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Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



month's letters and truly mean that.

When someone takes the time to respond, even when it is to your detriment, it

is such a huge compliment.

But a little perspective here, please. These are SIMPLY MY VIEWS and not the views of the paper or the publisher; and whether you like me or not, I'm not being told what to write here. That's just not my style.

Take me or leave me, but I do my own thing and always have.

I am puzzled, however, at how you would take me to issue over De Valera and his Nazi sympathies. In this case, I can't even say "it's just my opinion" because all of these things can be checked.

Call me weird or whatever, but I just have this thing about people who defend mass murder. I just don't like it.

A hell of a lot of people don't like my way of writing. I'm pretty damned sure that Gerry Adams doesn't.

That's great, because that is what living in a free world should mean: the choice to choose.

But for heaven's sake just turn the page if you don't like me.

It's that simple.

If I find a film that I find utterly repellent (*Saw*, *Hostel* spring instantly to mind) I just turn to the "off" switch.

That's how simple it is. Bloody hell, I lost in the one day this week a game of pool and a game of ten pin bowling, and yet for some mysterious reason, I didn't feel the need to smash a pool cue over the guy's head.

I think we call it being civilized.

I have no doubt, Mr. O'Hara, that you are a good and decent man; in fact the wording of your letter to me tells me that, but don't lose sight of the real jerks in this world.

Look closer to home where one of my biggest disappointments has turned out to be your current President.

What is this man doing—well, before he did U-turn after U-turn—in defending an Islamic Cultural Centre being built close to the ground of a place that was the site of the biggest terrorist attack in America's history.

Is Obama ever haunted by the ghosts?

I just don't get it. Yeah, yeah, yeah, I've heard all that old guff about how we have to show respect to every religion that walks in and tells us to bend over.

That's fine, and despite the fact that I am a Godless man myself, I always try my level best to show anybody the respect that I would expect myself. Not always successfully, but I do try.

But why is it not being shown to the people of New York in this case?

If I were a Muslim, I would be arguing against this far harder than America is. I would be saying "we will never attend a service there because it is disrespectful."

In the name of just plain and simple human decency, this should not be allowed.

I'm actually in awe of Obama's cheek in expecting people to go along with ANY of the bull he has come out with since his appointment. But do you know what gets me the most? I'm just disappointed because I really had hopes for that guy.

Sure, he's not going to give a two-cent damn for what some journalist in Ireland thinks of him, but over here we are just so out of respect for him.

Then again, at this time in my life why would I be shocked at what any politician does?

As always, whether you hate me (usually) or don't, I will always try to answer your emails... chasbrady7@eircom.net.

And whatever mad God you believe in, may he be with you.

Haunted by the Ghosts

There's this song that I haven't been able to get out of my head for days now. It's called "Haunted by the Ghosts" and it's sung in the angelic voice of Sinéad O'Connor in tandem with the rather less enchanting voice of Shane McGowan. As far as I'm concerned, both are geniuses in their own way, despite also being nutters.

And I know that a lot of people in Ireland will hate me for saying this, but I think that they are probably two of the greatest poets that this often-begrudging island ever produced.

There's another song I can't get out of what is left of the head at this stage and Leonard Coen calls it "Democracy."

I kind of think that this is freedom of speech and that is something I have always admired and thought that Americans did as well.

I thank Mr. O'Hara for his comments in this

Chicago Gaelic News

Pat Hennessy



Harry Costello (Man for All Seasons), Tommy Dolan, Eamon Kelly, and ladies working for the games. It should be "a great day for the Irish" with teams from all over North America competing.

The last time such playoffs were scheduled for Gaelic Park, a record crowd attended, including the President of the GAA, Nicky Brennan, and other officers, who were amazed by the display, especially the spacious park including availability of eight adjacent playing fields within the confines of the park. They congratulated the officers of the GAA in Chicago, especially the Gaels who set it all up. The president also made it a point of telling the GAA in Ireland of his experiences in Chicago. No doubt officers from Ireland will also be at the park to witness this year's program.

For those Chicagoans who have never been to Chicago Gaelic Park, it's located at 6119 West 147th St. in Oak Forest, and can be reached from either Harlem going east or Cicero going west. For more information, call Melody or one of the other beautiful colleens at the front office at 708-687-9323. See you at the park.

Bloody Sunday:

Nothing New to the Irish

The recent change of government in England brought out the truth of the terrible shooting of 14 peaceful Irish men and women on a Peace March, nearly 40 years ago. No action was taken against the soldiers (British) in Ulster, a part of Ireland occupied since 1920. The British finally held an Enquiry by the British government but nothing ever happened and indeed the truth would perhaps never be known had it not been for the change of government.

According to the working of the new gov-

ernment, the enquiry said "the Security may have bordered on the reckless." And even this would never be known had it not been for the kicking out of the Conservative government, Churchill's, Thatcher's, Blair's. "Border on the reckless." There is nothing reckless in such brutal killing of 14 peaceful men and women on a Peace March.

The First Bloody Sunday

The first "Bloody Sunday" in Ireland occurred in 1921 when British forces broke in the front gate of Croke Park in Dublin and opened fire on a crowd of spectators watching a football game between Tipperary and Dublin. Revenge was in the air that day as British forces, decided to take action, picked Croke Park as that target.

British forces opened fire on an unarmed group, killing 14 and wounding 16. The killing included a member of the Tipperary team, Michael Hogan, a star back player. On the field he lay in the goal, a priest dashed across to render the Last Rites and a nurse accompanied him. But Hogan was dead upon their arrival. It was a bloody holocaust, but one of the proudest moments in GAA history. The Hogan Stand in Croke Park is named after him. *Ar dheis De goraibh an ainm.*

No enquiry or apology was even forthcoming from Britain, but that too was expected. Hogan's funeral from Dublin to Grangemonger was the longest seen in Ireland. He was buried in his togs and jersey, draped in the tricolor, and laid to rest by his teammates.

We have the greatest respect and admiration for former Pres. Bill Clinton, Hillary, and former U.S. Senator Bill Mitchell, who brought peace to Ulster with the Good Friday Agreement, but Ireland's great patriot Padraig Pearse said it best as he delivered an oration over the graves of Fenian dead. He said, "the

fools, the fools (British), they have left us our Fenian dead, and as long as Ireland holds those graves, Ireland unfree, all 32 counties united, will never be at peace."

Blessed Br. Edmund

Played Old Caman Game

Blessed Br. Rice, founder of the Irish Christian Brothers, and a native of Callan, Co. Kilkenny, played the old caman game we are told, and even made hurleys for the many poor kids that had no hurley. They called the game "Loops" in his home town, back in those days. The group played the games behind the Rice family home, and afterwards swam in the Kings River which flowed behind the field.

Now within a step of being Sainted, hopefully soon, the famed Callanman used what money had later in joining with other men of the neighborhood to open a school in Waterford, calling it "Mount Sion." It has since been developed into a huge International Education Center and being visited by crowds of visitors each year. His ancestral home in Callan is also a great attraction for visitors to Ireland.

