ask you about your day as he is to refill your whiskey glass, and a shuffleboard table lining the wall brings liveliness to the

sometimes sleepy scene.

"People come in and think of it as a Chicago type place or East Coast type place, and there aren't a lot of those here," said Murphy. "It's like a neighborhood pub. It's just a comfortable place to come."

The establishment has managed to find its niche among the dive bars, karaoke lounges, and trendy clubs of the neighborhood, but the pub concept was far from a sure bet when Murphy opened the place in 1987.

"I struggled with it a little bit at first, but not really too much," said Murphy. "A friend of mine called me up, and I'd never been in the business. He said, 'Hey Murph, I heard you bought a bar, congratulations you're gonna be drunk for one year!'"

On the other side of Nu'uau Avenue lies O'Toole's, which has a little more Dublin grittiness than Murphys' countryside charm. Accompanying an old warehouse building from the late 1800's, a waft of smoke and spilled beer permeates the air around a small stage that features live music 365 nights a year. While the bar feels a little less polished than its neighbor, it's no less hospitable or historical.

"It's a historic building because it survived the 1905 Chinatown fire," said co-owner Bill Comerford. "In 1905, they had incidents of bubonic plague, so someone in their brilliance decided we should burn that section of town down. Well if you're going to start a fire you should start it down by the water, but they started it on the opposite

corner and it ended up burning everything in a big row in the direction of the trade winds."

O'Toole's balances a core group of regulars with a mix of tourists, military, and young professionals that flock to the bar on weekends for its live music and 13 tap beers. It's an inclusive joint, even managing to (legally) skate around the state's anti-smoking laws to cater to its loyal clientele. This "for the people" attitude is even evident in the bar's title.

"When [previous owners] first bought the bar in 1977, they had one regular in the bar, his name was Jimmy O'Toole," said Comerford. "Jimmy was a fixture in the corner everyday, and they kind of got the room with him in it. As a result of that, they said we're going to name the bar after Jimmy."

Comerford and business partner Fred Remington had a little practice in perfecting the Irish pub atmosphere before delving into Chinatown. They both started off as bartenders and eventual owners

of the Irish Rose Saloon on the edge of Waikiki.

"The owner [of the Irish Rose] decided he wanted to retire and he had two sons everyone thought he was going to leave it to," said Comerford. "One found God and the other found the devil, and neither of them were in the middle enough to run a bar. [Remington] made an offer and I made an offer, and the owner says, 'well with the wisdom of Solomon, I'm making you partners.'"

For Murphy's and O'Toole's, providing Irish hospitality from a Chinatown locale seems only natural. From big festivals and fundraisers to quiet afternoons, they continue to serve a neighborhood that takes its name as only a suggestion, and thrives on its mixed heritage.

"The key word I would have to say is diverse," Comerford said, describing the local "Irish" population. "We try to appeal to people who love all things Irish, as opposed to people being full-blooded."



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O'BITUARIES

Friends we will miss



Ann Abrams

Ann Abrams devoted more than half her life assisting Catholic Charities' mission to fulfill the Church's role in charity to anyone in need by providing compassionate, competent and professional services that strengthen and support individuals, families and communities based on the value and dignity of human life.

Ann Abrams, 80, died peacefully on April 19 in her Harbor Point residence surrounded by family. A native of Chicago's Beverly neighborhood, she began her career at Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1955 as a junior caseworker serving low-income families, and for the next 10 years, she provided counseling and support to unmarried

mothers from pregnancy through delivery and beyond, as they planned for their child's future. From 1968 through her retirement



from Catholic Charities in 1998, Ann served successfully as a social worker, supervisor, program director and department director of Catholic Charities Maternity-Adoption Department.

In every position of responsibility, Ann distinguished herself as a dedicated and competent professional in the field of social work, serving children, birth parents and adoptive families.

As Director, she worked tirelessly with her staff to develop and extend numerous programs to support parents, children and families. Ann Abrams grew up in Christ the King parish in the Beverly neighborhood on the South Side of

Chicago and graduated from Longwood Academy. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at Siena Heights University in Adrian, Michigan, and earned a Master of Social Work degree at Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida.

She is survived by her sisters Joan Gibbons and Kathleen (Patrick) Cleary along with many loving nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

The family suggests memorial contributions be made to Catholic Charities Maternity and Adoption Program, 721 North LaSalle, Chicago, IL 60654. Call (312) 948-6087. Please list the name of the deceased with your gift.

Rev. Roger J. Coughlin

Rev. Roger J. Coughlin, a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, and an assistant and associate administrator of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese

of Chicago since 1956, died on April 15, 2010 in St. Joseph Hospital, Chicago.

The second son of the late William T. and the late Ruth M. (Corcoran) Coughlin, Father Coughlin was born in Chicago's Little Flower Parish on June 20, 1925; dear brother of the late William N. (the late Rita), and the late Thomas H. (the late Charlotte).

In addition to numerous friends and colleagues, Father Coughlin is survived by cherished cousins Joan Kelly, Mary Lee Sund, William Stanley and Leo Kennedy. He is survived also by cherished nephews and nieces William N. Coughlin, Lynn Laverik, James Coughlin, Celeste Carrier, Mary Keys, and Norene Filomeo, as well as many grandnephews and nieces, including Olympic Gold Medalist swimmer Natalie Coughlin.

Ordained a priest in 1951, Father Coughlin served as assistant pastor at Our Lady of the Angels, Chicago, until 1956, when

at age 30, he became an assistant director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago. During his first 16 years at Catholic Charities, he also served as Chaplain to the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, and the staff and residents at St. Vincent Hospital and Infant Home at 721 N. LaSalle St., Chicago. He "retired" in recent years from full-time duties, but continued as Associate Administrator, with a short "commute" to his office each day from his apartment in the St. Vincent Center on North LaSalle, now the main office of Catholic Charities in Chicago.

Father Coughlin was a graduate of Little Flower Grade School, Quigley Preparatory Seminary, and St. Mary of the Lake Seminary, Mundelein, where he earned baccalaureate and licentiate degrees in Sacred Theology. He studied psychology and counseling at Loyola University graduate school, and earned his master's degree at the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago in 1964.

Over the ensuing decades, Father Coughlin became the founder, organizer or innovator of numerous Catholic Charities social service programs that served people in need throughout Cook and Lake Counties. As the War on Poverty began, he spearheaded the development of parents clubs and organized the Catholic Charities component of the diocesan Head Start program, including

a central council for up to 20 Head Start centers; recruited social workers from graduate schools of social work throughout the country; and hired an organizer who developed almost 300 parish Senior Citizen Clubs and their activities.



Father Coughlin worked with the Foster Care and Adoption Services, served as the first Director of Family, Aged and Community Services, and established Catholic Charities Research Services. He initiated and was especially identified with many special programs at Catholic Charities: Adoptive Parent Clubs, the Head Start program, and the Cuban Refugee Children Program in the 1960s. In 1969, During the 1970s, Father Coughlin secured the former St. Vincent Hospital as a Catholic Charities center, opening the Arts of Living Institute there to serve pregnant teenagers. Today, the St. Vincent

Center is a center for Catholic Charities' administration and numerous programs, including daily suppers for 130 homeless and hungry people in the area. In 1974, he initiated a plan for redeveloping the Angel Guardian Orphanage site as a Catholic Charities center.

Father Coughlin served as Vice Pres. of the National Council of Catholic Charities for two years; organized the National Parent Rights Movement; and founded and served as director of Catholic Charities Research Services from 1978 until 1990.

In 1993, he retired and became an almost full-time volunteer at Catholic Charities.

In 2006, at the annual meeting of Catholic Charities Board of Advisors, the prestigious Caritas Christi Urget Nos (The Love of Christ Impels Us) Award was presented to Father Coughlin for his dedication to serving the poor and vulnerable.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Catholic Charities for the Maternity & Adoption Program & mailed to Catholic Charities, Development Office, 721 North LaSalle St., 4th floor, Chicago, IL 60654. Call (312) 655-7002.

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Irish Actor Shay Duffin Dies

Known for his roles in Raging Bull and Titanic, stage, film and television actor Shay Duffin, 79, died at UCLA Medical Center from complications related to heart surgery.

Shay was born in Dublin and entertained in the USA and Canada with his one-man shows: "Brendan Behan" and "The Importance of Being Irish."

He also toured with a stage

production of James Joyce's "The Dead."

Duffin played the bartender in the Academy Award winning; "The Departed," and he had roles in "Raging Bull," "Titanic" and "Beowulf."

He died at UCLA Medical Center surrounded by all four lovely daughters (Ruth, Laura, Linda, and Susan)

Funeral services were held Saturday May 1st at St Bruno's Church in

Whittier, California

"Shay loved Chicago," said his good friend, John Kelly. "Mayor Daley (the original) came to the show the first time Duffin performed there.



Shay Duffin

In a backstage conversation with the Mayor, Shay mentioned he was leaving soon because of green card problems. Da' Mayor said: "That's nonsense.... this country needs artists like yourself... call my office in the morning".

Shay had a green card within a week.

"When I was producing "Siamsa n' Gael" at Symphony Center for Old St Pat's in the late nineties, Shay was the guy who got Frank McCourt to host for us one year, and Gregory Peck the next. Duffin was a great man. With lots left to do. He told me two weeks ago it was the first time in

his life he ever felt "old," and he had all sorts of ideas for new characters to play," said Kelly. "Until the bypass he was constantly on the go. Writing scripts, singing at various Irish events, and performing anywhere they needed a professional Irishman. Shay was one of the last great Irish Vaudevillians," said John..

May he rest in Peace.

U.S. Northern Ireland Mentorship Program

U.S. Economic Envoy to Northern Ireland Invites U.S. Corporations to Participate in Northern Ireland Employee Mentorship Program

23, April 2010 – Belfast: The U.S. Economic Envoy to Northern Ireland, Declan Kelly, has formally invited U.S. corporations to consider participation in

Americas and a member of the U.S. Working Group supporting the Envoy's economic mission in Northern Ireland has agreed to Chair a Committee which will work to find corporate participants.

U.S. companies interested in participating in the program have been directed to the Office of the U.S. Economic Envoy's recently launched website economicenvoy.com where additional information will be posted in the coming weeks. The website also includes the latest news and events around the U.S. economic mission to Northern Ireland.

Envoy Kelly stated, "The mentorship program provides an excellent way to help Northern Ireland professionals gain valuable work experience that they can bring back to Northern Ireland and use to help build the economy of the future. At the same time, U.S. corporations benefit from the talented graduates produced by Northern Ireland universities each year.

"Economicenvoy.com will provide information for companies about the program and will also provide an overview of the latest news and events happening in support of our strategic investment and economic development mission to Northern Ireland," concluded Envoy Kelly.



Declan Kelly

the Northern Ireland employee mentorship program launched last month with the American Ireland Fund and the Northern Ireland Science Park CONNECT program. The mentorship program is designed to give young professionals and recent college graduates from Northern Ireland the opportunity to spend one year working in the U.S.

Robert McCann, CEO of UBS Wealth Management



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THE HERITAGE LINE

Irish American Heritage Center

Chicago, Illinois



International Theatre Festival Takes The Stage

Shapeshifters Theatre of the IAHC will host the annual Acting Irish International Theatre Festival. The 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.

The AIITF runs from Monday, May 17 through Saturday, May 22, 2010 at the IAHC, with both afternoon and evening performances.

For play descriptions, visit www.aiitf.com. The schedule is below:

Monday 8pm - *And Neither Have I Wings to Fly*, Shapeshifters Theatre, Chicago

**Tuesday, 2pm-TBA
Tuesday 8pm - *There Came a Gypsy Riding*, Estuary Players, Dublin, Ireland**

Wednesday 2pm - *The Patrick Pearse Motel*, Gaelic Park Players, Chicago

Wednesday 8pm - *Moll*, Irish American Theatre, Cincinnati

Thursday 2pm - *Portia Coughlan*, Liffey Players, Calgary, Canada

Thursday 8pm - *The Passion of Jerome-Heads on Stage*, Dublin, Ireland

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

Friday 8pm - *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, Rochester Irish Players, NY

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

Saturday 8pm - *The Factory Girls*, Toronto Irish Players, Canada

Tickets for all shows are \$15. To purchase tickets, call 773-282-7035, ext. 10 or visit www.irish-american.org.

Wings Soars This Spring

Shapeshifters Theatre continues its production of *And Neither Have I Wings to Fly* through May 9.

This play, directed by Robert Ayres, is set in 1950s rural Ireland, and features two sisters who struggle to find themselves in the aftermath of their mother's death.



**Through May 9
Friday and Saturdays at 8pm; Sundays at 3pm
Tickets \$10-15**

Check out *Wings* when it opens the Acting Irish Fest on May 17.

11th Annual Bloomsday Celebration

Celebrate the life and work of Irish author James Joyce this June 16, the 106th anniversary of Bloomsday. Bloomsday celebrates the day on which the action of James Joyce's novel *Ulysses* takes place, June 16, 1904. The day is named after Leopold Bloom, the central character in *Ulysses*.

The 11th annual Rattlin' of the Joists celebration, directed by Josephine Craven, includes performances with readings, music and song, presented by notables from Chicago's theatre and music community.



The performance is Wednesday, June 16 at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door.



Bond Between Two Historically Oppressed Nations Explored at Panel Discussion

Good Dog Films, in association with the Center will hold a panel discussion commemorating the Great Irish Famine and Choctaw Donation on Tuesday, May 18 at 6:30pm and tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door.

The event will begin with a screening of *The Great Irish Famine: Remember Skibbereen*, by Harvest Films, followed by a panel discussion led by Irish film producer Peter J. McCarthy, who is currently developing a feature film based on the Irish Famine.

The esteemed panel of Irish and Native American speakers are Gary White Deer, of the Choctaw Nation, Professor Maureen Murphy, of Hofstra University, Mary Pat Kelly, author of *Galway Bay* and Frances

Hagemann, Board President of the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian.

The panel will discuss:

- ◆ The Choctaw Trail of Tears and cross-reference the fate of the Native American tribes with the dispossession of farming land by the ruling landlord class in Ireland.

- ◆ The donation by the Choctaw Nation to the Irish during the famine and the reasoning behind it.

- ◆ A history of the Irish people, the population growth, the reliance on the single crop, rack rents and rates that were all instrumental in the build-up to the famine when the potato crop failed.

- ◆ How the famine may have fuelled through either political action or inaction.

- ◆ The introduction of The

Great Irish Famine Curriculum into the New York State education syllabus, which also examines the donation by the Choctaws.

- ◆ A comparative analysis of the similar backgrounds between the Native Americans and the Irish; how they have each coped as a nation and the general feeling today within the Native American population towards the dispossession of land.

- ◆ Addressing the post-traumatic effects of the famine on a macro level and how these effects are still in existence today.

- ◆ How the histories of both nations can be brought into the present day in a positive form that will help and aid other nations that are suffering from similar traumas today.



THE HERITAGE LINE

IRISH AMERICAN heritage center

Chicago, Illinois



President's Message

Spring has sprung and we are quickly heading into summer here in Chicago. It seemed like we no sooner got through St. Patrick's Day and boom! Spring was here. April was another busy and successful month for our Center (Sooner or later I'm going to have to stop saying that because it's starting to become routine). We had tremendous concerts by Bua, áthas and the Elders. Almost 300 were in attendance for the amazing performance of song, music and literature for the One Book, One Chicago novel, *Brooklyn* by Colm Toibin. The highlight of the month had to be our Green Family Festival which brought hundreds of people and exhibitors to our Center all focused on making our lives and homes greener. And what better place to be green than with the original green community at the IAHC? And it doesn't stop, as you can read in this issue the calendar is jam-packed again with The Acting Irish International Theatre Festival, The Kilkenny Castle Reunion Concert, lectures, exhibits more concerts, etc. It's hard to believe that within a couple of months, we'll all be out in our parking lot as it is transformed into Irish Fest. It'll be here before you know it

As I list out all these amazing

things going on at our Center, I start to wonder how anyone finds the time to do it all. Our lives have become so busy with work, family, our kids' schedules and activities, schools, church, friends and more. I don't know anyone who isn't constantly juggling a schedule anymore. We can't do it all, but we often try. The problem is too many things just fill up our calendar as obligations and not enough things get on our calendars that add to our lives. We need to take time to do those that matter and less of those things which just take time away.

Over the past few months, my family has witnessed a lot of loss. We lost two cousins far too young; Susan Kowalczyk, who was the daughter of IAHC members Breege and the late Martin McGuane and Don McNamara. My wife and I lost a dear friend, John Hamilton. My sister lost a good friend, John Morrissey. Many of our friends lost parents; the Carolins, the McGraths, the Loftuses, the Cliffords and the Griffins. We all know so many people who have suffered loss and have been left to go on through life without their loved

ones. As a parent, these losses have a different impact on my life than they did before. There's a depth and a different perspective that wasn't there. Particularly with my cousin Susan and our friend John, they still had so much life to live and they both left young families behind that need to go on without them. As my own

young family continues to grow, I can't imagine the impact it has and the emotional scars it leaves on a family. It definitely makes you think not only about securing things for your own family but about what type of life you have lived and how you have spend your time ...

Now, I'm not saying the Irish American Heritage Center is the answer to all of your prayers or difficulties, but is a place that has mattered to many people. We have a community here that makes us feel part of something special - our shared heritage, a shared love of music, song, dance, the arts, and all things Irish. It's a place where families can gather to share memories and make new ones. It's a place that has been special to my family. It is a place that gives purpose to so many



of our members and volunteers as they work to create a Center that is relevant and that will be a gathering place for our community for years to come. In short, it's a place where we belong.