The great man died in 1844 and was buried on the Monastery at Mount Sion. In the course of a brilliant sermon by Fr. Fitzgerald. He paid a glowing tribute to the great man, saying, "For as long as gratitude shall find a resting place in the Irish heart, as long as civilization shall be prized and cherished, the name of Edmund Rice will held in benediction."

Pray for the Sainthood of Bro. Edmund, especially those sick. Yours may be the miracle need for the great honor.

Hopefully when the big day arrives, the GAA will honor him as a patron of the organization, the largest real amateur sporting organization in the world.

Call Br. John Dornbos, hardworking Christian Brother for the cause, 773-445-4988.

Thank You Mr. Editor and Staff

My sincere thanks and appreciation is extended to our great Editor, Mr. Cliff Carlson, and his all-star staff for their professional coverage of my 90th birthday party held at the beautiful Tara room in spacious Gaelic Park recently. Apparently our fine paper is read all over the country including New York, where the well known editor of the *Irish Echo*, Ray O'Hanlon, found time and space to offer his congratulation and good wishes. From Florida, also many calls from well-known Chicagoans as Jim and Kathleen McCormack, Joe Kilroy, Andy Cannon, Frank Speelman and more, hailed the occasion. Our sincere thanks to all, including the many who sent cards and phone calls from Chicago. Hopefully, all of you can celebrate your big 90. It's a never to be forgotten occasion.

Records Crowds Expected at Gaelic Park Over Labor Day

Record crowds from all over North America are expected to attend the All-American hurling and football play over the Labor Day holidays, starting on Saturday and ending Sunday. The big event under the auspices of the American Board GAA will sponsor the playoffs for the much coveted championships of Ireland's national pastimes, hurling and football, for men and women, and of course, juveniles. With such a huge schedule of play on the agenda for the weekend, eight adjacent playing fields will be made available under the keen eyes of

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Raised on Songs and Stories



Shay Clarke



"Will Ye Go Lassie Go"

The 30th anniversary of Irish Fest Milwaukee is over now and I'm sure that the songs sung at the scattering still echo around Milwaukee's festival park. What a great weekend it was.

The usual sensory overload as talent in abundance flowed from one end of the park to the other. Whether it was the Miller Stage or the Pub Stage, Whether it was trad, ballads or rock, these entertainers held nothing back and left us all with memories to cherish. In my opinion, they were all headliners. Go mbeidh muid beo ar an am seo aris.

I had the distinct honor of introducing Girsra to the Milwaukee audience on several occasions and it was the first time that I had seen these eight girls from Pearl River New York play live. They were brilliant and the audiences just ate them up. As I have told you before, Girsra have a very bright future ahead of them.

"Will Ye Go Lassie Go"

I heard it sung by at least six bands at the fest, it was like an anthem. In fact, as I walked the grounds I heard two bands playing it at the same time. What a wonderful song it is, it has been with me since the sixties and it

still makes me wish that I could sing, but I can't. That's why I play Irish music on the radio. Oh yeah, I bet all of us Irish radio show presenters are really frustrated musicians and singers.

No Blarney . . . Done Festifying!

After twenty-three years of festifying across the fruited plains, we have decided to call it a day and sadly we leave the ranks of the Celtic Road Warriors. The economy, the price of gold and the expense involved in keeping it all going all factor into this decision. It's time for a change in direction and of course needless to say, you have not seen the last of me, not by a long shot. Milwaukee Fest was bitter sweet for the Blarney crew, as we knew it was our last hurrah and I thank Kevin and Maureen Fleming for the opportunity to once again man the Blarney booth. It was a successful collaboration as they had the most beautiful Irish Jewelry and we, the Blarney crew, were able to satisfy our loyal and long time Milwaukee Fest customers. Thank you all again and don't forget to visit Fleming's beautiful store in downtown Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Kevin and Maureen are the salt of the earth and will look after you as we have for many years.

"Into The Future"

These days, you can find me at McNally's Traditional Irish Pub in Saint Charles, Illinois. I am part of their management team and I'm having the time of my life learning the ropes from Carole, Erin, Rosie and Michelle. Life is good. Come on down and visit us on Sunday afternoon for our traditional music session featuring Maurice Lennon, Jim Dewan and a host of other great trad musicians.

I am working with the Irish American Heritage Center on a concert series to begin in the fall. It's all very exciting. I am also developing a talent pool/ booking agency for musicians, singers, and entertainers in the Irish genre. I will be telling a lot more about all of this in the months to come. In the meantime, tune in to Blarney On The Air on Monday nights at 7 pm central time on 90.9 fm Chicago and on the web at WDCB.ORG. See you on the radio.

Senior Groups Back in Session

Although many are sad to see the summer come to a close there is one great thing about fall - Chicago Irish Immigrant Support rolls out another great senior group program. In September they will be reconvening their senior group meetings at Gaelic Park and IAHC, and this year they will be better than ever. Group meetings will include lively chat, refreshments and guest speakers on topics ranging from healthcare to history. There will also be a day trip in October so be sure to go along to meetings to find out more about that. Meetings are always on Thursdays and alternate between Gaelic Park and IAHC. The first meeting in Gaelic Park is on September 2nd and they kick off at IAHC on September 9th. Meetings run between 10am and noon and all are welcome. For a listing of group meeting topics please see the Gaelic Park Newsletter and The Heritage Line in this issue of IAN. If you would like additional information or would like to discuss availing of transport to meetings please call Chicago Irish Immigrant Support on 312-534-8445.

Emerald Society of Illinois Irish American Police Association to Honor John Griffin

On Friday, September 24th, The Emerald Society will hold their 35th Annual Dinner Dance at Gaelic Park, in Oak Forest, IL. Social hour is 7:00-8:00 and dinner to follow. The Emerald Society is

honoring their Irishman of the year, John Griffin.

John is the current President of Gaelic Park (since 1991) Chicago's St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee Director and Treasurer, chairman of the Forever Green Celebrations at Navy Pier, the World's Largest Block Party, founding member of the Young Irish Fellowship Club, and a multitude of other events that promote Irish Culture and heritage.

Police Officers of the Year to be honored are Officers Scott McKenna & Daniel O'Toole.

You are encouraged to purchase tickets and even put an Ad in their program book. This is the Emerald Society event of the year.

For tickets and information email celticknot1@wowway.com, or call 773-517-2802

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Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



Reality Shaped by Hypocrisy

Farrell's Irish Papers is a unique book because it contains five thought provoking essays about Irish American history, especially how Irish Americans are portrayed in movies. It also contains two lively short stories, two reviews, and a play script. The author is Steven Farrell, a Professor of Speech Communication in South Carolina.

The first two of his essays, about portrayal of Irish American in movies, received the great honor of being added to the Irish Film Archives in Dublin.

The essay, "Mickey Machine Gun

Farrell's Irish Papers



Prof. Steven G. Farrell

is Back!" made me recall my own early impressions of the legacy of some Chicago gangsters.

When I was a boy, there were still buildings (stores with two apartments above them) across State Street from the cathedral, now a parking lot is there. And a store was pointed out to me that had been used as the headquarters of Dean O'Banion, a prohibition era gangster.

I was also shown the bullet pockmarks in the cornerstone of Holy Home Cathedral. They were put there in 1926 when "Hymie" Weiss was killed by machine gun fire as he crossed the street in front of the Cathedral. (Weiss was actually a Polish Catholic, whose family had shortened its name.)

I attended a nearby school and often saw the bullet pocks. This was a great practical lesson of good and evil.

Some relatives of mine had been buried in Mount Carmel Cemetery in Hillside. When my family visited their graves, I was always shown the tall and impressive monument of Dean O'Banion. The gangster had been killed in 1922 and had one of the largest funerals in Chicago history. Despite church rules, he was

buried in consecrated ground and in a prominent place in the cemetery.

This was another lesson early in life of reality shaped and altered by hypocrisy.

I enjoyed the sharply insightful views and careful analysis of *Farrell's Irish Papers*.

Farrell's Irish Papers by Professor Steven Farrell. World Audience Inc., New York, 2010. 176 pages; \$20.00. 646-670-7406, info@worldaudience.org.

Ecclesiastic Tyranny: Fethard-On-Sea Boycott

In 1957, the Protestant wife of a Catholic farmer refused to be forced, by the local Catholic clergy, to have her children be brought up as Catholics. The Pope had issued an encyclical that required this. When she refused, the local Catholic clergy



quickly organized a boycott of all the Protestant shopkeepers and farmers in the area.

The farmer and his wife were never given a chance to work out a peaceful solution—despite the farmer's promise to do just that.

The place where this example of clerical intolerance happened is a village on Wexford's coast. The village is called Fethard-On-Sea.

The author of this emotionally powerful book is Tim Fanning. He has thoroughly researched this very readable book. Photographs and a helpful map are included. Historical accuracy is shown in the 10 page footnotes, interviews and sources. But, you would expect this accuracy from a historian trained at UCD.

However, he also has unique first hand knowledge of the people involved. This is because, as a boy,

he spent his summer vacations in the village, and he knew the family involved.

As Fanning says about the town before the boycott: "The Protestant minority were tolerated because they kept their heads down..." and realized that the Catholic Church had great influence in Ireland, and also "in matters more properly the business of the state or individual conscience."

Preachers in the North must have had a field day telling their congregations that here was proof that the Republic was a brutally intolerant theocracy.

The boycott dragged on for half a year. Eventually the children of the couple were sent to neither Protestant nor Catholic school. They were home schooled.

The book ends with this: "For the Protestants in the village, things were never the same again. At the beginning of 1958, one of the Protestant shopkeepers told a local newspaper, 'Only a few of my old customers have come back...' Another newspaper reported that 'some of the Fethard Catholics still persist in their unkind attitude towards their Protestant neighbors.' It was to take the efforts of a later generation to start the painful process of reconciliation."

1957 isn't so far away. In the boycott we can clearly see an example of unrestrained ecclesiastical power. Unquestioned authority, of any kind, is dangerous at any time.

Relations between the village's Protestants and Catholics slowly improved over many years. But worse was to come to the people of Fethard-On-Sea.

The Reverend Father Sean Fortune, the notorious pedophile priest, was sent in 1981 to a parish that served that unfortunate village.

Fethard-On-Sea is part of the Ferns diocese. During that period, Bruedan Comisbey was bishop. One of the times I visited Ireland, I saw him on television railing against President Reagan and his foreign policy.

"A large file of evidence pertaining to Fortune's abuse of children" should have alerted Comisbey "to the priest's crimes throughout the 1980's." Of course, it didn't.

As the author, Tim Fanning, says: "Thanks to some first rate investigative journalism, his suicide (after being tried for 29 sexual abuse cases while in Fethard), and the damning indictment of the 2005 report of the government inquiry into child sex abuse in the diocese of Ferns, the truth is now out. But in the 1980's, the children he was abusing were not being heard. Many in positions

of authority abdicated their responsibilities..."

If Fortune had deep psychological problems, the bishops who sent him, and other pedophile priests, to parishes of trusting people, had deeper problems of hypocrisy and cruelty.

The Fethard-On-Sea Boycott by Tim Fanning. The Collins Press—Dufour Editions,

Chester Springs, PA, 2010. 240 pages, \$25.95. 610-458-5005.

"The Quiet Man"

The Quiet Man was filmed in 1951, but is still shown many times around St. Patrick's Day. Not only has it been screened for almost 60 years, but it seems to be as popular today as ever. How can this enduring appeal be explained?

A Quiet Man Miscellany by Des MacHale presents many excerpts from scripts, interviews, observations about making the movie, facts about director John Ford, and educated guesses, to try to answer that question.

Des MacHale's book is a work of love and historical accuracy. Not only does he teach at VCC, but he is a chairman of the international *The Quiet Man* Movie Fan Club, and has written two previous books about the film.

There were early attempts to politicize the script. But John Ford,

realizing these passions would lead to a propaganda film, and quickly date it, rejected this. His genius was to see what the public wanted. He turned the movie "into a lively and musical romantic comedy..."

The movie never tried to be a realistic picture of Ireland. (For that see Ford's *Rising of the Moon*). The movie was clearly intended to present a fantasy view of Ireland. Even so, there are several underlying tensions in it: the power of the Catholic's clergy, the Irish Civil War (a veteran of that conflict, Ernie O'Malley, was advisor on the set), the power of money and ownership of land, relations between Catholics and Protes-



A QUIET MAN MISCELLANY

DES MacHALE

stants, forthrightness (John Wayne, Maureen O'Hara) vs. fecklessness (Victor McLaglen).

Irish American, John Ford, was a film director of genius. His films are

Continued to page 17

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- The New York Showband New York & Ireland

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Celtic Celebration at Arlington Park September 12

Celebrating the Irish and Scottish musical traditions alongside the rich heritage of thoroughbred horse racing, Arlington Park's Celtic Celebration is Sunday, September 12, 2010, at 2200 West Euclid in Arlington Heights, IL.

The day features food, music, dance, racing and shows: 11:15am Gates Open; 12-12:30pm Jockey Autograph Session; 12-2pm Paddy Homan, Dennis Cahill & Jimmy Keane; 12:30-4:30pm Face Painting (Kids 13 and under); 1-5:30pm Thoroughbred Horse Racing; 1-2:30pm The Chicago Pipe Band; 2-4pm Trinity Irish Dancers; 2-3pm Thistle & Heather Highland Dancers; 2-4pm Chicago Fire's Mas-

cot "Sparky"; 6:53pm Gates Close. General admission is just \$8 at the gate; \$6 if purchased online. Kids 17 and under are free. www.arlingtonpark.com.