We are currently in a membership drive and inviting more people to become a part of our Center and we continue to work hard to make our center a place where everyone can feel they belong. (More than 500 new members so far this year!) I hope you join us soon to share some memories and make new ones with your family and friends. Put us in your calendar! Make it a point to celebrating your Irish heritage. We offer so many opportunities from classes and exhibits, lectures and plays, concerts and events, to just a simple night in the pub. We welcome you at any time. We understand that you can't fit everything into that calendar, but hopefully you can find the time to do things that enrich your life. Whatever it may be, I'll leave you with these simple words that our friend John Hamilton always left with us - "Be Good."

Robert McNamara, *President*
Board of Directors,
Irish American Heritage Center

Executive Director's Message

Where Green Families Meet

The tagline of the Green Family Festival in April was "Where Green Families Meet" and of course, themes of all green and all family make the Center the perfect host for any event of this brand, with just a little bit of a twist this time around on the green part.

Instead of all things Irish, for the weekend of April 17th, we celebrated all things healthy. What a tremendous addition this Festival now is to the Center's annual event calendar. Outside of our Irish comfort zone, we aspired to make a contribution to the community that reached well beyond the heritage, and we succeeded. My favorite moments from the weekend included: hearing representatives from the Army Corp of Engineers, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Water Reclamation District talk about their plan to manage the rising Asian Carp population,

actually sampling some Carp delicacies cooked up Chef Carol Nyitray; picking up some quick-win energy efficiency tips for the Center from WGN's Lou Manfredini; sampling some of Goose Island's eco-friendly and very tasty Green Line beer; and feeling inspired listening to Chicago religious leaders agree that enabling healthy living for their respective worshipers presents an opportunity for real interfaith connectivity and common ground across sacred texts. On top of all of that, and probably most importantly, I will be extremely proud in the coming days to present Father Boland, President of the Archdiocese of Chicago, with a donation of 13 boxes of canned goods that we collected at the door for the Catholic Charities Food Drive. It will be nice to do our small part to

support their herculean operation, which feeds 3,000 Chicago families per month.

Good Times with Good People

Prior to the Bua concert last month, I got to chat with a long-time volunteer about me how much he enjoys coming to the Center every weekend for good Irish music and a few laughs. He said that he used to go to a place back in the late 70's and 80's that had music all the time and had a real sense of home, warmth, and character



to it; a place that he fell in love with and became a meaningful centerpiece in his social life. This place was the Kilkenny Castle Inn on the Northwest side. I told him that he was in luck, as we are bringing back The Kilkenny Castle Reunion Concert on

May 15th. 450 people attended last year to sing along with The Dooley Brothers and Brogue and we expect a similar crowd to tune in this year. It's on the volunteer's calendar and you should probably add it to yours as well.

Something Special in the Making?

Irish Center FC opened up its city soccer season on April 16th with a dominant 3-0 victory. A couple of early goals from Pete Clark and a class finish in the 2nd half from Vice Consul Tim Reilly were enough to do in a clearly overmatched side. Holding possession for 80%+ of the match and earning 20+ shots at goal while allowing just 1 are early signs of big things to come for the team. We play on Friday nights on the Lincoln Park turf field at North and Lakeshore—come cheer us on!

Tim McDonnell
Executive Director,
Irish American Heritage Center



THE HERITAGE LINE

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

Chicago, Illinois



Who Are Those Irish Heritage Singers?

Some Little Known Facts!

The Irish Heritage Singers were formed more than twenty years ago to maintain and promote the music of our Irish culture in Chicago. Some of the Singers are Irish-born, many

- ◆ Members purchase, alter and maintain their own beautiful costumes.

- ◆ One member donated \$1,000 so that all the of Singers' equipment,



are first generation and several are not Irish at all, but they all love to share in the joy of Irish music. All current Singers are members of the IAHC.

The Singers have been sponsored by the IAHC since their inception. At first, the Center paid just the Directors' salaries, but then began supporting them in other ways as they began to travel not just around the Midwest, but to Ireland as well. Realizing how costly this was, they accepted outside paid performances, with all proceeds going directly to the IAHC.

To become more professional, the Singers also decided to perform "off book," memorizing all their music. This is a very difficult task for an all-volunteer choir AND their Director, but they have succeeded!

The Singers not only decided to seek outside performances to offset their cost to the Center, but have also taken on several of their own expenses from within their ranks. This shows a level of commitment of which few volunteer organizations can boast. Here are some very generous examples:

- ◆ Most of the sound system equipment and electronic piano were donated by one of the members.

- ◆ The purchase of their portable riser system was made possible by contributions from the choir itself.

music and rehearsals can be in one room, as well as keeping this as a designated Music Room for all IAHC musicians to have at their disposal.

- ◆ One member paid for an outside accompanist for two of their recent performances, so that Director, Mary Grimes, could better spend her time during those performances by directing the choir, and not multitasking. This also ensured that all of the proceeds from those performances went directly to the IAHC.

- ◆ The Singers add their choral magic to several Masses each year at the IAHC.

- ◆ Finally, many of the Singers also volunteer working in the kitchen, baking and serving at various events, acting as museum docents.

The Singers also sing at weddings.

The Singers are preparing for their summer season of Festivals, as well as planning for their biggest fundraiser in November; their annual concert on November 21, 2010. In order to put on the best show possible, they seek sponsors to help defray the costs of this huge event. If you can sponsor them in any way, big or small, contact Director, Mary Grimes at 773-282-7035, extension 34. If you'd like to join the Singers, drop by any Thursday evening at 7:30pm. Help them achieve their goal of showing Chicago what a jewel our Irish American Heritage Center has become!

Lecture and Film Highlight Life of St. Brendan The Navigator

Join the Center for a lecture and film screening honoring the work of Irish saint, St. Brendan the Navigator. St. Brendan is known as the patron of boatmen, mariners, sailors, travelers, watermen and whales.

St. Brendan became famed for his voyages, particularly a seven-year journey around 538, to the 'Land of Promise', which he described in his epic saga, *'Navigatio Sancti Brendani Abbatis'*. Some modern scholars now believe the 'Land of Promise' could have been North America.

In 1976, Tim Severin, an expert on

exploration and author of *The Brendan Voyage* following the instructions of the 'Navigatio', built a hide-covered leather currach (boat) and sailed it from Brandon Creek on the Dingle Peninsula to Newfoundland via Iceland and Greenland, demonstrating the accuracy and descriptions of the places Brendan mentioned in his epic.

There will be a one-time showing of the Tim Severin documentary film on the Brendan Voyage on the Feastday of St. Brendan on Sunday, May 16 at 2pm. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door.

LEFTY Brings Southside to Life

Chicago filmmaker Todd Looby and Obrigado Productions present their critically-acclaimed feature film LEFTY set in Chicago's Beverly neighborhood. LEFTY will screen on Saturday, May 8, 2010, at 8pm. The filmmaker and cast will be in person for audience discussion at the screening.

A true Chicago independent film, LEFTY features some of the city's best artistic talent. The all-Chicago cast includes IAHC favorites, Mike Houlihan and Dyed in the Wool.

Given "4-1/2 stars" and named among the "Top 10 movies of 2009..." by Metro-mix, LEFTY follows prodigal son Danny Malone as he returns to the Irish Catholic Southside of Chicago to an indulgent mother and bullying father after an absence of thirteen years. He is pulled back into the boozy embrace of the old neighborhood, where the bonds of schoolyard loyalties have been loosened by adult failures, jealousy and infidelity.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door.

Concert Commemorates Legendary Music Venue

By popular demand, Brogue and the Dooley Brothers will perform an encore reunion concert at the Center.

The KILKENNY CASTLE INN REUNION CONCERT II is Saturday, May 15 and tickets are \$20.

The Dooley Brothers have been a Chicago area favorite for more than 35 years. The Irish-American group is known for its good-time music, vocal harmonies and rousing renditions of Irish songs. The brothers have recorded four critically acclaimed albums.

Brogue is from Kilkenny, Ireland, and came to the United States in the early 1970s, performing on the East Coast, and then in Nashville, where they recorded their second album. They moved to Chicago and in 1977 they opened their own establishment, The Kilkenny Castle Inn, on the northwest side of Chicago. The Castle Inn quickly became

a popular gathering where Brogue and The Dooley Brothers collaborated and appeared together for many unforgettable performances.



The two groups have again come together to present this special night of entertainment.

Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased at the door, by visiting www.irish-american.org, or calling 773-282-7035.



THE HERITAGE LINE

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

Chicago, Illinois



May 2010

May 1	<i>And Neither Have I Wings To Fly</i>	3rd Flr Theatre	8pm
	Shamrock American Club Social	Sham Amer Rm	8pm
May 2	<i>And Neither Have I Wings To Fly</i>	3rd Flr Theatre	3pm
May 5	TIR NA NOG Seniors meeting	Fifth Province	11am
May 7	<i>And Neither Have I Wings To Fly</i>	3rd Flr Theatre	8pm
	Francis O'Neill Ceili Dance	Fifth Province	8pm
May 8	<i>And Neither Have I Wings To Fly</i>	3rd Flr Theatre	8pm
	St. Patrick's Fathers Social	Social Center	8pm
	Lefty Film Screening	Auditorium	8pm
May 9	<i>And Neither Have I Wings To Fly</i>	3rd Flr Theatre	3pm
May 15	Kilkenny Castle Inn Reunion Concert	Auditorium	8pm
May 16	St. Brendan Lecture and Film	3rd Flr Theatre	2pm
	Great Irish Books Club Discussion	Library	2pm
May	Acting Irish International	Auditorium	2pm &
17-22	Theatre Festival		8pm
May 18	Celtic Women Meeting	Room 109	7pm
	Great Irish Famine and Choctaw Donation Panel and Film	Erin Room	6:30pm
May 20	Irish Immigrant Support Mtgs	Erin Room	10am
May 21	Quiz Night	Room 109	8pm
May 28	Seneca in Concert	Fifth Province	8pm
May 30	Genealogy Meeting	Library	1pm
May 31	Building Closed		

Regularly Scheduled Events

Tues.	Quilting and Needlework	Room 208	9:30am
	Traditional Irish Art Class	Room 308	7pm
Wed.	Quilting and Needlework	Room 208	7:30pm
	Open Music Session	Room 302	7:30pm
Thurs.	Irish Heritage Singers Rehearsal	Room 304	7:30pm
Fri.	Francis O'Neill Ceili Prac. & Dance	Room 111	8pm
Sat.	Irish School	Various	9am

Tickets Now on Sale for Irish Fest! July 9, 10 and 11, 2010

Irish Fest will celebrate its Silver Anniversary with one of its most engaging festivals ever, with special promotions and events in celebration of The IAHC's 25 years on Chicago's northwest side.

Irish Fest showcases the finest in local and international Irish and American music, dance and family activities.

Featuring three days of music on 5 stages, including performances by Scythian, Eileen Ivers and Immigrant Soul, The Makem and Spain Brothers, The Prodigals, The Tossers, The Kreellers, The Mickey Finns, Kevin Flynn and the Avondale Ramblers, The Larkin and Moran Brothers, The Chancey Brothers, Kennedy's Kitchen, The Paddy



Homan Band, The Academy of Irish Music, Cu Roi, The Dooley Brothers, and more!

Tickets range \$7-14, children 12 and under are free. To purchase tickets, call 773-282-7035 or visit www.irishfestchicago.com.

A SPECIAL THANKS!

We've had many very successful events over the past few months and none of them could have been possible without the efforts and contributions of our dedicated volunteers and staff. Please join the Board of Directors of the IAHC as we offer a special note of recognition and thanks to the people who make our Center so successful.

St. Patrick's Day Festival	Joe McDonagh, Event Chair and Committee
Irish Dance Chicago Stepping Forward	Rich Doebler and Kathy O'Neill
Green Family Festival	Leslie Singel and Tim McDonnell
	Mary Johnson-Gorski, Event Chair and Committee

Your Irish American Heritage Center Staff:

Frank Connolly	Frank Crowley	Lorraine Fogarty
Mary Griffin	Tim McDonnell	Barbara Malone
Mary Morris	Erin Murphy	Sheila Murphy
Kathy O'Neill	Leslie Singel	Viktor Strapczuk
Teikma Zemmere	Evalds Zemmers	

IAHC Board of Directors 2009-2010

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 Mike Roach
 Beth Rochford

2010 Spring Concert Series

Each month, we'll aim to bring you the finest in Irish music. Check back often as we add to this amazing series.

Kilkenny Castle Reunion Concert	May 15	8pm	\$20
Seneca	May 28	9pm	\$10
Rising Gael	June 4	8pm	\$10
Young Dubliners	June 11	8pm	\$20

For tickets, visit www.irish-american.org or call 773-282-7035. Follow us on Twitter or become a fan of the IAHC Irish Fest or the Fifth Province on Facebook to receive concert updates and ticket giveaways.

The Heritage Line Staff

Kathleen O'Neill, Editor
Contributors:

Bob Healy	Peggy Murphy
Mary Johnson	Sheila Murphy
Gorski	Peg Reid
Tim McDonnell	Leslie Singel
Bob McNamara	Kathy Werning
Mary Morris	



the fifth province

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT

All shows start after 9 p.m.

May 2010

Sat, 5/1	One of the Girls
Fri, 5/7	Ceili Mor
Sat, 5/8	Joe McShane
Fri, 5/14	Seamus O'Kane and Jimmy Moore
Sat, 5/15	Barry Fagan's Band
Fri, 5/21	Donofinn
Sat, 5/22	Joe Cullen and Friends
Fri, 5/28	Seneca - \$10 cover
Sat, 5/29	Tom Hughes, direct from Ireland



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



IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER ATTRACTS MORE THAN 500 NEW MEMBERS SO FAR THIS YEAR!

2010 IAHC Membership Drive

Calling all Irish American Heritage Center Members!

The drive to 2010 New Members in 2010 continues! 514 new members have joined The Irish American Heritage Center so far this year. That's just over 25% of our goal and the registrations keep coming in.

As our organization began planning for 2010 and beyond, one of the key areas we knew we had to focus on was expanding our membership to new audiences, younger audiences, and making our Center a place that speaks to all aspects of the Irish community. Our membership has always been and will always be 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. So far we have seen a tremendous response to these efforts and it 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.

Member - Get A Member Contest

However, it doesn't just start and stop with them. 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.

YOU Could WIN a Trip to Ireland!

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 the 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.

All new membership forms for the contest must be received at the IAHC office by 12/31/2010 for entry into the contest. Winners will be announced at a 25/35 Anniversary Member's Event in January, 2011.

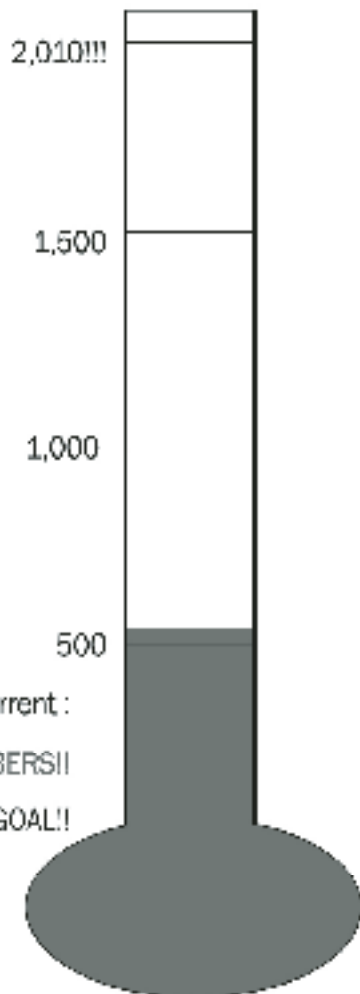
Here are the contest rules:

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 additional 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 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

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, or fill out the form below. Send payment to:

The Irish American Heritage Center Membership
4626 N. Knox Ave
Chicago IL 60630

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Address _____

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Phone _____

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3 Digit code on card's back: _____

Individual Membership

Annual dues
 \$30/year or \$50/2 years

Family Membership
 \$40/year or \$60/2 years

\$250 - Harper
 3-year membership
no annual dues

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 5-year membership

\$1,000 - Chieftain
10-year membership without annual dues

\$2,500 - High King
25-year membership without annual dues

\$5,000 - Saint
Lifetime membership without annual dues



Horoscopes By Theresa

ARIES: You could find yourself in a holding pattern with respect to some financial aspect of your life. Siblings or neighbors could figure prominently in the month to come. Stay tuned to the gossip around your neighborhood, but stay clear of idle baseless news from those who have nothing better to talk about.

TAURUS: This is a month when the new moon occurs in your sign! It is the only one all year. Do your best to use this time to solidify your plans and complete your projects that matter. Put your energies toward the right ends! Decision time!

GEMINI: Lie low and do what is best to help your physical and emotional well being. You are in the throws of deep and life defining changes. This is your opportunity to see just what you are made of. Let go of what causes you the most stress, and be realistic about the exit of those people or situations you feel you cannot live without.

CANCER: Life is bittersweet for you now. Planet Jupiter is holding court for the rest of this year in a place that is compatible with you. You are in the driver seat with respect to your life and the direction you most want to follow! Go to it!

LEO: You will find peace in your life and with your accomplishments. You are the bulwark that holds the whole thing together! There may at times be a feeling that you are holding the weight of the world upon yourself. This is because you hold a position of trust with everyone. Find someone you can lean on. He or she is out there.

VIRGO: You are the center of attention weather you like it or not. You seem to attract the attention of everyone, especially at work. Oh brother! Even if you feel like shrinking into the shadows, hold your head high. Do however, be cognizant of your actions and words. Circumspection is the watch word.

LIBRA: To have a heart is to feel. "Why me?" sayest thou. You could be moved from your element as the Gods single you out for profound emotions. Aren't you above those frail human weaknesses? Not! Live, Laugh, LOVE!

SCORPIO: You and your cohort Libra are hiding your vulnerabilities. Why waste your energies doing such silly things? You act invincible, while your pal Libra is trying to act like he or she is above everybody else. Get a life, both of you! Planet Jupiter is trying to get you two a date! With a real hottie for each of you! Wake up!

SAGITTARIUS: Please just for this next couple of months, cool it! Jupiter, Sun and Moon are dogging you now. It is a time to consolidate your past efforts and to clean up some of your mistakes. You are not a shrinking violet by any means, but lying low would help you now. Humility in speech and actions will save some well needed energy. Really!

CAPRICORN: You are doing better now than you have been in the past. Try to consolidate your efforts into a cohesive whole. This will help you in optimizing your overall effectiveness. You also feel better than you have in a long while! Great!

AQUARIUS: You are working like a fiend to improve your finances. With the help of planet Jupiter, you will succeed with some effort. Also, your home base will be the focus of your energy, with the New Moon in your sector of house and family roots.

PISCES: Jupiter is with you all year! This is

the greatest stuff. Make the best of your lot at this time! There is a good luck aspect happening for you now. Don't gain weight with fat old Jupiter in your sign. Cooking and dining might appeal to you more than usual. But fat is the least of your worries! Yeah!

We Get Letters

Dear Editor:

Once again the people of the City of Chicago were subjected to the ranting of a Mayor who by his nearly incoherent words expressed his total ignorance of the collective bargaining negotiations that occurred between his representatives and the Fraternal Order of Police. This Mayor has once again driven a wedge between himself and organized labor with his flippant and erratic remarks. He attempted to shield his integrity by once again deflecting facts.

The facts are that his representative, at his direction, pulled the City's 16% wage offer from the table on 16 March 2009, before it had even been discussed, saying at that time the City could no longer afford to offer it due to the worsening economy. To say that the Union didn't let their members know of the offer defies the fact that all City offers were posted on the Union website. The pulling of the economic package so infuriated the membership that 4000 of them picketed City Hall on 2 April 2009. At that time the Mayor again attempted to deflect the real reason for the picket as an attempt to embarrass him prior to the arrival of the International Olympic Committee.

Fully five hours prior to the FOP commenting on the content of the arbitrator's award at a press conference on April 16th, the insecure Mayor was attempting to deflect blame that never came from us. For the Mayor to attempt to appeal to the families of the members of this Union by telling them not to blame him for the 10% raise is unconscionable. For the Mayor to claim it was the Union that demanded that the contract go to interest arbitration is directly contradicted by a letter from his attorney demanding arbitration on July 29th 2009. This fact clearly shows the Mayor's ignorance of his own actions. Instead of taking the forefront in shielding himself from the onslaught of criticism from the Union, he could have actually waited for the FOP's summation in which they did not attack the Mayor, but noted that the "award increases the pay, benefits and security of our members and their families but it is less than what Chicago Police Officers deserve."

His statements demonstrate his lack of integrity in labor relations, his woeful misunderstanding of the negotiations for this contract, as well as his lack of loyalty and respect for Chicago Police Officers. He claimed the 16% offer was symbolized as "his word". We now see how rapidly his word disintegrated after giving it to the members of the Trade Unions and then forcing them to give 9% of their raises back. These are tough economic times and nobody realizes this more than the men and women of the department who are out there every day seeing and feeling the effects of this bad economy as well as addressing dwindling manpower. Those advising the Mayor on what he should or should not do or say need to step up and tell the Emperor he is truly naked.

Mark P. Donahue, President



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Clare Association "Day for Special People"

The Clare Association of Chicago will hold its 24th annual "Day for Special People" on Sunday, June 13, 2010 at Chicago Gaelic Park, 6119 W. 147th Street in Oak Forest, IL. This day, which is dedicated to those that God has made "special," will start with a 10am celebrated Mass on Gaelic Park's lovely patio, and the main celebrant will again be Archbishop James Keleher of the Kansas City Diocese. A delicious Irish buffet breakfast will follow in the Emerald and Tara Rooms. As in the past there is no charge to our "special guests," and a nominal fee will be charged to all others.

The main highlight of the day, the Grand Raffle, will follow the breakfast. The names of "special guests" are placed in this drawing when

they sign in that morning, and they are the only winners. They look forward to this event all year in anticipation of their name being called for one of the great prizes such as DVD players, radios, stereo equipment, games, large stuffed animals, etc. After the grand raffle, guests are encouraged to take part in the games on the patio, which guarantees each "special guest" four game prizes of their choice from our prize tables which are jam packed.

This day is open to every person with either a mental or physical disability. If you would like to register a "special guest" for this day, please call Maureen Bennett at 708-301-9773.

Registration will be capped at 225 guests and the deadline for registration is June 9, 2010.

We would not be able to sponsor this day without the help of many, many wonderful benefactors, and volunteers who give so generously of their time, and efforts. We are deeply grateful to Gaelic Park and their staff, who allow us to hold our event at their wonderful facility. Our Mass will be offered that day for the intentions of all our volunteers and benefactors who helped to make this day possible, as well as those of our "special guests."



Photo: Left to Right: Concern Board Member Jim McShane, 2010 Honorary Chairperson Rev. Tom Hurley, Golf Committee Chair Rich McMenamin and Golf Committee Member Steve Fitzgerald.

2010 Concern Worldwide Chicago Golf Outing

The 2010 Concern Worldwide Chicago Golf Outing, sponsored by The McShane Companies and Collins Engineers, will be held on Wednesday, June 23, 2010 at Harborside International Golf Center.

The event format is a scramble with a shotgun start at 12:30pm. Concern Board Member Bob Fitzgerald and Golf Committee Chairperson Rich McMenamin recently announced Reverend Thomas J. Hurley, Pastor of Old St. Patrick's Church will serve as this year's Honorary Chairman.

Funds raised from the 2010 golf outing will support Concern's Haiti Earthquake Response and Recovery Program. With an estimated 285,000 houses damaged or destroyed in the earthquake, many families are currently living in camps without adequate shelter or

sanitation.

The event brings together business leaders, friends and supporters of Concern for an enjoyable day of golf and raises critical funds. After the golf outing, all are invited to attend a buffet dinner for sponsors, players and guests. Individual player spots are \$325 and various corporate sponsorship levels are available.

Concern works in 28 countries around the world, including 17 sub-Saharan African nations, and benefits some 12 million people. The organization's programs focus on emergency relief and long-term development work in the areas of health, HIV and AIDS, education and livelihoods.

To register contact Lisa Jacobus at Concern's office at 312.431.8400 or lisa.jacobus@concern.net or visit www.concernusa.org.

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- Advanced lessons
- Junior Lessons
- Women's Clinics
- Playing Lessons

Cynthia Matyi Reading at IAHC

Ohio Celtic artist Cindy Matyi, returns to the Irish American Heritage Center this May to read from and sell her children's book, *Little Town of Spirals*.



Matyi's delightful story and beautiful paintings were inspired during travels in Ireland when she found herself showing a young boy how to draw spirals. Together they created a magical town where spirals rose from



Cynthia Matyi

chimneys, blossomed into flowers and brought fun to so many places.

This book is a great introduction to Celtic Art for young artists,



and invites them to try their hand at creating spirals.

Matyi paints Celtic art images as well as impressionistic landscapes. She particularly loves teaching children about Celtic Art. The book singing and discussion are Thursday May, 20 at 4pm and is free.

Annette Griffin CD: Songs from the Heart of Ireland



In February, Irish singer and entertainer, Annette Griffin, introduced her music nationally to North America with *Songs From The Heart of Ireland*, her first CD release here.

The key track, "The Heart That Beats in Ireland," was written by Irish songwriter, Brendan Graham, who wrote the mega hit, "You Raise Me Up," with Rolf Loveland of the

group, Secret Garden.

Annette studied voice and music at the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin and then was invited to join the prestigious group of entertainers, "The Bunratty Castle Singers" in Shannon, Ireland, where she was principal harpist and singer for many years and travelled all over the world performing.

After Bunratty, Annette concen-

trated on her solo career and has had an amazing run including singing for President Bill Clinton, Prince Philip, and on invitation by Ireland's president Mary Robinson to perform for the King and Queen of Sweden.

Songs From the Heart of Ireland can be purchased on CDbaby.com.

www.AnnetteGriffin.com. <http://www.myspace.com/annettemariagriffin>.



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Chicago Gaelic Park

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



G
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K

A Chaire:

The 24th edition of Gaelic Park's Irish Fest will take place on Memorial Day weekend. Since its inception, the Irish Festival has been a mainstay of Gaelic Park. First and foremost, the festival has brought some of the greatest names in Irish entertainment to our area - acts like Christie Moore, The Furies, The Saw Doctors, Paddy Reilly, Makem & Clancy and many others have headlined the festival. This event has also been a launching pad for many popular acts such as Gaelic Storm and The Fenians, both returning this year. Groups such as Scythian and The Screaming Orphans made their Chicagoland debut at our festival. Declan Nemej and his band and the Clare Ceil Band, which includes members of the Liddy family, are coming directly from Ireland.

The cultural stage has become very popular with its entertaining and informative presentations. It is clear that the festival plays a major role in the perpetuation and promotion of Irish culture and heritage in our area.

The festival has been a major source of revenue for Gaelic Park. Almost all of the capital improvements that have taken place at Gaelic Park over the last 20 years have been funded to some extent through the proceeds of the festival. Under the inspirational leadership of Frank Bradley, hundreds of volunteers provide a labor of love during the promotion and presentation of the festival. The fact that the entire festival grounds must be built from scratch each year is amazing.

This year's festival has a great lineup of entertainment and activities. The Connemara ponies and Irish Dog Breeder's exhibit are crowd favorites. Over 500 dancers will participate in the Chicago Feis on Memorial Day.

There's plenty for the kids, including the huge carnival midway included in the admission price. There are changes in this year's festival, including the reconfiguration of the festival grounds, a new stage in the Tara room and discounted admission tickets available online until May 21st.

Thank you to Mary O'Donnell and Mary Maloney for organizing a very successful essay contest. A total of \$5,000 was awarded to the 8 winners. Over 200 students submitted essays describing their career hopes. We hope to see you at Gaelic Park Irish Fest on Memorial Day weekend!

Sincerely, John C. Griffin, President

GAA

Handball players have started to play on the outdoor courts in LoGrange and Rainbow Beach and an end of indoor season tournament is planned at Silver Lakes Country Club. Any questions, call Colm Connolly at 630 935 3722 or James Cooke at 708 257-7047 St Jariath's Youth Gaelic Football and Hurling clubs are always looking for new players ages 5-18. Football practices are Wednesday 6:30-8 pm and Hurling practices on Friday 6:30-8 pm at Gaelic Park. Visit our booth and Hurling cage at the Memorial Day Irish Fest. Exhibition games will be held on Sunday of the Fest. GAA Football and Hurling Camp will be held June 14-18th at Gaelic Park. More information at www.chicagosjariaths.com.

Irish Idol Contest

You think you know all the Irish songs? Let's hear it! Gaelic Park is sponsoring our first Irish Idol Competition. Individual contests are being scheduled at Pubs throughout Chicago and suburbs. If you sing in the shower, the car, church or just anywhere, this is the event for you! Pubs submit an entry fee and contestants must sing an Irish song which can be accompanied by a musician. Finalists from participating pubs will take part in semi-finals and finals at the Gaelic Park Irish Fest on Sunday, May 30. Prizes include: 1st prize \$1000, 2nd prize overnight stay in downtown Chicago, 3rd prize gift basket. Participating pubs to date are: Fado' and The Karyman in downtown Chicago, McNallys in St Charles, The Claddagh in Geneva, The Irish Times in Brookfield, McGonigals in Barrington, IAHC 5th Province; and in the south suburbs, The Barney Stone, Olivers, Hobsteins, Teahans and of course, our own Corraig Pub.

Day For Special People at CGP

The Clare Association of Chicago will sponsor its 24th annual "Day for Special People" on Sunday, June 13 at Gaelic Park. This day is dedicated to those God has made "special" with either a physical or mental disability. Our day will start with Mass at 10am with a full Irish buffet breakfast to follow. There will be a nominal charge for breakfast to everyone except our "special guests," as this day is completely free to them. A grand raffle and games with prizes to follow. To register a "special guest", call Maureen Bennett at 708-301-9773 by deadline of June 9. Registration will be capped at 225 guests.

Gaelic Park Players

We are pleased to announce An Introduction to Theater course for children ages 10 to 13. Classes will be scheduled here at Gaelic Park for one hour on Saturday mornings over ten weeks this summer. Registration and "meet the instructor" evening will take place in early June with fees, start date and time to be announced. Class size will be limited. For more information, stop by the GPP Theater Tent at Irish Fest or call Larry Caughlin (708 532 0526) or John Devitt (708 710 8591).

Mother's Day Sunday, Mass, Breakfast and Celtic Supper

On Mother's Day, May 9, Mass will be held at 10am with a full Irish breakfast to follow for the cost of \$8. This will be the last Monthly Mass of the season, to resume again in the fall. Also on Mother's Day, Gaelic Park is hosting a special Celtic Supper with music provided by John Dillon and a fabulous menu of prime rib and chicken, as well as flowers for all the mothers. Admission is \$21 for adults and \$11 for children ages 4 to 12, under 3 are free. Reservations are required for all Celtic Suppers. The Mother's Day Celtic Supper will be the last of the season, resuming again in the fall.

Membership Special Invitation

We are delighted to tell that if you renew or become a new member of Chicago Gaelic Park during the Memorial Irish Fest 4 day weekend (May 28 thru 31), you will have a chance to win two tickets to Ireland sponsored by Aer Lingus. In addition, if you renew prior to May 31st 2010 or over Irish Fest weekend, we are offering Single Membership for only \$20.00 and Married Couple Membership for only \$40.00. With this membership, you are invited to our annual convention dinner, receive two FREE tickets to the Irish Fest and a monthly copy of Irish American News. More importantly, your renewal helps Gaelic Park to continue to promote and foster all that is best about being Irish. Encourage your friends and family to take advantage of this very special, limited time offer!



Aer Lingus & Gaelic Park representatives greet the winners of the 2009 membership drawing for a Free Trip to Ireland.

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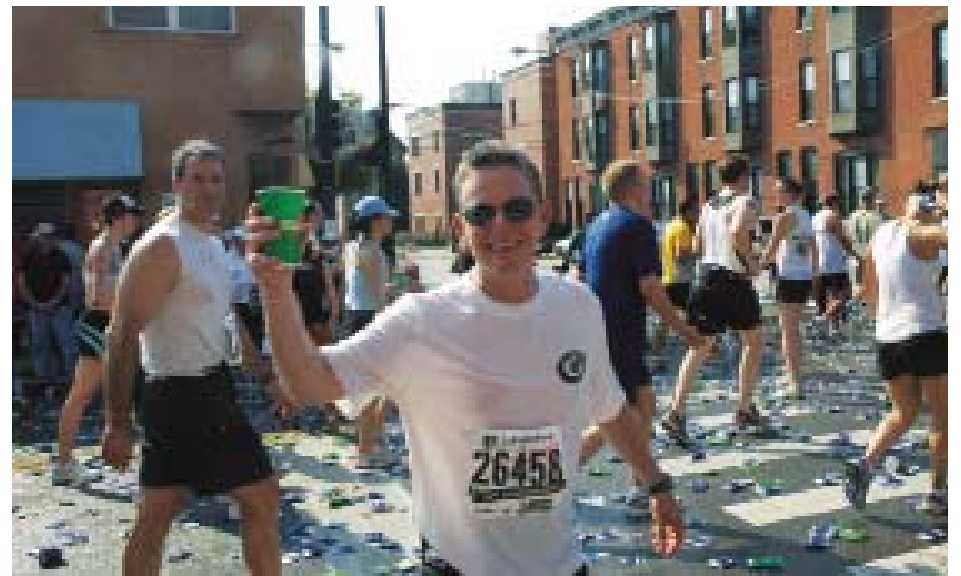
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An extraordinary volunteer who helps at the Irish American Heritage Center, Mike Neary, on his way to the finish line of the Chicago Marathon, 2008, the year of extreme heat.

Illinois Youth Rugby Teams Prepare for Season

The Illinois High School and Middle School rugby teams are in training for the 2010 youth rugby season under the auspices of the Illinois Youth Rugby Association.

Approximately forty youth rugby clubs, comprising of both girls and boys teams, are located in Chicago and the greater metropolitan area. This season marks the tenth year of youth rugby in Illinois. The youth clubs play competitive games against each other in April and May culminating in the Illinois Youth Rugby Championships taking place on Memorial Day, May 31, in Lemont, Illinois. Youth rugby is spreading out of the Chicago metropolitan area with clubs playing in Rockford, Sycamore, Peoria, Bloomington, Springfield, Moline and Georgetown.

The Illinois Youth Rugby Association's All-State team named the Tornados will play in a tournament June 12 and 13 against other All-State teams from throughout the Midwest. The All-State's season will also include a game in St. Charles, Illinois against Consent RFC from England and then will culminate with an overseas tour to England, Wales and Ireland in July, 2010.