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Saturday, Sept. 11 1-11 pm

Sunday, Sept. 12 1-7 pm

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Brigid's Cross

Friday

- 6-7 pm Mayer School of Irish Dance
- 7:30-8:45pm Brigid's Cross
- 9:15-10:45pm Mickey Finns

Saturday

- 2:15pm Bag Pipers
- 2:15-3:15pm Mayer School of Irish Dance
- 3:30-4:30pm Solid Aire
- 4:45-6pm Emerald Underground
- 6:15-7:30pm Mickey Finns
- 7:45-9pm Larkin and Moran Brothers
- 9:15-10:45pm Brigid's Cross

Sunday

- 1-2pm Celtic Ais and Mayer School of Irish Dance
- 2-2:20pm Chicago Celtic Bagpipers
- 2:45-4pm Larkin and Moran Brothers
- 4:15-5:45pm Brigid's Cross
- 6pm Raffle Winner Announcement

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- Lots of fun activities
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Sunday, Sept 12

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Sunday
September 12, 2010



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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12th, 2010

- 11:15 AM Gates Open
- 12:00 PM — 12:30 PM Jockey Autograph Session
- 12:00 PM — 2:00 PM Paddy Homan, Dennis Cahill & Jimmy Keane
- 12:30 PM — 4:30 PM Face Painting (kids 13 and under)
- 1:00 PM — 5:30 PM Thoroughbred Horse Racing**
- 1:00 PM — 2:30 PM The Chicago Pipe Band
- 1:30 PM — 2:30 PM Trinity Irish Dancers
- 2:00 PM — 3:00 PM Thistle & Heather Highland Dancers
- 2:00 PM — 4:00 PM Chicago Fire's Mascot "Sparky"
- 3:30 PM — 5:30 PM The Barry Fagan Band
- 5:30 PM Gates Close



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Kids 17 and under FREE!



From the Motherland

Sean Farrell



to the same extent. In practice, access is limited overwhelmingly to the well off or those accepted by a third level institution close to home. Whether this nettle will be grasped may ultimately be decided on political grounds.

Small savings can be effected in most other departments. To meet the target, however, will require additionally a combination of revisiting the social welfare budget and extra taxation. Last year's cuts breached the taboo except for the old age pension. A change here was floated some weeks ago, specifically in the context of "better-off" pensioners, but given that these are taxed in any event, it is difficult to see where this one is going. The emotive argument that the pension was earned through contributions when working remains particularly potent.

Clear signals have been given about "widening the tax net" to bring in some of the 50% not paying any tax. This mainly means the lower paid and can be done easily by lowering tax thresholds. This will also increase the amount paid by those currently paying tax, which may forestall or postpone any property tax right away. The glib alternative solution for raising revenue by a tax on property, or assets, conveniently ignores the fact that those obliged to pay are likely to be mainly those currently paying income tax—i.e. the middle classes—who can only be squeezed so far.

While some form of property tax, which would broaden and make more sustainable the tax base, seems bound to come, when and in what form is another matter. There remains in Ireland, almost uniquely in the first world, a general reluctance to take on board the principle that ownership or beneficial use of a piece of property should carry with it a cost. The Government has hinted at the need for further study, and, fearful of a further political backlash, may settle for the moment for a low uniform levy, with another one on water.

Any taxation of the lower paid runs the risk of adding to the existing poverty traps which can make it more advantageous to remain on welfare rather than work. To maintain relative stability and avoid a worsening of the situation the Government may be tempted to cut unemployment assistance again in a package that in equity should also include a hefty cut in child benefit, currently paid indiscriminately to all. There is surely fat in the latter and this could give scope for some rowback on cuts already made for certain particularly vulnerable groups like carers, special needs assistants and the blind. Even lacking money, the Government could and should do something to protect those most vulnerable.

particularly Anglo Irish—can obscure the reality that we are borrowing a similar amount every 18 months or so just to keep afloat.

The budget will not be easy politically; the Government, relying on independents and some worried schismatic supporters, may fall over it. The result would be an election, but out of that would have to come a successor obliged, however reluctantly, to meet the same targets. Whenever the next election occurs the new government will have its hands tied. There are echoes of 1987 in all of this, but though much groundwork has been done over the past two years recovery still seems a distant prospect.

A number of budget trial balloons have already been launched covering welfare cuts (including one of the last sacred cows, the old age pension), extending income tax to the lower paid (half of all workers pay no tax) and the modalities of interim property and water taxes (the definitive versions will take longer to formulate). In a sense, this is the Government version of negative spin—a softening up process to make the final package more palatable. The first result has been to alert the lobbies.

So what will the budget contain? Much of last year's McCarthy Report remains to be implemented. However, the Government, through the Croke Park Agreement with the public sector unions, has tied its hands regarding further cuts in public sector pay or levies. Some big spending Departments will be targeted. Mary Harney has already signalled a draconian cut in the Health budget. This has been received relatively quietly, though this will probably change as the details emerge. The public is weary of a system whose strengths and weaknesses are well known; any cuts aimed at the top heavy bureaucracy will be welcomed; any cuts in services will draw fire.

Education seems destined for further cuts, but here most of the soft options have already been targeted. One issue remains—that of the reintroduction of third level fees at the state's universities and colleges. When the emotive smokescreens are stripped aside, the simple reality is that the main beneficiaries of the abolition of fees have been the middle classes. Some others have benefitted but not

At least we had a fine early summer. In July, however, the rains returned and combined with doom and gloom in the media about our current travails to dampen the most optimistic spirit. It is now apparent to all that there will be no quick economic fix. The sands are running out for the Government and Fianna Fail continues to languish at unprecedented lows in the polls. The focus is now on the next dose of pain—the December budget—with around \$2 and a half billion to be found from extra taxes or cuts in spending. It could be the Government's last.

Several recent economic reports, even those positive in tone, have underlined just how fragile our economy remains and how much pain we have still to endure. One or two outside commentators have been scathing about what has been done and sceptical about any chance of a quick recovery. An exasperated Taoiseach has complained about too much negative reporting which does no good and could harm the recovery.

Certainly there are positive signs, particularly regarding exports and in terms of a pick up in foreign direct investment. The Government has bravely committed itself to a future capital programme, which, even scaled down, contains the promise of future jobs. Jobs are being created, but jobs are being lost. Unemployment has begun to lurch upwards again.

Fresh revelations about the misdeeds of the banks (and bankers) continue, serving to drive home the feeling that too much has been done for them. All the signs moreover, are that the banks, far from being grateful, are rather turning the screw on customers whenever the opportunity is presented. The end September sees the current state guarantee to the banks expire; will there be a rethink for guarantee mark two?