For further information on Youth Rugby in Illinois and a club near you log on to www.IYRA.org or contact All-State Coach and IAHC member Nolan Day at twoday@sbcglobal.net.

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An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



Immigration Reform Seesaw

Having been involved with the movement for immigration reform for more than five years I can truly identify with those people who feel like they've been on an emotional seesaw. Hopes have been raised in the past (06 & 07), only to have those same hopes dashed again.

After the recent large march in Washington, DC, on March 21st and the passage of the health care legislation, hopes have been raised once again. The hope among immigration reform advocates is that our elected officials will look beyond the politics of the issue to the people who are being squeezed evermore into the shadow economy of a permanent underclass.

A permanent underclass may be beneficial for certain members of American society, in particular the unscrupulous employers who are happy to take advantage of the undocumented. Such employers are happy to pay these workers "under the table" while they reap the rewards of their hard labor. The undocumented are forced to work for long hours in less than ideal conditions and with no benefits. The only way to adequately deal with such abuses is to allow the undocumented workers equal protection as native-born workers, and at the same time hold the employers responsible for just wages and labor conditions.

This is the kind of proposal that finds broad support among both Democratic and Republican voters. Those politicians who are willing to look past the next election must also see the wisdom in such a move.

On the down side, I had a series of meetings on Capitol Hill the week following the march for Immigration Reform in March. What I heard again in some offices was similar to what I'd heard three years ago. Sadly, the finger pointing has already begun. Democrats saying we

can't move on the issue without having another republican sponsor on board. Republicans saying we're in the minority and need the majority to take the lead.

Also, I'm hearing that with unemployment around ten percent, this is not the time to move the immigration issue. I am also acutely aware that politicians are already looking ahead to November and thinking of their careers and what may help/hinder their re-election efforts.

There are also some small encouraging signs. People on the Republican side such as Dick Armey, the former chief whip in the House, and Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, are beginning to ask if it isn't time for Republicans to try and win back the Hispanic voters. The Republican strategy of saying NO to everything from President Obama hasn't done them and the country any favors. On the Democratic side, Harry Reid, Majority leader in the Senate, is fighting for his political life and needs the Hispanic vote in his home state of Nevada if he is to win another term. In fairness, Reid I think wants to move an immigration bill, but will it happen? Only the God's can tell.

The last thing we need is a repeat of 07 and have a bill fail again. Maybe, we will end up having a repeat of 1986. That was the last time we had a major piece of immigration law passed. It happened under President Regan and interestingly it was achieved at a time when unemployment was at a high level. It was also achieved in a "lame duck" session of Congress. As Alexander Pope wrote "Hope springs eternal." Maybe it will happen again this year.

Illinois Leads the Way

At a press event in the Merchandise Mart Chicago on April 8th, an impressive number of Illinois businesses attended the launch of a group dedicated to a push for Comprehensive Immigration Reform. The event's chief sponsor was the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights. "I believe fervently that comprehensive immigration reform is essential for our businesses," said Billy Lawless,

business owner and board member of the Illinois Restaurant Association and the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR). "Fixing the broken immigration system will ensure that all of our employees will be legally authorized for work, we will no longer need to worry about raids, and the benefits to our economy will be far reaching."

"It is impractical to think that we can deport 12 million people. The federal government is wasting billions and billions of tax dollars on enforcement and deportation programs that do not work," said former Governor Jim Edgar, the featured speaker at the meeting. "Many businesses in Illinois depend upon immigrants with legal status as a reliable and stable workforce. If Congress wants to jump start the economy, comprehensive immigration reform is a good start."

The formation of this group of businesses in support of C.I.R. is a very welcome development. Let's hope that other groups and individuals will join the movement to achieve the goal of reforming our broken immigration system in the not too distant future.

If you would like to help in spreading the message both within Illinois and indeed nationally, please contact us at Chicago Irish Immigrant Support.

Point to Ponder

Life has cycles. Whatever goes up, comes down, and what falls can rise again. Progress can be slow: We remember, then we forget, then we remember; we take two steps forward, then one step back. No matter how enlightened we become, we still face the realities of daily life.

A lesson on enlightenment may be learned from the following anecdote:

A young man had spent five arduous years searching for truth. One day, as he walked up into the foothills of a great mountain range, he saw an old man approach from above, walking down the path carrying a heavy sack on his back. He sensed that this old man had been to the mountaintop; he had finally found one of the wise-ones who could answer his heart's deepest questions.

"Please, Sir," he asked. "Tell me the meaning of enlightenment."

The old man smiled, and stopped. Then, fixing his gaze on the youth, he slowly swung the heavy burden off his back, laid the sack down and stood up straight.

"Ah, I understand," the young man replied. "But, Sir, what comes after enlightenment?"

The old man took a deep breath, then swung the heavy sack over his shoulders and continued on his way.

Socrates (character in the story) once told me, "A flash of enlightenment offers a preview of coming attractions, but when it fades, you will see more clearly what separates you from that state—your compulsive habits, outmoded beliefs, false associations and other mental structures." Just when our lives are starting to get better, we may feel like things are getting worse because for the first time we see clearly what needs to be done.

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"After illumination," Socrates continued, "difficulties continue to arise; what changes is your relationship to them. You see more and resist less. You gain the capacity to turn your problems into lessons and your lessons into wisdom." Anon.

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



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Tradition
In Review

Bill Margeson



There are two great things about listening to as much Irish music as we do. Well, three. The first is that when you get about 500 CD's a year sent to you, you get to listen to a lot of Irish music, and a lot of that is from groups and soloists you have come to trust for delivering the goods. The real deal. Second is the bit when you find a really fab, super new talent who just knocks you down. The third is when someone sends a great, great album you had missed. This month we have an example of each!

There is no better barometer in Europe for what is happening in traditional music than Alan O'Leary of Copperplate. His company is the epicenter of the best of the best. The regular reader knows his name well from this column, as you should. Go to his site. Just Google, Copperplate Distribution. Amazing artists there. Chris Droney. The Mulcahy Family. Teada. Eilis Kennedy. Shaun Davey. Rita Connolly. As we said, the best of the best. Years ago we called Copperplate, The Gold Standard. Still is.

One of the best artists in the Copperplate stable is a stunning concertina player by the name of Micheal O'Raghallaigh (O'Reilly). A year or two ago—exact time memories are getting increasingly impossible—we reviewed Micheal's second album. It is entitled, *Inside Out*. An apt title for an album that takes the amazing little concertina to the edge of the universe of musical possibilities. Brilliant. Thoroughly a traditional musician, Micheal is 39-40 years old. Good. Many, many years ahead of him to make more music. So, Alan and I were recently Skyping about Noel Hill, he of the famed concertina from Connemara. Many, many musicians might well claim Noel Hill as the best concertina player in Irish music, and he IS brill. We would rank Micheal O'Raghallaigh right there with him. Hill's playing is redolent of the uilleann pipes, to the point where we often think he is trying to pull off the perfect synthesis between the two, and make two instruments one. Fabulous. Micheal, on the other hand, plays more of the concertina as the concertina. Take your pick. Can't go wrong. We are yakking away about all this, because Cop-

perplate sent us Micheal's first album, *The Nervous Man*. Incredible. Right at the heart of the music. Perfect technique meets real taste and grasp of the music. Perfect. Get thee to the Copperplate site and get thee this album. In this economy, you may not be able to go to Disney

World this year, but for the cost of a CD, you can close your eyes and be transported to Ireland. The real Ireland. The real deal. *The Nervous Man*. Do it. You'll discover two life forces at work in the music. Micheal O'Raghallaigh and Copperplate. You're welcome! **Rating: Four Harps**

Now, we come to the new artist. Grainne Murphy. Living in New York, lots of college degrees from places like Duke, and smart as a whip. But never mind all that. This gal can play the fiddle. Big time. Wow! The debut album is called, *Grainne Murphy, Short Stories*. Pretty clever, as when



you think about it, each set of tunes is like a series of short stories, aren't they? The current Male Musician of the Year is Kieran Munnely, as the reader knows. In a weird way, it was he who actually discovered Grainne for us. Fair play to him. She is a stellar musician. And, so young!! Her musical story is pretty common. She gets exposed to the music at the right age and in the right context, and falls head over heels in love with it, as a musician and individual. Obsessed? Probably. The great ones remain so over their entire lives. We think Grainne Murphy is a great one. There is a patience and confidence in her playing not often heard from musicians until they are much further along in years. How old is Grainne? We don't know. Didn't have the nerve to ask. Well, we have learned something over the years! We think early 30's. Not important. Good heavens, this woman can play! She has a long list of able side musicians with her on the album. This is the best new fiddle artist we have heard in years. Such a rhythmic style! Great ornamentation and fancy bits, but never getting in the way of her work. You know what we mean. As usual, we are listening as we write the review. Right now, we are in "The New Mown Meadow/The Maids of Mount Kisco." Finally, when all is said and done, there is very little to say and do. Just Google her name. Then get to the site and buy the album from her. Artists like

she and O'Raghallaigh command your respect, and have a right to expect your support. You love their music and they have made it available to you. The moral thing, the right thing is to buy it. You'll love it, but you have to get it, first. So, get it. Grainne Murphy is set for a long, long run, and if we have this right—and we DO—she will be at the top a very, very long time. We sense New Artist of the Year here. **Rating: Four Harps**

Teada has a brand, spanking new album out. You know Teada. They burst on the scene a few years ago. Well, to be perfectly honest, they didn't



exactly "burst." There is always, always a new group or singer in Irish music who is the current buzz. You know. The new big kid on the block. About five years ago, that was Teada. Problem was, they weren't the new big kid on the block. As often happens with "buzz" in any art form it was wrong. Too much too soon. Nice lads, and competent musi-

cians. Their first album could hardly be called a "masterpiece". VERY young. Pretty good. Their new album, *Ceol & Cuimhne* IS a masterpiece. What happened? We can tell you. Unlike so many, many groups in any art form, Teada continued to work hard and improve. But, they did more than improve. They became very, very special. We saw them in concert at Irish Fest in Milwaukee where they first caught our ear. Then, last year, we saw them in Chicago with Karan Casey in an incredible Christmas concert. There is no better band in the business. Heck, there may be no better band. Period. This album is wonderful. Period. Bouzouki, button box, flute, bodhran and fiddle all blazing away in a waterfall of wonderful music. Just fabulous. And, fair play to five guys who obviously take their music very, very seriously, and respect it. Boy, do they—and this album—deserve your support. It is on Compass, so will be easy to find. Compass is backing a winner here. Sometimes you hear an album and think, "well, how could this be better?" Answer. It couldn't be. Roll on, guys, you are at the top now. Well played. Sorry, have to run. The lads are playing Poutin March. Have to put it on the iPod and do some yard work. Energy! Woouoo! **Rating: Four Harps** and a ton of admiration.

Don't forget to listen to co-host Mary Ann Keifer and my program, Ireland Tonight on WDCB, 90.9fm on Monday nights from 8-9 Chicago time, or online at www.wdcb.org. We play a lot of Grainne, Micheal and Teada—as well as only the best in the real Irish music. *Ta!

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Careers



By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



they say, you are as good as your last season. I believe, even in these strange times, that we operate on the presumption that we are going to continue with our organization unless we have really screwed up. So,

Do you take your job for granted?

I have spent many years counseling people about their job searches. I have been very fortunate; I have worked with a great number of talented and wonderful people as they sought their next job. My attitude towards job seekers is very emphatic. I am convinced that many of them could have been productively retained by their employers if the economic circumstances were different.

As I reflect on the process of helping people with their searches, I have observed some things that may be of value to the people working on their current jobs.

I am struck by the lethargic approach that many job seekers manifest. Remember THE guru of outplacement, Richard Nelson Bolles, says that the typical job seeker only spends five hours or less per week throughout their job search.

Just this week, I was told by three job seekers that they have not yet read the Job Search Manual I provided them at the beginning of their search. "Haven't finished it, yet" was the standard response. The manual is only about sixty pages. What's holding up a complete reading of it, particularly over a period of several weeks? If a job seeker can't find the time to read the job search manual, I have to wonder, did they do the "required" reading when they were employed?

This realization has prompted me to ponder if some of us don't simply "skate" along in our jobs, while collecting a paycheck, rather than focusing on doing them to the best of our abilities. We have often heard the expression that someone is simply "calling in" their performance. They don't really show up prepared for work. Take a moment to ask yourself the question, do you bring your "A" game to work most days or only once in a while?

I helped a former professional basketball player in his job search a number of years ago. His professional career was mostly in Europe. He said that their contracts were only a year long. Players negotiate with the team ownership after each season and decide on the player's compensation package for the following season. No long term contracts. As

it raises the question in my mind, do we take our jobs for granted?

Often, terminated job seekers spend an inordinately long time to prepare a resume. Frequently their casual attitude shows through when I see the same typos/mistakes in subsequent versions of the original resume. It makes me wonder if they did the same thing when they were gainfully employed.

I regularly ask my outplacement clients, "What's your target date to start your new job?" Perhaps we should be asking ourselves if we have any (work or career) goals for this year. Is it your goal to be "promoted" this year? Do you have any specific hurdles that you have targeted for this year or are you waiting for your boss to provide those?

Many outplacement consultants recommend that job seekers work at improving their resume even while unemployed. Take courses. Read appropriate books. Get professional certifications. Should you consider this idea even if you are employed? I saw an article recently about the former White Sox player, Jim Thome; one of Thome's ex team mates said Jim worked hard everyday. Even on the days when Thome was off the day's roster, he worked harder than most players scheduled to play that day.

Are you a more valuable employee now than you were a year ago? Don't be naive, you may still be downsized, terminated or traded (as hard working Thome was) by your current employer. But if you are forced to move on, you will be better equipped than you would have been. We shouldn't have to be forced to improve our contribution to our employer. You should seek opportunities to improve if for no other reason, than our own self interest. With that course or experience under your belt, you are a more viable candidate for a future job.

Often times, job seekers resist attending Job Support groups, for any number of reasons. I have heard: Just a roomful of losers! Nothing really comes of these meetings. They're my competition I don't want to know them. But a more positive attitude could be productive, not only during the job search but also when the person is again gainfully employed. There is

great value in learning the other guy's point of view; it will expand your own. A real benefit of the job support groups is meeting with people who will level with you as to the effectiveness of your approach to the search. Do you ever ask your current colleagues to give you the benefit of their perception of your contribution to the organization? It could be a valuable 360 assessment tool-like experience for you. Friends commonly do not tell you about your flaws, except perhaps sarcastically. Yet they probably could make some worthwhile comments if they felt they would be valued and welcomed.

Do you think that the passage of time, with your current employer, entitles you to anything other than your regular check? Do you conduct yourself as though your employer is obligated to keep you employed even if you are regularly "dogging it"? This is not an uncommon phenom; we regularly take things for granted. Think of important relationships in your life, do you demonstrate how much you value them on a regular basis?

I always ask job seekers, why should this (potential) employer hire you? Ask yourself why your current employer should continue to employ you. Are you a contributor? What achievements did you have today that would warrant inclusion on your (continuously updated) resume?

Many job seekers try to contact potential employers, but after one or two attempts they stop. I recommend taking the view that failure is not an option; you need to keep after your target (read; potential employer, customer or client). Some authorities say that a sale may not happen until the fifth or sixth sales call, so why give up after just one or two? Do you give up too easily whether it is on a project, potential sale or a difficult employee?

While writing this column, I received an email from one of my nephews; he was expressing his delight that he was not on the list of employees being terminated at his firm. Will he now view his employment as stabilized at least until another purge appears to be pending?

As we all know, taking things for granted is part of life. But you need to re-energize yourself periodically. When was the last time you recommitted yourself to excellence in your current role?

Carpe Diem (seize the day).

James F. Fitzgerald is president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc., an Oak Brook,

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GAA Season Opens

The clash of the ash (hurleys) and the thud of the big ball (football) will echo all over the great southwest of Chicago in June. And it will not come a day too soon for the followers. Senior

of September. Unfortunately, many Chicagoans of Irish ancestry who call themselves Irish, apparently have never seen the games of the gael and don't know what they are missing.

Back before the birth of the Gaelic Athletic Association, the largest amateur sporting association in the world, the spirit of the Irish people was at a low ebb. Failed insurrections, a big famine, the introduction of English games, rugby, soccer, etc. had broken that spirit. It seemed like Ireland was fast becoming a British Shire. And then a great Clare man named Michael sounded the clarion call, "Bring back the hurling to Ireland."

Almost overnight, hurling and Gaelic football clubs began forming in the villages, and Irish music, not to be outdone, marched right long with them as they went from village to village to play the games of the gael. The invading enemy had been defeated, but unfortunately lived to fight another day.

The birth of the GAA in 1884 was the best thing to happen at that time, because it not only helped by organizing games on a county level, further arousing the spirit of the people, but it also, of course, brought back the fastest and most skillful game in the world. The spirit of the nation had been aroused, and hurling was home to stay.

And then in 1916, Padraig Pearse and other Irish leaders proclaimed Ireland a free nation and, although outnumbered greatly and ill-equipped, Irish men and women took over Dublin and bravely held it for a week, despite the big guns of the invaders. The leaders of this brave Easter Rising of 1916 were shot by the British. But they had fought the good fight and we must never forget them. It is estimated that over 70% of Pearse's Republican Army were members of the GAA.

I would agree with the great Most Rev. J. Kinane, Archbishop of Cashel, who said, "I could almost say that I was born with a hurley in my hand. For many years, the clash of the ash (hurleys) was music to my ear. Even still, when the fire of my youth has long passed away, a sterling struggle on the field arouses the sensations in me, of which I normally considered gone." *Ar dheis De go raibhn.*

Congratulations are extended to well-known Chicago gael, Tommy Dolan, Eamon Kelly, Henry Costello (man for all seasons), Joe Begley, and others, including parents of the youths, who help train our Irish American Juveniles in hurling and football. They are doing a wonderful job. *Gur a mile mait agat a cairde.*

Clarion Call for Immigration Reform

In a stirring story in the *Irish Echo* recently, Cardinal Roger Mahoney called for a strong U.S. Immigration reform. He said, "We have pursued enforcement policies which have not significantly stymied illegal entry into the country. Since 2000 for example, we have spent over \$100 billion dollars on immigration enforcement. During the same period the number of undocumented persons has grown from seven million to eleven million."

He went on to explain that immigrants have helped build this diverse nation into the greatest democracy and super power in the world. And we might add fought and defended and even died for our causes on every battlefield in the world.

He goes on to tell us that our immigration laws are inadequate for future labor needs, especially when the economy recovers. "There are not enough visas made available for unskilled labor in jobs that our own people shy away from." He makes a great point when he says, "As a moral matter, we should no longer tolerate a system that preys upon the vulnerability of our fellow human beings and benefits from their labors, yet fails to guarantee human rights."

Unfortunately, the good Cardinal leaves out the unfairness of the law that virtually excludes the Irish and other western Europeans who are prevented from coming here because of their pattern of immigration. For example, the Irish and some others have a unique system of immigration. For the most part, they come as a single person, compared to the majority of other nationals who immigrate as large families, requiring five or six visas to the Irish one. This unfairness must be remedied if we are to have any kind of a fair and equitable immigration law.

At the time the law was changed with the abolishing of the National Quota System, the Irish and others had favored positions because of their good work and the loyalty they demonstrated for their adopted country. No doubt it was discriminatory to a point, but all Congress did, in its wisdom or otherwise, was reverse the situation, making their friends the fall guys.

The American Irish Immigration Committee

led by a great leader, Judge Collins from New York and his strong national committee, fought the new law all the way. They were instrumental in having a bill passed in the House that would correct the error and make the law fair and just to all. Unfortunately, the Ryan-Rodina bill "died" in the Senate, despite the great work of the late Senator Ted Kennedy and others. The State Department at that time promised that "no nation will be handicapped." That promise was not kept, but in the 80's the Irish were allocated a fair share of Amnesty Visas. But the Irish are still very much handicapped, and hopefully any new reform will correct the unfairness.

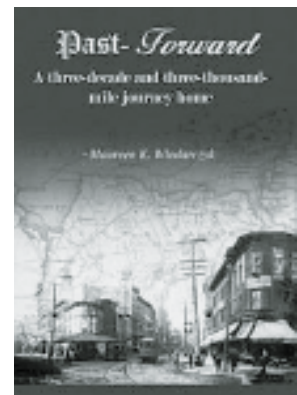
Thank you Cardinal Mahoney for your great story. Hopefully, when the times comes to reform the present law, great men like yourself will be asked to help pass a fair and equitable law with allowance made for the unfairness of the present law. We all need to keep our congressional representatives informed of this problem. *Beannact De ar an oibre, a cairde.* God bless your good work, my good friend.

Past-Forward

Past-Forward – A three-decade and three-thousand-mile journey home tells the story of the author's 30-year search for her grandmother Kate's Irish roots. She had a sad and turbulent childhood and adolescence at the turn of the twentieth century in New Jersey.

She was motherless by age nine and in the care of various relations. By fourteen, she was placed as a live-in domestic servant and by sixteen she was married. She knew very little about her family and nothing about her grandparents or earlier ancestors. Written in the form of a letter to her grandmother, it tells the story of her search and the discoveries she made and traces the family from County Sligo, Ireland in the late 18th century, to their emigration to America during the potato famine and through the successive generations into the early 20th century in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com. <http://outskirtspress.com/pastforward>.



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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



Father Coughlin: A Life For Others

As we celebrate Mother's Day, and the beloved women—mothers, grandmothers, sisters, aunts—who have loved and sacrificed for us, I wish everyone a most blessed Mother's Day! Our mothers have had a profound impact on who we are: their generosity, caring and wisdom have formed us from the womb. Their love is like God's love: forgiving, encouraging, all-embracing. We thank God for all mothers.

As we honor them, I would like to recall a dear friend and holy priest who had a special love for mothers and children.

On April 15, Catholic Charities lost our great friend and gifted leader, Father Roger J. Coughlin, 84, Associate Administrator of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago. For 54 years, he brought hurting people together in their brokenness, and created new programs or transformed established programs to meet their needs.

I'd like to share a bit of Father Coughlin's story—to be continued at a later date.

A great priest and a beloved brother, uncle and grand-uncle; Father Coughlin made the most of his "retirement." A loyal friend to the entire staff and administration at Catholic Charities, he lived at our St. Vincent Center at 721 North LaSalle in Chicago. Whether celebrating the 8am Mass each weekday in our St. Vincent de Marillac Chapel, presiding at Benediction on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, or providing "dinner music" at the piano for our 130 Tuesday Night Supper guests, Father Roger brought great wisdom, good humor and genuine care to everyone he met.

While we mourn Father Coughlin, we rejoice that we knew him and his work and heard his stories, because the story of Father Coughlin's life and ministry is the story of Catholic Charities over the last 54 years. His ministry at Catholic Charities began when he was 30 years old, fresh from five happy years as a parish priest at Our Lady of the Angels Parish in Chicago.

Born in Chicago on June 20, 1925, the second son of William T. and Ruth M. (Corcoran) Coughlin, Roger was the seventh child to be baptized at Little Flower Parish on Chicago's South Side. He attended Little Flower Grade School, graduating in 1939; Quigley Preparatory Seminary, (1944); and St. Mary of the Lake Seminary, where he earned baccalaureate and licentiate degrees in Sacred Theology. Ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago by Cardinal Samuel A. Stritch in 1951, Father Coughlin served as assistant pastor at Our Lady of the Angels Parish from 1951 until April 1956, when he was assigned as Assistant Director of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago at 721 N. LaSalle Street in Chicago, where he remained until his death.

For the next 16 years, in addition to his

increasing duties with Catholic Charities, Father Coughlin also served as Chaplain to the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, the staff and the children at St. Vincent Infant Hospital and Home on LaSalle Street. During those cherished years, Father Coughlin estimates that he baptized 600 children each year for 16 years—a total of 9,600 children—at the baptismal font that still graces our St. Louise de Marillac chapel.

From 1956 until 1962, Father Coughlin worked in the Catholic Home Bureau with Father Bernard Brogan in Catholic Charities' Adoption Services, where he initiated adoptive parents clubs, worked with foster parents, and organized the agency's Cuban Refugee Children program. During this time he also studied in the Graduate Psychology Department at Loyola University, and in 1964 earned a master's degree in social work at the University of Chicago, majoring in administration and community organizing.

In 1964, Father Coughlin returned to Catholic Charities newly created Social Services Department (foster homes) and over the ensuing decades, became the founder, organizer or innovator of numerous Catholic Charities social service programs that served mothers and children, families, seniors and people in need throughout Cook and Lake Counties.

I will continue Father Coughlin's story in a future column, but for now, please know that his life of love and service to anyone in need will continue—like a loving mother's—in Catholic Charities' compassionate service to all.

Catholic Charities Annual Mother's Day Appeal faithfully continues Father Coughlin's legacy of cherishing, protecting and serving human life, especially children, families, seniors and all those in need.

To contribute to Catholic Charities Annual Mother's Day Appeal, you may donate online at www.catholiccharities.net/donations, phone your support or pose questions to Margaret at (312) 655-7012.

Happy Mother's Day!

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Hot Chocolate?

By Maggie Cusack

If I've learned one thing this semester it's that it pays to have Irish friends when living in Ireland. Without them, I probably wouldn't have discovered the comical stylings of Des Bishop (if you're reading this marry me), known what a press was (a cabinet), become obsessed with tea and would have had to walk everywhere. Not to mention the help they've given me with my Irish homework. *Go raibh mile maith agat!*

With that said, it is equally essential to realize who you should text asking about the correct way to say, "Hot Chocolate, please?" when travelling through a *gaeltacht* (a community where Irish is spoken) and who will more than likely try to make you seem like a crazy American tourist who is obsessed with extracurricular activities.

While travelling through a *gaeltacht* last weekend, I thought that it would exciting to try out some Irish and ask for a hot chocolate. So I enlisted the help of two people: Cormac, who was brought up with Irish as his first language; and Alan, who sometimes forgets that Irish is not my first language and spouts it out in normal conversation.

The first text I received was Alan's "*Gneasach te*." So there I was, all excited to use my new Irish phrase from my wonderful, caring friend, who only had the best of intentions for me, and wanted me to seem oh, so intelligent to the Irish people of Connemara, that even after Cormac texted me "*Seaclad te*," I didn't assume that anything could be fishy about the first one. Because even in America, we have different words for pop (I refuse to say soda).

So I was really disappointed when we didn't stop in the *gaeltacht*, and I wasn't able to use my new phrase: *Gneasach te*! Even when my flatmate Hannah said one of them (Alan's) was more than likely sent with the intention of selling my body to a complete stranger or something equally as embarrassing. No, I thought, my friend would never do that to me.

This leads me to my next batch of wisdom I have learned through my time here: make good friends with at least one girl native to that country, in case your guy friend thinks it's funny to sell you to random Irish men—just for the craic of course.

Enter Natalie.

It turns out *seaclad te* is Irish for hot chocolate. What is *gneasach te*, you ask? Oh nothing... just asking for hot sex. So had we

stopped in the *gaeltacht*, the shopkeeper would have thought I was a sex obsessed tourist.

So let this be a lesson to all those who ask an Irish person to translate ANYTHING! Be wary of any sentence that contains: *Gneasach...* because you may not get that hot chocolate you wanted.

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Duggan Sisters Turn Lemons Into Lemonade With the Sweet Smell of Stink

By Cliff Carlson

Life has its ups and downs, and for some like the Duggan sisters, it may have seemed more down than up.

From dealing with their own major health issues, divorces, nightmare basement renovations and a web designer who sent them a Dear Jane email the night before their website was to be launched, these ladies just kept going up.

Out of this adversity, and in the middle of the recession/depression,

the Duggan sisters cashed in their pensions, sold homes, borrowed against their life insurance and moved in together to form their own company. Clare, who has lived in the Netherlands since 1996, has even moved back into Beverly 3 weeks out of the month to be fully involved in the business.

Life Stinks™, an organic deodorant with three simple ingredients in an eco-friendly container, is the sisters' main source of income. Mary developed the recipe for the original lavender deodorant and in the winter of 2009, they worked with a designer to create the packaging for their products. What evolved was an attractive, reusable deodorant canister that is refillable. They call the canister "the little can that could."

Packaged by hand in their basement, the sisters have worked hundreds of festivals, and events to build a loyal following.

Ever the entrepreneurs, the Duggan's see a need and they fill it. Along with deodorant they have a line called, Wash Up™ soaps, and Smart Soak™ bath salts, and Life Stings™ bug repellent.

Business has been good. The sisters are on the verge of taking the next step - securing investment, creating jobs, and taking on the world.

How They Got Here:

In 1999 Mary was heading out the door to her job of 15 years when she fell down 2 flight of stairs and crashed through the drywall, suffering severe head injuries. She was told she would never be able to design again. In 2000 Annie developed a rare immune disorder. She left her job as a mortgage banker and landed in bed for 7 years. At this point Annie and Mary were just two sisters trying to keep each other alive!

Doctors couldn't figure out what was wrong with Annie. She was not only getting sicker, the tests were very expensive. Every time a physician wanted to try something new Mary would get on the phone and find classes to become certified and knowledge-

able in any of the holistic healing processes that might help her. The sisters were learning different healing techniques. Mary

delved into making a line of product that is healthy and won't exhaust their immune system. Their students and friends began asking for more and more of the products.

Taste Life with the Duggan Sisters Cooking School was born out of repeated requests for Raw food recipes and preparation.

The two sisters who founded the company in 2003, incorporated in 2008. During



The Duggan sister trinity working their magic in their booth at the Irish American Heritage Center's Green Days Festival in April, 2010.

needed manual lymphatic drainage that was time consuming and expensive, so Annie became certified in lymphatic wellness.

As the years passed, their friends and family were constantly calling for advice about which doctors to see, what healing techniques or vitamins to use. They both were testament to defying the odds. They became Yoga and Reiki masters. They taught classes in yoga and meditation. They added one skill set after another until their upstart business moved to Beverly and Rose Cottage was born.

Annie had a frightening set back in the springtime of 2007 and was put on a raw diet. Annie and Mary transitioned into raw foods in 2007 when they saw the dramatic healing effects the diet had on Annie. It took Mary a while to give up everything cooked, but she persevered.

"A raw food diet, my sister, and angels saved my life, said Annie.

She is now a certified Raw Foods chef. They became experts at reviewing a person's personal care product usage, and

that time, and while recovering, Annie and Mary worked hard on their website with the designer for over six months. Then, the night before the website was to launch, they received an email from him stating, "Yo ladies, I've lost your website. . . "That was it. No phone call, nothing.," said Annie incredulously.

The Duggan Sisters responded with plan B: A grass roots promotion of their healing center, starting with a frantic phone call to the St. Barnabas Christmas fair. The Duggan Sisters were granted last minute entry to the fair,

and worked around the clock to produce deodorant. They sold out by noon. Thus, the Duggan Sisters deodorant was launched.

Eventually the ladies got their money back from the web designer, and built another one which can be found at www.theduggansisters.com. In the end, their website is better than they had originally planned.

The basement of their home, Rose Cottage, became a great place to make the product, and the three sisters have realized that their life paths have prepared them for a wonderful career helping one person at a time.

There is not enough room in the paper to tell you their story, but if you visit their website, there are 23 pages of information on them.

In the light of their own stories, those pages just might be the start of their autobiography.

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Beckett's Endgame performing at Steppenwolf

Ah, the Old Questions, the Old Answers, There's Nothing Like Them!

By Frank West

Samuel Beckett has a character in *Endgame* make the above observation.

Steppenwolf is producing a powerful *Endgame* now through June 6. I'm privileged to interview one of the actors. He is Francis Guinan.

During the last year have seen him perform in Conor McPherson's *The Seafarer*, in *Fake*, and in *American*

An Irish Song Without Words

Written by
Tammy M. Donahue-McGing

I hear an Irish Song
that only sings in my heart
it really has no words
there is no where to start

I hear it often times
at a certain time of year
that is when St Patrick's Day
draws us very near

I really can't explain it
it's only a feeling I have
I know it makes my heart beat fast
and makes me very glad

My feet will start to tap
softly on the wood floor
my head sways side to side
as the tunes go out the door

I hear a high pitch sound
like that of a tin whistle
a beating of a Bodhran
along with a great fiddle

I feel there should be words
as the music is so alive
I close my eyes as it lifts me
I feel my soul has arrived

My legs suddenly raise me
as they start to move around
I feel a strong dance come on
as I float from just the sound

They're jigs, reels and hornpipes
some songs that have no words
it only forms in the hearts
of all Irish around the world

Buffalo. He is an outstanding actor, intense, and completely believable.

My impressions of Frank Guinan when I met him for this interview are that he is sharply observant, passionate about theatre, beautifully voluble, and bluntly honest. During the interview, When I knew him a little better, I realized also that he is a compassionate human being.

Frank West: "Fran, where were you raised?"

Fran Guinan: "In the very Mid-western city of Council Bluffs, Iowa. I learned early the value of hard work to achieve goals and I can proudly say y whole family is successful."

FW: "What motivated you to devote your life to the theatre?"

FG: "I began acting during the Vietnam War. I earned a scholarship to college. I changed my major from pre-med to English and tried acting, found that I liked it and that I was pretty good at it. After this I was asked to join the company of Steppenwolf."

FW: "Does your Irishness influence your outlook on life?"

FG: "It made me sensitive and observant."

FW: "Why is theatre important to people?"

FG: "It takes you to another place—out of your regular life. There is a great similarity between church and theatre. They are both about storytelling. People come to a theatre to hear a human voice tell a story."

FW: "Please talk about this: Beckett realizes that it is frightening for us to realize we are alone in life. We, alone, must live our lives."

FG: "Everybody dies, and dies alone. Each of us. That is the terrible thing that Beckett wants us to realize."

"We are creatures that crave companionship. But essentially we are alone. Love is a very sought after thing by all of us. But we are fated to often be very alone."

FW: "What is the future of the theatre in these economic times?"

FG: "Producing a play is frighteningly expensive and some sources of

funding have dried up. We are very cost conscious. Plays with only four or five characters are normal now."

FW: "It is a paradox that despite these conditions, there is so much great theatre in the Chicago area."

"Fran, is there anything you have observed in your stage career that people should know?"

FG: "The yellow flowers of the Irish gorse bush is a perfect metaphor for life. The flowers are breathtakingly beautiful, but you have to be very careful of the bush's thorns."

Endgame is being produced at Steppenwolf Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted St. in Chicago. Box Office: 312-335-1650 or www.steppenwolf.org.



(L-R) Ensemble members Martha Lavey, Francis Guinan and William Petersen in Steppenwolf Theatre Company's production of *Endgame* by Samuel Beckett, directed by ensemble member Frank Galati. Performances run through June 6, 2010. Photo by Michael Brosilow.