There is a reluctant general acceptance among all but the most obtuse that we cannot continue to borrow at the current levels. It has dawned on the public that the core issue is not to win an internal argument among ourselves about appropriate welfare and tax levels, but rather to convince outside lenders to continue to advance us the money to fund our current living standards. No amount of outrage over the huge sums sunk into the banks—

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Rider

By Cliff Carlson

Armed with his visa in the 1994 lottery, Paul O'Reilly opted for a change of scenery. He went directly to New York to kick off the 1994 World Cup and to "support the boys in Green who were playing in it. I had a fantastic time. Ah brilliant, magic time," remembers Paul. From New York he went to Orlando, following the boys in green, and then back to Ireland to return to Chicago on October, 4, 1994. His first job was working in an Italian restaurant, then he worked with Grolsch, and landed at Guinness in 1996 in Ohio. He returned to Chicago in 1997, and it has been home ever since.

Paul grew up on a small farm in Rathmore, Naas Co. Kildare. His family has always been connected to horses and racing. Seems fitting that his parish, Eades Town, is the only parish in the world with two race courses.

The second youngest in the family, and youngest boy, he has seven sisters and two brothers. "Mom and dad are going strong in their mid-eighties. My mother's maiden name was Williams, of the Tullamore Whiskey family, and dad is from the Powers Whiskey clan. Dad was first and foremost involved with Irish Distiller's (Power's Gold label, Jameson, Paddy's & Bushmills whiskeys along with Player Will's cigarettes before joining the Ulster bank in his later years. Mum kept the home fort going strong!" smiled Paul.

Their farm in Ireland grew crops, and raised cattle, sheep and horses. All but two siblings still live in Ireland.

Paul first rode a family pony when he was four. He was hooked. One of his favorite memories was winning first place at the Fairy House Course in his early 20's.

Paul was way too tall to be a jockey at 6'1 - you need to be 5' 2 to 5' 8. But he didn't let that stop him. He rode in England and Ireland as an amateur jockey. "The weight was a killer. I fought it all the time. I still remember my diet vividly. The lightest I rode at was just under 10 stone in a hurdle race at Plumpton, which was 138 lbs, including my saddle which was 2lbs in weight for a 3 mile race back in 1989," he remembered.

With the love of horses in his blood, no sooner had O'Reilly landed in Chicago than he was connecting with Arlington Park Race Course, his favorite race course in America, and his favorite past time, horses. Paul has worked for some of the best Irish horsemen in the business. "I had a big passion for the horses at home in Ireland. I was into racing early in life, and I went to the stables after school. So, when I came to Chicago I went up to a few stables at Arlington Race

Course to see if I could sit on a horse (as an exercise rider). I met up with Noel Hickey, and he said he would give me a shot at it," said O'Reilly.

"So, I got up on a horse and rode it around the track. The 'pony lads' decide whether you can ride a horse or not, and they said 'grand, no worries,' and that was back in the summer of '94," laughed O'Reilly.

"I came back in 1995 and rode exercise for a fella named, Niall O'Callaghan from Mallow, Co. Cork who was based out of Kentucky then, but back in Ireland now. Then with Noel Hickey, and Hillary Pridham in 1999, and then to Mike Stidham in 2000, and have been riding with Mike & Hillary (Mike's assistant trainer) ever since," he continued.

"We start at 6:00 am., sit on one horse, sit on another at 6:30 and maybe another at 7:00 during the week. On Saturdays I sit on 3 to 5 horses, and Sunday maybe 5 or 6 as well. It's beautiful. You can't explain the view on a horse at sunrise at the track galloping on a horse. Whatever is on your mind, it goes away! It's just you and the horse. Pure balance - one on one," said Paul.



Paul O'Reilly, rides mornings at Arlington Park

"People don't see all of the work that goes into preparing the track and the horses for racing. It's a massive chain. It starts at A and goes to Z at the end of the day. I'm not exaggerating here. You've got the dirt surface at a lot of tracks, the poly track here at Arlington, and you've also got the grass, (on race days they move the rail to keep fresh ground for the horses to run on). In the background at the stables feeding the horses starts as early as 3:30 am every day. You have the grooms, and the assistant trainer responsible for getting the horses groomed and saddled up - dusted off - the straw has to be cleaned out and mucked out, and the aisle around the stalls has to be kept clean. This happens all in the early morning hours. When the riders come in, they check the board to see what they are riding, the exercise that their mount will do, gallop, jog etc. This board is completed the day before with the trainer and assistant trainer. The assistant trainer also confirms with the riders what needs to be done on the way to the track. You

could do from five to eight rides a day depending upon what yard you are in.

But that's just one area. When you come out onto the track you see the trainers outside watching what goes on, you see the jockeys come out to ride - work. Closest to the rails, the jockeys gallop and it's all timed. Just outside the rails horses are taken at a slow gallop, and the farthest from the rails horses jog around slowly in the opposite direction.

You've also got the owners who fund it all, the racetrack administration, accounting, medical, entries, officials, race type, prize money, sponsors, marketing, betting, jockey's weights, weight handicapping, plus the feed, veterinary, hay, straw, security, transport, housing, grounds people, etc. It's immense," O'Reilly explains.

O'Reilly owned a share of a horse in a syndicate at one time. Yellow Sam Stables. Yellow Sam, was the name of the horse who was in Ireland's biggest ever off-course betting coup in 1977 at Bettystown. Over 400,000 pounds were won in wagers by the owner. Back then, that was a lot of cash! "We had a winner with every horse, bar one

in the park. There are amusements at the track, and you can even touch farm animals here at the track!

Horses are beautiful animals. They're very intelligent... most are!

They are beautiful to watch. Kids have a great affinity with them. Every kid who touches a horse loves them. Kids from all areas and walks of life too. It's not that you have to live on the farm or in the countryside to enjoy them, it's just a natural love for the animal almost everyone has.

I look at Dublin, Ireland and the horse/pony mart in Smithfield there and the horses and the carts, and the dealing that goes on. One calls it the elite sport of kings. We see that side of it, but on the other side of it the horse is an animal that every one has a connection to.

Here you can get so close to them from the parade ring and go to the track rails to see them gallop by and hear the noise of the hooves, and their breathing, you can't buy that," says O'Reilly reverently.

Paul works for U.S. Beverage now. The flagship brand is Murphy's Irish Stout and Murphy's Red Ale, Estrella Damm from Barcelona in Spain, Tiger from Singapore, and other beers from all over the world.

As Paul puts it, "Adults should drink more pints of Murphy's! I think one sees that the way the brewing world has gone is everyone is experimenting now with other beers. Look at the craft brewers - on fire, they are! This brings the consumer out of the domestic and usual imports into a side of beer that they are adopting quickly, drinking more craft brands and import brands like the ones US Beverage have. Beers of great quality and enjoyment! When you look at Murphy's it's a small brewery out of Cork in Ireland. It's a part of the Irish heritage, (1856). Don't get me wrong, Guinness is a great brew, but Murphy's is as well. It's smooth tasting, and Murphy's Red Ale is a little smoother also.