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Mick

Mike Morley



ideal society.

Are we to accept the media's image that Catholicism or its Church is an exclusive breeding ground for pedophilia? Because we see very few if any reports of such abuses within the ranks of other organizations, religious or not, do we accept that those who control the information industry have no agenda and are presenting a true picture? Do you think for a minute that the public, you and I, have any say in such an agenda? How about the Church? How about a politician, even a president? Think the Church, or a president for that matter, can stand up to the information industry—Hollywood, the news conglomerates—and force them to present a more balanced, thoughtful reality?

The wife of the fictional Citizen (Charles Foster) Kane admonishes him: "Really Charles, people will think..." Kane cuts in: "what I tell them to think." And told by his correspondent: "There is no war in Cuba," Kane cables back: "I'll provide the war."

The fictional Kane was modeled on media king William Randolph Hearst, who may (or may not) have told his famous illustrator Frederic Remington, who felt conditions in Cuba did not warrant a war: "You furnish the pictures and I'll furnish the war." But he did once say: "You can crush a man with journalism." Hearst could easily have said: "You can crush an institution with journalism."

Do 6 media conglomerates really own over 90% of the world's information?

And who are they, anyway? We'll take a look at that in another column.

E-mail: IrishTV@ameritech.net

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Pressing Priorities

Age... (cane)

In case you've wondered about James Francis "Frank" O'Neill, the legendary Irish publican (and Republican): the chieftain of O'Neill's, the pub hub of the West Side and Oak Park Irish for decades, is currently relaxing at the Berkeley Rehab Center on North Ave. in Oak Park. The legs that served him well in the ring are in need of a rest.

At least three generations of Irish enjoyed the best of camaraderie and hospitality at O'Neill's under Frank's friendly but firm management. Cop, cabbie or congressman, Frank treated humble and elect with equal respect. Many a lawyer or judge made a habit of O'Neill's. The Brennan Brothers were frequent guests before ascending those twin peaks of merchandising, Montgomery Ward and Sears.

There were no scuffles or disturbances inside or outside the bar. Frank had a keen eye, and could spot a toe over the line. Be it businessman, broker, barrister or bricklayer, a slurred word or glazed eye would bring a glass of water for the next round. Some were indignant at the treatment, but they'd always be in the next day to thank the boss for looking after them. Neighborhood parents felt secure knowing their kids were headed to Frank's place.

It's understandable that Frank, most comfortable on the front lines of battle or barroom throughout his life, helping the Irish raise a flag or a glass, might sometimes stand eyeball-to-eyeball with "the screws," be they at Berkeley or Portlaoise, rather than seeing eye-to-eye with them. But he surely does delight in seeing and hearing from his old friends. He misses their good company. You can hook up with Frank at the Berkeley Center, 6909 North Avenue, (east of Harlem Ave.) Oak Park, 60302. The phone # is: (708) 386-1112. Send a wee note, or call and drop in to say hello.

Before Beauty...

(Keane)

As I was writing, I made myself take time out Sunday so as not to miss Kathleen Keane's new show.

Jim Conway opened up with a fine tongue-twisting performance of country blues harmonica, joined by Rick "Cookin'" Sherry. It augured well.

As for Ms. Keane, it's crystal clear: Kathleen, ever the virtuoso, has evolved. Besides looks, brains and talent, Kathleen has soul. Accompanied by master guitarist William Coulter, Kathleen shared her stage with champion Irish step dancer Marieke Van Der Maelen and made sure to give her young niece Colette Kathleen Staunton and her violin a moment in the limelight.

Had the performance been simply a live jukebox of tunes, it would have been great. Instead the show gave at least this audience member the feel of being included in a perfect evening at someone's home, or a small pub in Ireland, able to savor the craic and the stories—being privy to heartfelt feelings brought home by music touching strings deep inside. Like any art involving lots of hard work and inspiration, it appeared effortless, seamless. It was not balladry, but life-sharing. Paddy Cloonan tells me there's a word for it in the Irish—something like "naya"—but, call it what you will, 'tis soul.

And Sex (Kane)

We've written quite a lot of copy in this space since 2007 on the Catholic Church's "scandal." And I've said that trying to contradict what the press decides the public should know is like tossing pits in the wind. Even if they don't come back to whack you, it's a waste of time... who's listening? The reading/viewing public is like the prisoners watching that picture show described over two millennia past by Plato in his allegory of the cave. Ruling out psychosis, reality is what presents itself to our eyes and ears daily. And what you read in "your" newspapers and see on "your" ever more expensive TV and movie screens IS reality. Like the viewers chained in Plato's cave, we are indeed a captive audience. And the role of the projectionists is to not so much to in-form as to form public opinion to their theory and vision of the

Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



We Are The Same People

Short stories tell us a lot about the emotions, feelings and values of a people. The author of this collection *Voices In The Glen*, is Gardineam Weir. He has gently, but clearly, captured this in these stories.

The author heard them as a boy



in Antrim, when he was growing up during the 1940's and 1950's. This was before TV became prevalent and ended the story telling tradition.

This collection, *Voices In The Glen*, is unusual in two ways. First it is a collection of stories from Ulster, the North, from the Scots Irish. I don't know of another collection of stories that reflect this culture.

The second unusual aspect of these beautiful stories is that their topics are the same as those from other parts of Ireland: how people relate to one another, the search for love, loneliness, humor, fear, memories, hope for the future, and laser accurate observations of people. They are intricate, clever and always plainly honest. They are marked by great humanity: the feeling of fellowship and compassion.

I have always taken the position in this column, that political and religious differences with Scots Irish have been carefully used by various church organizations and by the British, to divide us. We are the same people.

About being fellow Irish people, the author says "we are all, irrespective of religious persuasion and political outlook, of the same ethnic origin."

As a former school teacher myself, this caught my attention. The author praises his school teachers as trying to expand the scope of the student's

lives. "On the other hand there were the Pastors and Reverends who seemed to condemn many worldly realities as sin and focused on programming the young to prepare for a life after death." Sound familiar?

Voices In The Glen: A Collection Of Scots Irish Short Stories by Gardineam Weir. Publish America; Baltimore; 2008. 444 pages; \$30.00. www.publishamerica.com.

How Did Our Ancestors Feel?

The author of *Brooklyn* is Colm Toibin. This is the 17th novel he has written and it has been chosen by the Chicago Public Library for its Spring, 2010 *One Book, One Chicago* program.

I have read several of Toibin's novels. He has an uncanny ability to create emotional atmosphere. They are marked also by his spare use of language, each word seems perfectly chosen for its purpose. The story lines are so powerful that the reader hardly notices this careful structure.

Repeatedly, Toibin creates the inner feelings and emotions of his characters in this novel. It follows



the changes, the inner trepidation and life of the main character as she leaves Ireland and arrives in America. This was in the late 1940's and early 1950s.

The main character is Eilish (pronounced *Eileesh*). The book tells of her decision to leave her family in Ireland, and of the difficult sea voyage to New York. It tells also her impression of the city, where she knew no one compared to the warm, comfortable town she had left, and

where she was well known.

Three distant cousins of mine left Ireland and came to Chicago during this period. I wonder how they felt? What did they think of this strange new land? How did the families our ancestors left behind feel? Their relatives knew they would probably never see them again.

The story is personal because both of the children (mid 20's) of my cousin and his wife, had to leave for foreign lands in the present time. Painful for the parents? Surely. They rarely see them. And this is today.

I found the story of Eilis leaving Ireland, coming here, meeting a young man, etc., to be magnetic. So much so, that I got up early to read more of this very intimate story.

This is an example of Toibin's use of language:

Describing young men arriving at a dance: "as the new arrivals took in the hall, their gaze shiny, excited, brilliant, full of expectation."

I was amazed at the requirements for immigrants in the 1940's and 1950's, beyond the careful health inspection: 1) "a formal letter sponsoring Eilis and guaranteeing to take care of her accommodation as well as her general and financial welfare..."; 2) To be typed on company letterhead stationary, an offer of a job.

Brooklyn by Colm Toibin. Scribner; New York; 2009. 262 pages; \$15.00. www.businessatsimonandschuster.com.

De Valera and Today

On the very day I sat down to write this review, another Irish bishop resigned. He too was part of the cover up of molesters. What has this, in 2010, to do with Eamon de Valera in the 1920's?

When De Valera finally came to power in 1932, and in the Irish Constitution of 1937, he was called taoiseach, or chief of his people. He was to protect his people, but he turned over the social services of Ireland to the Catholic Church. Countless children were put in church run orphanages, industrial school, and convent laundries. Their care was paid for by the Irish government. But it was not carefully supervised by his government. De Valera completely trusted the church leaders and never questioned their authority. We all know what was to happen.

De Valera's close friend was John Charles McQuaid, archbishop of Dublin until 1970. The present government's Murphy Report has documented that the cover up of clerical molesters began with him.

I apologize for this long introduction, but I feel very strongly about this.

Dave Hannigan is the author of *De Valera In America: The Rebel President And The Making Of Irish Independence*. The book tells the intriguing story of Eamon De Valera's travels in America from the summer of 1919 to the fall of 1920.

De Valera In America is written in a lively and exciting way. I particularly like the author's respect for the



**DE VALERA
IN
AMERICA**
THE REBEL PRESIDENT AND THE
MAKING OF IRISH INDEPENDENCE
DAVE HANNIGAN

reader. He presents the facts of the story and permits us to make up our own minds.

The award winning and highly praised author, Dave Hannigan "follows de Valera on his controversial trip across America, exploring his questionable personal and political relationships." Why controversial?

Well for one reason, the Black and Tan phase of the War for Independence was at its height, and de Valera was in America. Maybe his experience and authority could have been better used in Ireland.

I understand De Valera's hope of putting American political pressure on Britain, but the pressing fight was in Ireland's cities and countryside. In this desperate fight the IRA was being led and supplied by Michael Collins.

In America, de Valera had a knack for picking fights over petty things with Irish American leaders who had worked for years to achieve Ireland's freedom. I feel that this animosity and rancor spoiled his efforts. This contentious part of De Valera's personality would appear again during the debates about the Peace Treaty in 1921. Those debates led to the tragedy of Ireland's Civil War.

Of the money de Valera raised, only half was sent to Ireland to support the IRA. The other half was left here in the United States. It would later be used, in 1931, to found De Valera's propaganda newspaper, the *Irish Press*. He became prime minister, or taoiseach, in 1932. But the question of this funding is another story.

I enjoyed this clearly written, and well documented book. I especially

liked the description of the large crowds of Irish Americans who came to hear him speak. Relatives told me that they heard him when he came to Chicago. My grand aunt served on the Committee for the Recognition of the

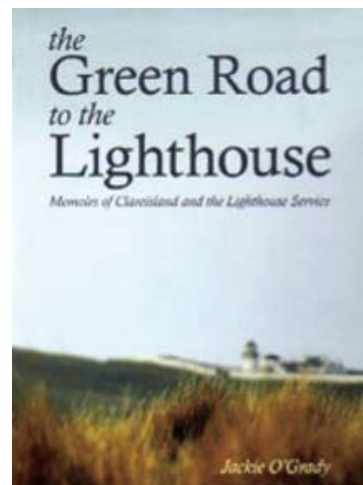
Irish Republic.

De Valera In America: The Rebel President And The Making Of Irish Independence by Dave Hannigan. Palgrave MacMillan; New York; 2010. 240 pg; \$29 www.palgrave-usa.com.

The Green Road to the Lighthouse

By Jackie O'Grady

The Green Road To The Lighthouse explores the childhood years of its Clareisland-born author, and his later service as a lighthouse keeper on many of the islands off the coast of Ireland. O'Grady's writing is crafted out of a deep engagement with the physical, social and cultural landscape of the islands he inhabits. His personal story is infused with island characters, traditions and placenames, told against the backdrop of the bigger narrative of the Second World War 1939-1945.



The author's lyrical instinct guides his pen, writing with honesty, humour and lightness, creating intimate, poetic moments that engage the reader. This short memoir is an important archival document, a social record of a way of life that is quickly being eroded by the technological landscape of the 21st century. Jackie O'Grady is a man of the sea and served as a lighthouse keeper in stations around the Irish coast in the 50's and 60's resigning from service in 1968.

The Green Road To The Lighthouse: Memoirs of Clare Island

and the *Lighthouse Service* helps to understand the poignancy of being your native island's last lighthouse keeper and, moreover, the person charged with extinguishing its beam forever.

For more than 40 years, as memories surfaced, the author gathered scraps from his past in a special tin box in the kitchen of his O'Grady's Seafood Restaurant in Clifden, County Galway.

The author was posted to Clare Island Lighthouse a mere two years before its decommissioning in 1965—after 159 years service to mariners from every corner of the world.

Jackie O'Grady's oldest memories arise from when he was aged about six and living with his maternal grandparents in the village of Gorteen, overlooking Clew Bay, which then comprised six houses—was a mere mile from his family home at the Quay. But through the eyes of the small boy, it was a world away from that of his father, Michael O'Grady, who operated the island's mail boat and other services with his fleet of small boats.

"In bad weather, my grandmother would closely monitor its plunging, dipping passage until it arrived safely at Roonagh Pier and would attend, with equal diligence, its return voyage back to the island. If the weather deteriorated or if she thought her son-in-law and his crew might be in any danger, Grandmother would rush to fetch the sprig of the Easter palm from behind the picture of the Sacred Heart, take it outdoors and set it alight, no easy task in a high wind, but one that had, nevertheless, to be accomplished for it was a firm island belief that the burning of the Easter palm would help calm storms and ward off danger to those at sea."

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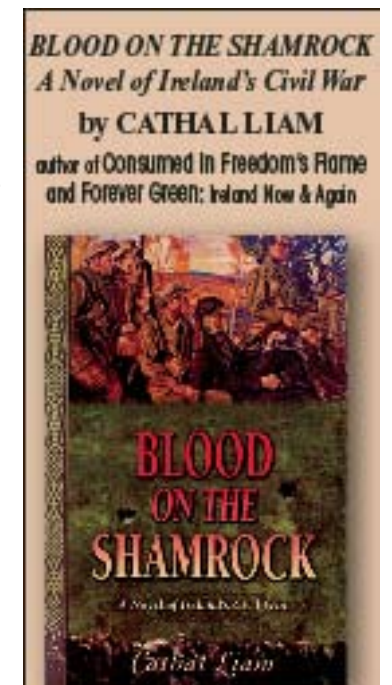
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Aged ten, Jackie returned to the Quay and quickly became immersed in the ebb and flow of its busy commercialism. Little did he know that within a decade – March 1951 – he would be reporting to the Lighthouse Services Depot in Dun Laoghaire. It would be the first step in an odyssey bringing him to a litany of rocky outposts around the coast: Slyne Head, the Fastnet Rockabill, Haulbowline, the Old Head of Kinsale, Tory Island.

"As a boy, little did I know that one day it would be my duty as a young 'keeper to close down the station. I suppose, in a certain way it was fitting that the light be extinguished for the last time by the hand of a man who had lived most of his young life within a few miles of it and whose every night from his earliest memories had been illuminated by its sweeping beam."



The tragedy of Easter, 1916 lies behind Aran Roe O'Neill and his determined comrades, both imagined and historical. Spurred on by the euphoric boom of London's willingness to negotiate a settlement ending the Irish War of Independence (1919-1921), Ireland finally seems it stands on the brink of triumph: autonomy from British rule. But almost overnight, the green hills of Eireann turn red again – blood red – as the bitter dregs of Anglo-Irish politics erupt into unholy Civil War, the repercussions of which are destined to sully the dream of Irish unity for years to come.

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Healy Law

Martin J. Healy, Jr.

Senior Partner



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. The firm concentrates in the representation of injured victims of all types of accidents. Readers are encouraged to call or write with questions concerning personal injury law.

Injuries to Construction Workers—Workers' Compensation Claims

Construction workers also have remedies if they are injured while working. Primarily, a construction worker who is injured while working has the right to file a claim pursuant to the Illinois Workers' Compensation Act. Under the Act, a worker is entitled to receive 2/3 of his average weekly wage, tax free, while he is unable to work. This is referred to as temporary total disability benefits, or "TTD."

A worker will also receive all reasonable and necessary medical care related to his injury, as long as he stays within the chain of physician referral. This medical care must be paid for out of the employer's workers' compensation insurance, and cannot be processed through the employee's regular health insurance. Notably, the employee is not responsible for paying any co-pay to the doctors, hospitals or therapists who treat him.

Depending on the severity of an employee's injury, he will have other rights under the Act as well. If the employee is unable to return to his former occupation because of an injury, the employer may be required to hire a professional job counselor to help the employee find suitable work. If the only available work is at a lower

rate of pay than the worker was earning before the accident, the employer may be responsible for paying 2/3 of the difference between the employee's current pay and his pre-accident pay. This is known as a wage differential. In the most extreme cases, where an employee is unable to return to any work in any capacity, he may be entitled to TTD benefits for the rest of his life.

Some benefits are limited by the Act. For instance, in most cases the employer will not be responsible for paying any "fringe benefits" for the employee, such as health insurance, union dues or pension benefits. Also, if the employer can accommodate the employee's physical restrictions, the employee must accept modified work from the employer.

For example, after an injury many employees are returned to work but the doctor tells the employer that the employee can only lift up to a certain weight restriction, such as ten pounds. For construction workers, this will likely mean they will be unable to return to their old job. However, the company may still take the employee back to work in a modified capacity, and give him a job as a watchman or a flagger. In most situations, the company can even change the shift or hours that an employee works. What the company cannot do is change the

rate of pay the employee receives. It must either pay the employee is old wage, or pay a differential as described above.