It's nice to see the support from the people back home and here also who drink it, but we need more, though. If you're from Cork or your family has Munster (including Cork) heritage in them ... then it should be your first pint!"

Summing it up, Paul says, "After racing at Arlington there is a lovely pint of stout at McGonigal's in Barrington, only a couple of miles from the track or on the way back to the city drop into Mollie's in Riverside, James Joyce Pub in Berwyn, or Rafferty's in Countryside though it's a bit of a drive.... they've lovely pints, all of them!"

O'Reilly lives downtown, travels to Arlington several days a week, and runs to stay in shape.

Some, but not all of the Irish establishments this shy bachelor frequents are O'Hagan's, Stanley's, Kerryman, Peppercanister, the Celtic Crossings, and Harrigan's.

When he goes home to Ireland he likes to visit tracks like Leopardstown, Naas, Punchestown, Fairyhouse and of course, the Galway Races in the summer.

After four concussions, a fractured skull, fractured leg, cracked ribs, and a punctured lung. Paul puts it in words only someone who hit his head hard so many times could, "If I can still stand, I'm grand!"

"After four concussions, a fractured skull, fractured leg, cracked ribs, and a punctured lung, If I can still stand, I'm grand!"

~Paul O'Reilly

Owner

The Irish connection is huge at Arlington, and Suzanne Barrett has aligned herself to work with, and be a part of that connection.

Her company is Barrett Racing Stable.

Suzanne got into horse racing by asking a question of an Irishman: How do horses get to the racetrack?

"I've always loved horses and I wanted to get back into something other than working 18-20 hours a day," she said. Her Irish friend asked her to call Gary.

"Who is Gary?" she asked.

"I don't know, but call him!" her Irish friend replied.

"Come to the track and I'll show you around," Gary invited when she called.

That was a Monday. Suzanne was there on Thursday.

Gary Duch turned out to be the racing secretary at Hawthorne Racecourse. He showed her everything. How he writes races, how he files foal papers, he introduced her to jockeys, trainers, and owners, and how he gets the racing criteria from the racing board.

Then he said, "You should work here!"

She said, "I can't work here. I have a job!"

By one o'clock that day she had a job walking horses. She walked horses for a trainer on Saturdays and Sundays for the next month, until he showed her a horse and told her she should buy it.

"You're out of your mind!" Suzanne said.

Fifteen minutes later, she owned a horse! That was November 2003, sixteen horses ago.

She has five horses now, though two are retired. One is a pony horse for her exclusive use. Her second retiree is learning to jump fences at 10 years of age. If he does well and likes his job, he will become a show jumper.

Horses can race until the age of ten or so. Most horses at a racetrack are two or three years old. By age three, many are starting to develop problems, and it's just a matter of how serious it is. Most horses don't stop growing until they are five, and they don't reach their peak until they are seven or eight. The hard part is getting them to their first race and then keeping ahead of soreness and injuries like any other athlete.

Suzanne is a woman with a plan. She has raced her horses on tracks around the country, winning at every one of them. She has the dirt to prove it. She has dirt in special containers at her office from Fairgrounds, Tampa, Calder,

Mountaineer, Hawthorne, the original dirt track at Arlington, and the new poly track as well. Empty containers are also on display for Keeneland, and Churchill, for the day she wins at those tracks!

According to Barrett, "The best part of racing is what goes on in the morning while the horses are getting trained. Between 5:30 to 10:30 all of the horses are out every day either walking, jogging, galloping, or breezing. It's very exciting. There is a lot that goes on, getting that animal to the show, that most of the world doesn't know exists. It happens almost like another civilization or another culture. When it's dark out we are working."

Barrett continues, "Depending on the horse, the best time to work out a horse is when it wants to. Some early, some later. Horses are just like people. Some say, 'I'd rather sleep in. I'll take the late shift!'"

Barrett puts in 20 to 30 hours a week at the track.

Some horses that are retired are not treated well, but Suzanne has taken responsibility for hers. She knows exactly where they are, and that they are in good hands.

"I have a program where, once they are done racing, I put them on a farm to let their brain relax and get used to just being a horse and running around and enjoying no schedule. Then they start into a training program where we find out what the horse loves to do whether it be a jumper, hunter, pet, trail horse or even a pony horse here at the track. I will continue to look until I find the right fit for my horses so

"It's all a very funny circle. You're up one day and down the next! It's just a matter of staying in the game!"

~Suzanne Barrett

they can live happily ever after."

Barrett's horses come from very respectable bloodlines, and her winning percentages is 33% so far. Her horse, Curragh Mon, is very Irish. "He was bred in Kentucky, but his family has won the Irish Derby, and a lot of famous Irish horses are in his bloodline. His father is Maria's Mon which is the same father that sired the Kentucky Derby winner this year, Super Saver. Another horse, Iron Vow, is named after his grandfather and father because Iron Courage and Broken Vow are very, very good studs. He was named after my father who was an iron worker in Ireland, and he was all about giving his word. My dad was born on Friday the 13th and felt it was always his lucky day! Dad was from Belmullet, Co. Mayo and was the seventh son of a seventh son. So Iron Vow was my 13th



(l to r): Jim McMullen, Paul O'Reilly, and Suzanne Barrett. Arlington Park and horses are an important part of their lives.

horse, but he was also my seventh horse of my partnership series. He is by far the best horse I have ever had," she exclaimed.

Barrett likes the names of the towns her parents came from in Co. Mayo. Her next horses will be named Belmullet, (Dad), and Swinford, (Mom).

"When I started racing, the Derby was obviously a dream but, if I ever make it to the Breeder's Cup, that would be something. It's like the Super Bowl of racing. There is no age limit for an owner!"

I'm glad I showed up that Thursday. It's the best thing that ever happened to me!"

Her other company, Barrett Office Suites & Services is an incubator-style office space for people who are starting up, or are in transition from their physical offices. She provides all of the back office operations for those who need support services such as receptionists, phones, internet, anything revolving around operations, so they can focus on their business and she actually runs the office for them.

Trainer

In the horse business, Jim McMullen comes from thoroughbred stock himself. His uncle, P. G. Johnson, was inducted into the National Museum of Racing Hall of Fame in 1997. Jim spent his summers with him as a young boy. He would walk and groom the horses. He galloped horses until he was too big, and then he was put on a pony. From the time he was 10 until he finished college, Jim learned his craft with his uncle, working full-time for him for seven years after that. Jim left the horse business and became a broker in Manhattan. Three years of that was enough, and he went back to his horses, working for Elliot Walden, and then went on his own over 13 years ago.

Jim's uncle, P.G. Johnson, died in 2004, having won eight training titles on the New York Racing Association circuit, the toughest in the nation. He garnered four titles at Belmont, three at Aqueduct, and one at Saratoga.

One of P.G.'s many career highlights includes an incomprehensible winning streak. During 1978-79, Johnson entered and won 12 consecutive stakes races. His list of victories, in races of the absolute highest class, defined

his career, which ran for 60 years from 1944 until his death in 2004. In 2003, Johnson stood at 23rd on the list of lifetime earnings among trainers, with \$47,162,500.

Jim represents eight owners, with partnerships within those eight. He averages about 15 horses in training a year. The meet at Arlington runs from May thru September, then he moves to Hawthorne for about 60 days. Next, it's on to Tampa for 5 months. His time is split between Tampa, and Chicago.

Mullen's day starts at 4:00 am. He takes the dog out, and is at the barn before 5:00, and busy until noon. If he has a horse running that afternoon, he goes home for lunch, showers, and heads back to the track for the rest of the day. If no horse is running, he comes back at 3:00 or 4:00pm. The horses have dinner at 5:00, and then horses and trainers have down time.

His training method is a constant tweak. He is always trying to make things, better, smoother, and looks for the latest technology to make it best for the horses. He studies the competition, on tape, and on the racing form. He gives very little advice to the jockeys. Rather than tell the jockey how to ride, he tells the jockey the horse's habits. "The riders are professionals. If we are trying to change a horse's style, the jockeys and I might discuss it, otherwise, I let them do what they do best," said Jim.

McMullen has a couple of horses, Daisies and Nights, and Yankee Injunuity. He's won the Sprint Turf Race. His horse, Yankee Injunuity, qualified for the Breeder's Cup but he wasn't 110% so he didn't run the horse. Good trainers aren't greedy. Horse first, racing second.

His favorite times are in the barn in the middle of the afternoon when there is no one there but him, the horses, and the cat!

Jim bets on his horses - but not a lot! "It's a vote of confidence if I go and put a couple of dollars on our horses. I have confidence that when I enter them in a race they can win," he exclaimed.

A trainer is like a coach. "We try to organize everything, and get the best for the horse. We are always trying to find the best jockey to ride our horses," he said.

McMullen's parents, cousins, aunts, and uncles live on the Southside of Chicago and are active in the Irish community. McMullen went to Hinsdale South High School. His grandparents on mom's side came to America, and his great-grandparents on his dad's side.

Jim McMullen is Suzanne Barrett's trainer. He's having a very good meet in 2010.

When it comes to the racing game, Suzanne puts it best. "It's all a very funny circle. You're up one day and down the next! It's just a matter of staying in the game!"



THE HERITAGE LINE

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

Tee Time For Golf Open

The 21st Annual Irish American Heritage Center Golf Open is Saturday, September 18, 2010. The outing is at St. Andrews Golf Club in West Chicago at 1pm. The event is a fundraiser for the IAHC.

The price is \$100 per person and includes greens fees, a cart, dinner, cocktails, entertainment and prizes.

For tickets, contact Alan Duggan at 312-401-2603, Maureen O'Looney at 773-286-6866 or the IAHC at 773-282-7035, ext 10.

We are also offering sponsorship opportunities. Among them are:



- a) Hole sponsorship: \$100
- b) Gift basket sponsorship: \$150
- c) Golf ball sponsorship: \$400
- d) Dinner sponsorship: \$800

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

Please consider these sponsorship opportunities. All donations are tax deductible, as the IAHC

is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization. For sponsorship opportunities, contact Alan Duggan at 312-401-2603.

Second Annual iBAM! Celebration

Two-Day Showcase of Irish Books, Arts and Music

The Bogside Artists and author Frank Delaney are just some of the many names appearing at the second annual iBAM! celebration this fall at the IAHC. This celebration is a fundraiser for the Irish American Heritage Center and its Library.

iBAM! is Saturday, November 6 and Sunday, November 7 and runs each day from 11am until 5pm. The cost to attend iBAM! is \$10 for one day and \$15 for both days. IAHC Members and children 12 and under are free.

Sponsored by Irish American News, the IAHC and theirishbookclub.com, iBAM! features book signings, panel discussions, art exhibits, lectures, theatre performances, live music and Irish dance, by more than 100 Irish and Irish-themed authors, artists and musicians.

Utilizing every floor of the IAHC, both days feature a dazzling array of cultural talent for children and adults alike.

Each day, the festivities kick off at 11am with a full Irish Breakfast, with live entertainment. The

cost is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children and reservations are required. Food and drink will be served all day

and a relaxing place to enjoy a cup of tea or a refreshing pint while reading your new purchases will be available.

On Saturday night, celebrate the contributions of the Irish in the arts with the iBAM! Cocktail Party and Awards Dinner, a black-tie optional dinner in the IAHC's beautiful Grand Ballroom. Dinner includes live music and the annual iBAM! Cultural Arts award ceremony, where five individuals will be honored for their outstanding contributions to Irish American culture. The dinner is from 7:30pm-11pm and tickets are \$100 or \$30 for just the cocktail party. Reservations are required.

Confirmed iBAM! artists and performers are: author Frank Delaney, The Bogside Artists, who will paint a mural at the celebration, author Patricia Falvey, Sandra McCone, Joan Naper, John O'Brien, Mike Houlihan, Vicki Quade, Harolyn Enis, Mary McDonagh Murphy, musicians Mickey Coleman, Baal Tinne, The Irish Music School of Chicago, The Academy of Irish Music, Harper Aislinn Gagliardi and The Kreellers.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 773-282-7035, visit www.irish-american.org or www.ibamchicago.com.



ARTHUR GUINNESS DAY MUSIC FESTIVAL



LOVELY DAY FOR A GUINNESS!

World Class Beer, World Class Venue, World Class Line-up
featuring

Gaelic Storm, Seven Nations

The Dooley Brothers with Jimmy Moore,
Kevin Flynn and the Avondale Ramblers,
The Irish Music School of Chicago and
The City of Chicago Pipe Band



SEPTEMBER 25th, 2010

4 p.m.-12:30 a.m.

Tickets \$20, \$15 in Advance

Irish American Heritage Center

www.irish-american.org

773-282-7035



THE HERITAGE LINE

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

Chicago, Illinois



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President's Message

A Numbers Game

804! Eight hundred and four. That's a big, exciting number. It may seem random to you but, as we go to print, that number, **804**, represents the number of new memberships we have sold to our Center so far in 2010. Think of it, **804** individuals or families have decided to become members of the Irish American Heritage Center in the past 8 months. **804!** During one of the worst recessions our country has faced in decades, **804** households have decided that a good way to spend some money is to support the Center. Certainly that number, **804**, overwhelmingly validates the mission of our organization and the efforts undertaken this year to move our organization forward.

804 new memberships represent a 63% growth in our membership. We started the year with 1,273 households in our membership ranks and have added **804** new memberships to bring the current total to 2,077. Those **804** new members are a tribute to our hard-working Membership Committee; Mary Johnson Gorski, Pat Lester, Una Depner, Chuck Grant and Leslie Singel. We re-constituted this Committee at the end of 2009 and discussed different issues regarding membership, but the glaring issue was needing more members to succeed if we wanted an organization not only in **2010**, but in the years to come. As a team, they set the bar high and



decided we needed to recruit **2010** members in **2010**. Now with just a little more than half a year in the books, we have **804** new members. An incredible achievement in its own right, but one that will quickly be surpassed as the Committee works to reach their goal of **2010**.