Other Claims for Injured Workers

In addition to workers' compensation claims, an injured construction worker may have other claims. For instance, if a construction worker is struck by a car while working, he will have a workers' compensation claim against his employer as well as a potential lawsuit against the driver who struck him.

A common situation arises on a jobsite with multiple contractors. When an employee of one contractor is injured because of the negligence of another contractor, the employee may be able to file a lawsuit against the other contractor. Often times this occurs when one contractor negligently leaves debris or material out on a jobsite, causing an employee of another contractor to fall and sustain injury. Likewise, this situation presents itself when one contractor fails to secure building materials properly. If a worker is subsequently injured because of falling materials, a lawsuit may be a possibility.

Furthermore, the general contractor on a jobsite may be responsible for overall safety and cleanliness at a construction site, and may also be liable if a subcontractor negligently creates a dangerous condition.

However, a lawsuit generally will not be available when one employee is injured because of the negligence of another employee from the same company. Under that circumstance, an employee's "exclusive remedy" is a workers' compensation claim.

Conclusion

Although none of us enjoy sitting in construction traffic, construction is a way of life for many and a vital necessity to our economic development. Unfortunately, with construction can come dangerous situations and accidents. As can be seen from just this brief description, who is at fault for these accidents, and what an injured person is entitled to as a result of these accidents, is dependent on the factual situation of each case. If you are injured as a result of a construction accident you should contact an attorney as soon as possible to discuss what benefits may be available to you.

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



Spring is Here! So is Construction

As the weather gets warmer, and the economy gets better, we begin to see more and more construction commencing on our highways and in our neighborhoods. For many, construction is a sign that the recent financial downturn appears to be improving, and for some, it is an opportunity to get back to work. But for others, increased construction this spring and summer will mean increased risk of accidents and injuries.

Highway

Construction Injuries

A lot of the construction that has begun recently in the Chicagoland area is highway construction. Our already congested highways have been further strained by decreased lanes in many areas and increased traffic due to construction workers. When lane configurations are changed from the usual pattern, a distracted driver, accustomed to his daily commute, may leave his lane of travel, resulting in an accident.

Also, increased construction traffic can be dangerous both for construction workers and for drivers near construction sites on the highway. It is important to remember that the Illinois vehicle code requires drivers to yield the right of way to construction workers actually engaged in work on the highway. The speed limit is also typically reduced in construction areas and stiff fines can be imposed for speeding in a construction area, especially when injury occurs.

Accidents are also common when construction vehicles are entering or leaving the highway from a construction site. Usually these vehicles will not be using typical entry or exit lanes, and thus can take other drivers by surprise. In one case recently filed by our office, a semi-truck abruptly stopped in traffic on the tollway in response to a signal by a flagger on a construction site to allow a truck to pull into one of the

sites entrances. As a result, a vehicle behind the semi-truck also braked suddenly and was rear-ended causing significant injury.

If a construction company is negligent in controlling traffic around its work site and an accident results, the construction company may be liable for the accident. The Illinois Department of Transportation, the Tollway Authority and other governmental entities have issued regulations and guidelines for construction companies operating near the highway. When an accident occurs near a construction site, these guidelines are one resource to look at to see if a construction company was negligent.

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The Irish Rover

By James McClure



Ag Ambassador with Irish Roots

Nothing refreshes the spirit like a drive through the Wisconsin countryside, gazing across the rolling hills and glacial vistas at the rich and fertile farmland. The familiar America's Dairyland slogan on state license plates is much more than a slogan, and Wisconsin's nearly \$60 billion agriculture industry is much more than dairy products.

No one knows that more these days than Cheryl O'Brien, who in June closes one year and 40,000 miles of driving through pastoral fields as Wisconsin's agricultural ambassador promoting the state's economy. And don't let the red-haired spokesperson's beauty, sash and tiara fool you, she is much more than a pretty presence.

As Wisconsin's 62nd Alice in Dairyland, O'Brien wears many hats besides the one with three indigenous state stones set in a crown. Her one-year contractual position with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP) sends O'Brien forth as a one woman spokesperson, marketer, economist, educator, consumer advocate, journalist and public relations expert.

"No Alice can come into this job as an expert," says O'Brien, whose qualifications include having grown up on a working dairy farm and having worked in Milwaukee as a television news assignment editor while attending the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where she graduated with honors with a broadcast journalism degree. "The amount you learn traveling the state and meeting with farmers, consumers and different agricultural businesses is tremendous."

O'Brien will attend more than 300 events and speak at more than a hundred schools before her time is up, and always stand ready to recite facts and figures for TV, radio and community audiences. Yes, Wisconsin is first in cheese, but also leads the nation in cranberries, ginseng, and snap green bean production. It's also tops in mink pelts, dairy goats, pheasant meat production and cabbage for sauerkraut, though O'Brien may be more familiar with the corned beef accompaniment.

Central Wisconsin's vegetable growing prowess makes the state second in the nation for sweet corn and

carrot processing, and Idaho isn't the only state famous for potatoes—Wisconsin is third in the nation in potatoes and green peas. Sweet teeth across the nation make America's Dairyland fifth in maple syrup, mint for oil and ninth in honey production.

In 48 years of the Alice and Dairyland program, O'Brien's term comes during the most difficult



economic period. Along with the gaiety of state and county fairs she also sees the sober side of a state whose agriculture workers comprise

ten percent of the population of five million. "Dairy farmers are struggling right now. I was at an event and one dairy farmer came up to me and asked me to please do all I could to promote their livelihood. With the drop in prices, he was losing \$100 per cow per month."

O'Brien decided that Alice needed to go beyond the usual outlets of farm and field and go directly into stores to make the case for greater consumption of home-grown goods. "I came up with the Spend 10 in 2010 campaign where I encourage shoppers through personal appearances to spend 10 percent of their food budget on Wisconsin products. That would keep 2 billion dollars here in the state," notes O'Brien.

Like the 61 Alices before her, Cheryl O'Brien is not born an Alice, but she is a born innovator as a communicator, with her Claddagh-ringed finger operating the video camera on YouTube for her many adventures throughout agricultural Wisconsin and a social media outreach making Alice in Dairyland accessible on Facebook and Twitter. She is also born into an Irish heritage that dates back to her great-great grandfather who first came to America from County Cork in 1845. "Paddy O'Brien's family sent him here at age 14 in search of a better life. He eventually met and married a widow named Snell who owned a farm."

Born the week before St. Patrick's Day, Cheryl grew up on the O'Brien family farm with her first job that of feeding the cows. When most of the farm in Eastman, Wisconsin, was sold in 2002, her father changed careers and now produces award-winning cheese under the Mt. Sterling co-op brand.

When Cheryl O'Brien left the

farm for college in Milwaukee, she had dreams of fame and travel. But that dream has brought her home again. "This year has changed me. When I graduated, I pictured myself staying in news and becoming a reporter who traveled the country and world and perhaps eventually

settle on the anchor desk. Now after meeting the people and seeing the impact of the industry, I want to stay right here in Wisconsin working on behalf of agriculture."

Her Irish and agricultural roots are strong indeed.

IrishRoverJim@aol.com.

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Paul Harkin, Paul Maskey, and Maureen O'Looney



Paul Maskey, and the Cullinane family.



The Casey family and Paul Maskey.

Paul Maskey and Patrick Brown winner of the Barron raffle



Neil Connaghan and Paul Maskey

Sinn Féin Leadership Easter Statement

"On this the 94th anniversary of the 1916 Rising the leadership of Sinn Féin extends its solidarity to the families of all our patriot dead. We remember with pride those comrades from every generation who gave their lives for the cause of Irish freedom. We are immensely proud of our patriot dead and of their families.

We are committed to the ideals and principles of the Proclamation. They are as relevant today as they have ever been.

The unity and independence of Ireland remains our primary political objective and Sinn Féin has a political strategy to achieve it.

We are consolidating the Peace Process while seeking always to advance towards Irish unity. It is in this context that policing and justice powers are being transferred from Britain to the North, that Irish language rights have been advanced, that the North is being demilitarised, that the Orange state has been dismantled. There are more republicans now than at any time in recent memory and Irish unity is a live political issue.

Small militarist factions have engaged in futile armed actions which play into the agenda of MI5

and other British agencies. These groups have no strategy and have nothing to offer the republican struggle. A peaceful and democratic path to Irish unity is now available.

Sinn Féin now seeks to bring a new momentum to the achievement of a united Ireland through maximising popular support and uniting the

greatest number of people in support of national democratic objectives. We are also building support for this objective among the Irish diaspora.

We will soon face into a Westminster election. The positive momentum created by the recent political developments must be translated into increased electoral support for Sinn Féin so that we can bring about greater political change and further advance towards our ultimate objective. Everyone has a role to play in these elections.

Sinn Féin's job is to build a credible political alternative to the failed politics of the establishment. The party has put forward practical solutions to create and protect jobs, to stimulate the economy and to construct a fairer society. These policies must be promoted at every available opportunity and at a local level.

The current economic crisis is being felt throughout the country. Unemployment is soaring and the blight of emigration has returned, especially in the South. The coalition government in Dublin has abjectly failed to tackle this crisis, which is causing so much hardship to so many.

This current government is one of the most unpopular in the history of the state and republicans must prepare now for a general election

in the 26 Counties that could occur at any time.

We need to build Sinn Féin throughout every corner of Ireland.

In this spirit, at our recent Ard Fheis Sinn Féin radically changed party structures to make joining Sinn Féin easier. We want more and more people to be party members by working in whatever way they can for republican objectives. Republicans will turn out in large numbers to Easter commemorations across Ireland this weekend. We want them to return to these commemorations next year as Sinn Féin members.

We commend the work of Ógra Shinn Féin. As unemployment and emigration threaten the future of our youth, an active republican youth organisation is more vital than ever. Ógra have been active on a range of social and political issues and have shown that young people can fight back.

The united Ireland we seek to build is inclusive, in which all of our people feel secure. We want unionists to be able to find their place in a new Ireland. We believe that Irish unity and a genuine republic can deliver social, economic and cultural equality for all of our people.

As we celebrate the lives of our comrades and commemorate the sacrifices of our patriot dead, we look to the future with renewed confidence and re-commit ourselves to the achievement of our republican objectives."



Chicago Celtic Youth GFC Club

Person and Club Players of Year 2009

The 2009 Ancient Order of Hibernian Division 32 Picnic took place last September. The Chicago Celtic Youth GFC is grateful to Ken Sullivan and all of the members of AOH Div. 32 for once again supplying the trophies and their invitation to the picnic. Congratulations to Arthur Rowan, Assistant Chairman, 2009 Chicago Celtic Youth Club Person of the Year; Declan McGarry - 2009 U16 Player of the Year; Brian Rowan - 2009 U14 Player of the Year; Joey Gardiner - U12 Player of the Year; Maura McCarthy - 2009 U10 Player of the Year; and Micheál Molloy - U8 Player of the Year. (L-R) Brian Rowan, Maura McCarthy, Joey Gardiner, Arthur Rowan and Declan McGarry. Missing from photo: Micheál Molloy.

For The Republic



Chris Fogarty



A NEW DAY, a much brighter one, is dawning in Ireland. A national self-respect is just beginning to replace the monolithic, fawning, squalid pursuit of "respectability" that one acquired by covering up British crimes and blaming them on Irish patriots.

QUISLING IRELAND Remember the shame when Irish-America traveled in hundreds if not thousands to the Illinois legislature in Springfield to get enacted the MacBride Principles for Fair Employment in Northern Ireland, upon learning that Irish Consul Peter Gunning also went there, separately, and spoke against passage? His replacement, Gary Ansbro, also addressed the legislature urging a NO vote; but Irish-America won; we defeated them all; the bigots, the Brits, and Ireland's gov't. Earlier, when the Brits imprisoned the Birmingham Six based on confessions they had tortured out of them, some of us consulted with the Irish Consul, only to be warned about "supporting terrorism," so that the six innocents remained in prison for another sixteen years. Ditto the innocent Guildford Four and Maguire family, all tortured and framed into prison, and released, exonerated, some fifteen years later. During the decades of bloodily suppressed Occupied Irish struggle for the vote, and later for other basic rights, the "Irish" gov't, despite the readily-available homicide records proving that the Brits were the terrorists, always blamed Irish patriots for the murders perpetrated by British forces. Ireland's gov't recently signed away the Six Counties, the only such surrender of national territory in history absent catastrophic military defeat.

AVRIL DOYLE, an Irish senator, spent weeks on a tour of the US on the 150th anniversary of the Irish Holocaust. Her mission was to perpetuate the "famine" lie. Witnesses will never forget the Notre Dame U. auditorium event. The audience was reading my Mass Graves of Ireland pamphlet when Doyle began her speech with; "The British army had nothing whatsoever to do with the famine." The audience looked up, startled, then back down at the map in their hands which names the British regiments and locates them in the

district each was assigned to strip of foods, and then back up toward Doyle with their eyes and mouths wide open; stunned by her denial of the data on the map.

IRELAND'S CONSULS in Chicago, the entire string of them, have promoted only a falsified, anti-Irish version of history and current events. They have abused their status as guests of the U.S. They encouraged violation of our Constitution with respect to ex-IRA-man Joe Doherty. To my written invitation to the Irish Consul General to debate the "famine" on Chicago's Saturday morning Irish radio he responded by getting the show hosts to permanently ban me, thus further abusing his guest status by fostering truth-banning in Chicago radio. All Irish Consuls in Chicago have promoted British anti-Irish propaganda. They have also promoted shameful, phony "famine memorials" while sabotaging efforts to educate the public as to facts that prove genocide. They must know that by so actively covering up the Irish Holocaust they prepare the world for more such genocides. While covering up Ireland's Holocaust Commemoration Day, while Israel's genocide of Palestine horrifies the world, Ireland's gov't promotes "Holocaust Day" as an exclusively Jewish commemoration. The world is fully aware of Hitler's horrific deeds and condemns them. But does anyone believe that Israel's gov't has established a reciprocal Irish Holocaust commemoration day? Dream on. (But do remember what the "Irish" gov't wants you to forget; that Nov. 3 is Irish Holocaust Commemoration Day, it being the anniversary of the 1845 date of British Lord Heytesbury official start of it.)

THE NEW DAY. "Famine" vs. "Genocide" was debated in a news medium in Ireland for the first time ever on April 7th. It was on Coleman at Large, a live radio show from 10:10pm to midnight Irish time. It's accessible at www.newstalk.ie. The debate was preceded by taped comments by *Irish Times* (the old *Ascendancy* newspaper) Reporter John Waters. (I knew his father.) The debaters were author Tim Pat Coogan, Senator Ronan Mullen, Trinity College historian Kieran Brady,

and I. Hearing them all referring to "famine" was, for me, like stepping back a decade in time, because the moment a person learns that 75 regiments removed Ireland's food at gunpoint, they know that "famine" slanders the murdered millions. Still, their constant use of "famine" must be forgiven - until they finally learn of the Food Removal. Even once I learned of it (at Britain's Public Record Office while researching for my grandfather's biography), it took me months to replace "famine" with "genocide" or Holocaust. Habit (and ageing) does that.

JOHN WATERS' comments were played on a tape that included Holocaust-era statements made by English promoters of the genocide, the same statements shown on www.irishholocaust.org. How shocking to hear them on radio in Ireland, after 160 years of cover-up by Irish officialdom. This was followed by Waters' truthful but rather diffident comments. (About 1998, Mary and I tried unavailingly to meet Waters at the *Irish Times*, so we left a Mass Graves of Ireland pamphlet in an envelope for him, and asked him to contact us, also unavailingly. Our subsequent efforts also failed.) Waters' last three sentences were: "You know, the big problem of our generation has been the Provos and their campaign and the idea that if you talked about these things you were giving succor to their murderous bombing campaign. So no, no, quite separate from that, I say, looking, you know, squarely into the yard(?) of the British Crown __, of the English Queen, and say, you know, we are human beings and we need to know what has happened was wrong. We need to know it for ourselves, and for that to happen we need you to admit it." What a slur against Ireland! For Irish-America evidence speaks for itself. So does the Food Removal. That's what made it genocide. Respect for one's own intellect (as well as the scientific method and rules of evidence) in no way requires the perpetrating nation to confess in order for one to know it was a genocide, not a famine. Notwithstanding Waters' smear of Occupied Ireland's defenders, readers of this column know the terrorists' identities from my www.terrorismireland.org.

THE DEBATE was civil, pleasant. I presented what you know from www.irishholocaust.org regarding the at-gunpoint food removal by 75 Brit regiments, and I urged the Irish gov't to stop

intimidating people away from erecting memorials over their local Holocaust mass graves. Coogan partly blamed the Irish by referring to "...Irishmen holding those guns." (Note: Of the nine Ireland-raised British regiments only three, Loyalists ones, were used to remove the food.) Sen. Ronan made the usual claim; that the Crown had "...allowed people to starve." Prof. Brady tried to decriminalize Crown policy by calling it "neglect; not deliberate..." Nonetheless, they gave the impression that were they to possess the facts they wouldn't oppose them. Thanks to

Irishman Marc Coleman for an historic breakthrough.

WHICH BRIT REG'T starved your relatives? See www.irishholocaust.org.

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

GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT; beneficial? See www.michaelmckevitt.com, www.friendsofcolinduffy.com, and www.freegerry.com. A Brit court (Diplock, i.e. juryless) in Occupied Ireland has Gerry on trial these days. If you want a daily report on it contact mcclafferty32@aol.com.

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A Streetcar Named Desire at Writers'

The Writers' Theatre will present Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*, from May 4-July 11, 2010, at Writers' Theatre, 325 Tudor Court in Glencoe.

Blanche DuBois, an aging southern belle, arrives unexpectedly on the doorstep of her sister Stella and her explosive brother-in-law Stanley. Over the course of one hot and steamy

New Orleans summer, Blanche's fragile façade slowly crumbles, wreaking havoc on Stella and Stanley's already turbulent relationship. Embodying the turmoil and drama of a changing nation, *A Streetcar Named Desire* strips Williams' tortured characters of their illusions, leaving a wake of destruction in their path. 847-242-6000; www.writerstheatre.org.

Northlight's Low Down Dirty Blues

Northlight Theatre presents *Low Down Dirty Blues* from June 6 through July 3, at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts. From the very birth of the Blues, great musicians have captivated audiences with their Dirty Blues, music filled with passion, soul and a love of life, as well as inuendo, insinuation and sly wit. Fea-

turing the very best of the style made (in)famous by the likes of Mae West, Muddy Waters, Ma Rainey, Sophie Tucker, Pearl Bailey and many others, *Low Down Dirty Blues* is a look at life and sex in all its fascinating and painful expressions, and a rousing, raucous musical event! 847-673-6300; www.northlight.com.

Aftermath at Raven Theatre Complex

Signal Ensemble Theatre will present the world premiere of *Aftermath* at the West Stage at the Raven Theatre Complex, 6157 N. Clark Street in Chicago, May 10 through June 6

Aftermath is about Brian Jones, founder and original leader of The Rolling Stones, who was perhaps most famous for his mysterious death at age 27. Jones' lasting impact on

rock 'n roll was masked behind his sexual escapades, high profile relationships and drug induced arrests. Spanning the years 1966-1969, *Aftermath*, a drama with the actors playing live music, maps the rise and fall of a troubled genius whose legacy was overshadowed by the very band he created. 773-347-1350; www.signalensemble.com.



Fast Eddie McAteer Appearing in May



"Fast Eddie" McAteer is coming up from Arizona in May to play the following Chicagoland dates: Mollys Irish Pub, Riverside, IL, Fri., May 7th, 9pm; McGonigles, Barrington, IL, Sat., May 8th, 9pm; and Six Penny Bit, Chicago, IL, May 9th, 7pm.

Neverwhere at Lifeline Theatre

Lifeline Theatre will present the world premiere adaptation of Neil Gaiman's bestselling 1996 urban fantasy novel *Neverwhere*, from May 10 through June 20,

2010 at Lifeline Theatre, 6912 N. Glenwood Ave. in Chicago, IL.

When Richard Mayhew stops to care for an injured girl on the street, he is drawn into a nightmare shadow world beneath the city of London. To return to his normal life, Richard must brave countless trials, uncover the truth behind a dark conspiracy, and face the indomitable Great Beast. Journey to London Below with a rogues' gallery of liars, outcasts and assassins, on a treacherous voyage to awaken the hero within. 773-761-4477; www.lifelinetheatre.com.

The Pigeons

Walkabout Theater's production of *The Pigeons*, by Joe Zarrow, runs through June 7, 2010 at Swim Cafe, 1357 W. Chicago Ave. in Chicago (suggested donation of \$10-15).

The Pigeons is a real estate farce set in Chicago's diverse, rapidly-gentrifying West Town neighborhood. When Martin's girlfriend kicks him out of their apartment, he has to find new digs quickly. Unfortunately, the only available living space is a tiny condo inhabited by dozens of hygiene-impaired pigeons. Martin must then navigate the torrent of unemployed artists, unscrupulous real estate agents, embittered baristas, rageaholic frat boys and terrifying, pierogis-selling old ladies to land his dream condo.

The Pigeons asks the question: can anybody—artists, yuppies, pigeons, or otherwise—escape gentrification? www.walkabouttheater.org; 773-572-0341.

Irish Woman Playwright for Chicago

Miriam Gallagher's new play, *Nasturtiums and Cherry Buns* opens in Chicago on May 28th 2010. The production is by Nightblue Theater who previously performed the US Premiere of her play *Fancy Footwork*.

This play was first performed for Dublin Theatre Festival at Focus Theatre, and most recently at 2009 New York International Fringe Festival.

Miriam Gallagher is an awardwin-



Miriam Gallagher

ning playwright, novelist & screenwriter. Her work, staged and screened in Ireland, London, Paris, New York, Canada, South Africa & Australia, is profiled in *Irish Women Writers: An A-Z Guide* (2006, Greenwood Press, CT, USA).

Theatrical/Musical Interludes celebrating Irish composers (Carolan; Field; Wallace; Balfe) were performed at Dublin's National Concert Hall, on Rte Radio and at festivals here & abroad.

'Green Rain', celebrating Joan Trimble, the Enniskillen born composer is being premiered this year.

Books are: *Fancy Footwork* (13 Plays) *Kalahari Blues* (3 Plays) *The Gold of Tradaree* (3 Plays) *Song for Salamander* (a novel) *Pusakis at Paros* (short stories) and *Let's Help Our Children Talk* (non fiction).

Commissions include *The Gold of Tradaree* (first play awarded under the Per Cent for Art Scheme) and *Kalahari Blues* (Galloglass Theatre) Recent prizewinning plays: *Doracha Mór* and the *Ghaath Dobhair Sailors* (Ireland) and *The Parting Glass* (USA).

Miriam received Arts Council and European Script Fund awards for *Girls in Silk Kimonos* (feature length screenplay celebrating the Gore Booth sisters). Her film *Gypsies* screened at New York's Lincoln Center and San Francisco's Plaza Cinemas & was broadcast by Rte. Website: www.miriamgallagher.ie.

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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



White Collar Crooks, Come into the Parlour!

Look, here's the deal: isn't it time to stop pretending that this is a Republic? Isn't it time to stop pretending that we're all in this together? Shouldn't we be shelving the ludicrous notion that in a country as corrupt and rotten as this one, there is any hope of justice for the ordinary Paddy and Brigid Q. Sucker?

We're not in this together. There are the people who are important and there are the rest of us. That's the mind-set here.

Let's try to salvage what we can and do something for the tourist industry. Let's market this open-air mental hospital as a tourist/white collar crook's haven from the law. Let's take out full page adverts explaining that if you are a) a businessman, or b) anyone with access to sufficient wealth, then you should make your home in Ireland, where you will be permitted to rip off the taxpayer until you're heart's content and know that you will never do any time whatsoever for whatever dodgy escapade you have been up to this week.

The planet's continental shift moves at a faster pace than Irish law works so if you are one of the many bankers who has been found to be criminally negligent (to put it kindly); or a government minister salting extra loot away for good times; a shameless politician who claims absolutely everything that he can back on that old reliable, "expenses"; or a rapist priest who's been getting away with his vile crimes for decades; one of the Holy Men who failed to report him to the police; if you are one of these or many others, then come into the parlour: there's a welcome there for you!

Just don't try it if you are one of the little people, because pocketing a few euros for the window-cleaning or bar-tending that you're doing on the side because your real wages have now been so badly cut that you can't live on them any more, well that will bring down the full weight and wrath of the law on your head.

THAT'S how we do things in this tarnished once-proud island.

The Texan writer of the '20s and '30s, Robert E. Howard, who felt a great affinity with the Celts, once remarked that the last one should have died a thousand years ago.

Certainly I for one would have preferred that to having to look at and listen to the thin-blooded, watered-down, pushed-around go-b'-the-walls that make up the country now.

We're lied to and bullied by useless waste of spaces like the Fianna Failure Party that you put into power because it's always easier to do what the whole family have always done through the years than think for yourselves, isn't it? Sure, we know that they're chancers and thieves who have always had an unholy closeness with their builder and developer cronies, but maybe this time they won't screw us too much; we know that they have an innate fear of doing anything that would upset Holy Father Church or the all-powerful bankers, no matter how twisted and polluted these organisations have shown themselves to be. Jeez, we don't want to be rocking the boat just the same, now do we?

This is the logical outcome of the workings of the Galway Tent where bent builders and crooked Fianna Failures made deals to suit themselves, not the country.

For the latest outrage that has been visited on the taxpayer for bailing out Anglo Irish Bank ALONE we should have taken to the streets in our tens of thousands. Oh, we talk a great fight and would plant one on our best friend if we were tanked up on booze; but ask us to seriously protest against the way in which this Government has looked at us with contempt before spitting right in our faces and we will, you can be assured, do sweet bugger all.

We'd rather whine about "eight hundred years of tyranny under the Brits" than look the fact squarely in the face that an Irishman is better at slapping his own around than any incomer could ever be.

"Celtic fighting spirit?" Don't make me laugh. If we had an ounce of guts we would have had the useless Dail torn down brick by brick at this stage. We would have taken over the banks in a meaningful way, not the baffling, plodding along in the dark manner that the Government has done with the notorious Anglo Irish—and possibly more to come.

Keep the churches, as some of them are pleasant to look at. Here in the village of Oranmore in County Galway for instance there's a rather beautiful one from 1801 that was converted years ago into a public library. The "modern" monstrosity that is built across from it can definitely go; if there's a choice between something like that and somewhere that man, woman or child can borrow books from then I know what I would go with every time.

On the same day that Brian Lenihan hit us with the full unbelievable extent of how much we would be paying to keep Anglo Irish operating—40 billion—the powers that be there were giving their top 72 wasters a ten per cent pay INCREASE while at the same time the rest of the country's workers were told to brace themselves for further cuts. At the moment everyone has taken at least 10% cuts in their wages and I know of those who have taken 18% and even as high as 28%; and this is their reward: to see tax money going to criminally run

banks and not to the infrastructure that we expect our tax to go into. There will now be no money to go into schools, hospitals, roads or anything else that this rotten and twisted Government decides is a luxury.

Spineless Brian Cowen declares that he has no power to question Anglo Irish Bank's inner machinations. Well, WHY THE HELL NOT? I thought that WE owned the damned thing now.

On the day that Lenihan made his announcement in the Dail, Sean Fitzpatrick, the walking disgrace of a man who ran the Bank as if it was his own private enterprise, keeping the real figures from his smaller shareholders and costing them everything—on that day Seanie flew out to Spain for a holiday and to hit a few rounds of golf.

If this weren't Ireland of the Soft Touch he would have been in jail for at the very least a year now. But this is Ireland, so of course he is ENTITLED to fly business class completely free for the rest of his LIFE!

His mate David Drumm is living it up in Cape Cod, to where he has relocated. I trust that any Americans tempted to do business with this guy will have a thorough look at his background in Ireland.

I'm out of space and there are too many gougers to cover here. The bottom line is that none of them will do time.

For our weakness we deserve the kicking that we are getting.

Would the last Celt to leave the country please turn out the lights?

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Celtic Fest Chicago: Where Old And New Traditions Unite

Millennium Park – May 8 & 9

The 14th Annual Celtic Fest Chicago begins a new tradition in Chicago's Millennium Park this Mother's Day weekend, May 8 and 9 for two days of unique music and entertainment bringing old world charm to Chicago. Presented by the City of Chicago and FlyNovaScotia.com, Celtic Fest Chicago is FREE to the public and runs from 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. A complete schedule including headliners at the

Jay Pritzker Pavillion will be announced soon.

The festival brings world renowned artists to Chicago to celebrate the culture of the seven ancient Celtic nations with performers from Ireland; Brittany, France; Galicia, Spain;

the Celtic Art Fair, traditional and contemporary Celtic music and dance plus the popular bagpipe parade, along with a Harp and Uilleann Pipe area. Ladies, pick your favorite set of legs at the Men in Kilts Contest. Brave men will show off their legs in kilts for a contest unlike any other. The Next Generation Stage will host local Celtic music school performers and traditional Celtic dancing will be performed

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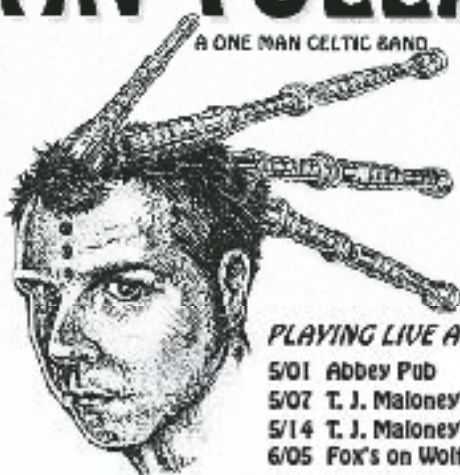
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Scotland; the Isle of Man; Cornwall; Wales; plus the United States and Canada. Celtic music enfolds a variety of rich cultures, as various geographical areas contribute diverse backgrounds and flavors. Celtic Fest Chicago celebrates this history with music and traditions that date back to 300 B.C.

Celtic Fest Chicago features a full line-up of world-class entertainment both days. Highlights of the festival include

throughout the weekend on the Jay Pritzker Pavillion stage.

Celtic Fest Chicago is presented by the Mayor's Office of Special Events and FlyNovaScotia.com. For more information and updates call the Mayor's Office of Special Events at (312) 744-3315 or visit www.celticfestchicago.us. For help in planning your trip to Chicago visit www.explorechicago.org. Become a fan of Celtic Fest Chicago on Facebook and follow our updates on Twitter (twitter.com/marylmay).

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Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



You're probably familiar with the miracle of "the loaves and the fishes." We recently had something like that happen with my radio show, "The Skinny & Houli Show." We call it the miracle of "The BLT's."

Skinny Sheahan and I philosophize on the events of the day each Wednesday night from 6-8pm. We're having a ball doing it, and our fan base is growing. Along with Flood Brothers Disposal, one of our sponsors is Lizzie McNeill's Irish Pub over on McClurg Court. It's just a block from the recording studio and each week Lizzie's proprietor John Wren provides a meal for our crew.

I pride myself on never passing up a free meal, so I look forward to that Wednesday evening dinner like Odor Eaters crave Shaq's shoes. The menu has run the gamut from corned beef sandwiches to pizza to turkey clubs. In these lean times I've even tossed into my trunk the Styrofoam packed leftovers to feed my family. It's good grub and the price is right.

Skinny and I have been doing the show since January, but the idea originally popped right before St. Patrick's Day in 2009. We were appearing separately as guests on Irish Radio, *The O'Connor Show*. I was promoting my book *Hooliganism*, and Skinny was there to hype the annual Polar Plunge Special Olympics fundraiser. Skinny needed that I had worn my mother's bathing suit to the last Polar Plunge and Siobhainn O'Connor and her mom Margaret laughed at our dueling wisecracks. Later that day *Irish American News* editor and publisher Cliff Carlson said, "You guys should have your own radio show!"

I saw Skinny again as he judged the St. Patrick's Day parade queen contest and he told me that people had been stopping him on the street asking when we were going on the radio together.

I passed it off as a pipe dream until I ran into Skinny's wife Mary Beth at what would be the final South Side Irish parade. I asked about himself and she told me he was in the hospital with a bum stomach.

Of course I raced over to visit my old pal as soon as I found some time several weeks later.

Skinny lay in the hospital bed with tubes protracting from every pore as he writhed in a fever-like state. At his bedside, Dr. Morasso studied a racing form and chewed on an unlit cigar. Skinny reached out his scrawny arm to me and whimpered as a tear dribbled down his cheek, "Houli, we gotta get that radio show goin'!"

I shook his paw and humored him, "If that is your dying wish my friend, I will make it happen." I never thought he'd survive long enough for us to get on the air, especially when a huge male nurse entered with a nozzled rubber bag and announced, "Time for your trip to Fleet Street, Mister Sheahan!"

Nine months later the baby was born and *The Skinny & Houli Show* debuted on WNTD AM radio.

Right before our first show, Skinny took me aside and told me, "Now listen, don't screw this up with any of your crap your pants jokes." I assured him that I had been on radio many times before, and that I would be on my best behavior.

Ten minutes into the show Skinny lost his pencil on the floor and dropped the F-bomb. The producers had wisely instituted a delay of several seconds and nobody heard him as he violated FCC laws.

We've had some bumps in our radio road over the last several months.

I've been called on the carpet by station management for bawdy jokes I made about Oprah, because I tend to forget that our station, WNTD, is also home to Catholic Radio during the day. I like to think that those listeners trade their beads for a beer round about six o'clock every Wednesday night as they tune into the unorthodox Skinny & Houli Show.

Our guest list gets heavier with clout each week and we've featured Pulitzer Prize winners and Supreme Court Justices. Mayor Daley supposedly remarked that, "The Skinny & Houli Show is the voice of reason." When asked if we could quote him, he merely chuckled.

We're not at the loaves and fishes stage yet, but last week Skinny walked into the studio carrying the dinner from Lizzie's and I was shocked. "I only see two boxes there, how we will we feed everybody?"

Skinny opened the Styrofoam boxes and on top were two bacon, lettuce, and tomato sandwiches. I seized a sandwich and then

noticed that there were two more underneath those... and then two more underneath the other two... and then two more... and when we gathered up the scraps there was enough BLT to feed all of us and even some left over for me to take home.

Some people would call that a miracle. And some people would call *The Skinny & Houli Show* miraculous! Don't be a skeptic. Tune in and decide for yourself, every Wednesday night from 6-8pm on WNTD 950 AM and streaming live one the web at www.avenue950.com. *They're even listening in Ireland!*

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