As we celebrate our 25/35 Anniversary year (1985-2010:

25 years in our building, 1976-2011: 35 years as an organization), it's remarkable to think that we have attracted **804** new members to our Center. **804** new members solidify the notion that the vision of our founders is still viable to people today. **804** new members validate all the efforts of our volunteers and staff have put in for over 30 years. **804** new members validate the decisions by our current Board of Directors to build and prepare for the future. While **804** new members provide a lot of validation, it still is only 40% of the way to **2010**.

2010 new members will provide us with a foundation to build on for the future. **2010** new members will provide us with audiences hungry for our mission and our programs and events. **2010** new members will help to provide financial stability to the organization. **2010** new members will

position us as not only one of the premier organizations in Chicago, but in the country. **2010** new members will be the greatest tribute we can provide to those founding members whose efforts we celebrate in this 25/35 Anniversary year.

2010 in 2010 is an ambitious goal. To reach that goal, we need the help of all our members and supporters. Everyone knows someone, maybe even yourself, who supports the Center but is not a current member. Ask them to join. Direct them to our website or clip the membership form included in this paper. If every one of our current members recruited one new member we would shatter our goal of **2010** new members! And remember, you can win a trip to Ireland! Details are included on the last page of this newsletter. How much more incentive do you need?

804 new members is really great, but **2010** would be amazing.

Robert McNamara, President

Board of Directors, Irish American Heritage Center

On a side note: My beautiful wife, Jeannie, and I are doing all we can to keep the membership rosters full for years to come! On July 7, just in time for Irish Fest, we welcomed our newest little member, Finbarr Moylan McNamara, to the clan. Along with his brother T.J. and sister Lila, little Barry can't wait to do his part for our Center!

Chicago Irish Immigrant Support Meetings at IAHC

Chicago Irish Immigrant Support will once again hold meetings at the IAHC. The senior drop-in group will meet at the Center, beginning September 9.

The season is packed with exciting programs that feature guest speakers discussing a variety of interesting and educational topics. The group's outreach program also offers case management and friendly visiting services to those experiencing immigration or social difficulties.

For more information or transportation assistance to the meetings, contact the CIIS at 312-534-8445.

The fall meeting schedule is below.

Thursday, September 9 - Opening celebrations



with by Fr. Michael Leonard

Thursday, September 23 - Chicago's Department of Transportation discusses pedestrian safety

Thursday, October 7 - An examination of the 'Five Wishes' form which helps to organize and communicate an individual's end-of-life wishes

Thursday, October 14 - Day trip-TBA

Thursday, October 28 - chair yoga and relaxation and instruction

Thursday, November 11 - A discussion with the Senior Medicare Patrol to discuss Medicare fraud

Thursday, 2nd December - A visual presentation of the collection at the Art Institute of Chicago

Thursday, December 16 - Christmas Party

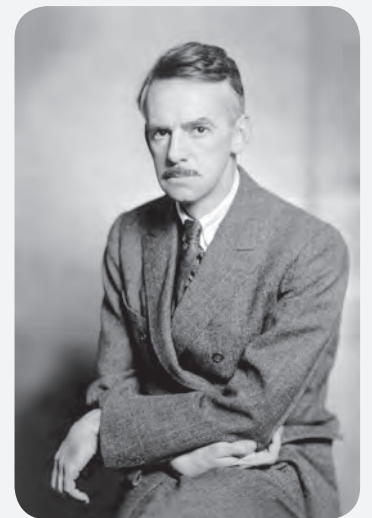
Eugene O'Neill's Women Come to Life

Beth Wynstra, a scholar and professor at Babson College in Boston will present a lecture and overview on the women in playwright Eugene O'Neill's life at the Center this fall.

Eugene O'Neill and the Women in His Life includes a lecture and reading of *Always Gene*, a one-act play, written by Wynstra. Eugene O'Neill (1888-1953) was one of the most acclaimed playwrights of the 20th century.

Always Gene depicts a meeting among five women pivotal in Eugene O'Neill's life. Featured readers are Vera Kelly, Cathy McDonagh, Aileen O'Grady, Brigid Duffy Gerace, and Leslie Singel, who are all Chicago actors or Irish studies scholars.

Eugene O'Neill and the Women in His Life is presented by Celtic Women International's Chicago chapter and the IAHC and is Sunday, September 26, at 2pm. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door.



Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

For updates on upcoming events and ticket giveaways, follow the IAHC on Facebook and Twitter.





THE HERITAGE LINE

Irish American Heritage Center

Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

Executive Director's Message

North American Champs

Congratulations to our very own City of Chicago Pipe Band, who did something in July that very few US bands have ever done: won the Grade 2 North American Bagpip-ing Championships in Canada.

This makes the band, who practices and runs a piping and drumming academy, eligible to move to the elite and elusive Grade 1 status. Out of the 415 competition pipe bands in the US, there are only three at this level. Excellence right in our own background.

Congratulations to Pipe Major Pat Lynch, Pipe Sergeant Tristan Wilson, Drum Sergeant Chris Barr and the entire band for doing Chicago proud.

Race for the Ages

On September 19, have some fun cheering on leaders from across the Irish community as we run a 3k race on

the Northwest side to benefit the Chicago Police Chaplain's Unit. Runners include John Griffin, Bob McNamara, Tim Reilly, Cliff Carlson, Skinny Sheahan, Mike Houlihan, Edward Galvin, Joe McKittrick, and myself. Best bets are on Galvin, but as Confucius say, the old horse will know the way.



Arthur Guinness Stopping By for a Pint

On September 25, we'll partner with Guinness to host the Arthur Guinness Day Music Festival at the Center. With Gaelic Storm, Seven Nations, The Dooley Brothers and Jimmy Moore, Kevin Flynn and the Avondale

Ramblers, The Irish Music School of Chicago and the City of Chicago Pipe Band all on the ticket, the program puts the perfect capstone on the 2010 festival season in our great city. Rumor has it that Arthur Guinness himself may even drop by for a pint. Bring friends for a few laughs and all-star entertainment.

A supporter of the heritage, Guinness is sponsoring this event in hopes that they can help us make the Center into a consistent concert venue, where the best of Irish music across all genres is on display throughout the year. In the spirit of their support, proceeds from this event will help finance the Center's concert series between October and March. For the schedule, visit www.irish-american.org.

Onwards,
Tim McDonnell, Executive Director
Irish American Heritage Center

Announcing the Irish American Heritage Center's Storytelling Project

Everyone has an Irish ancestor's story. What's yours?

Real-Life Six Degrees of Separation Stories Connect Everyone at IAHC Community

By Mary Beth Sammons

Everyone has a story. This one is one of boyhood buddies from Ballina, Ireland. They were separated in second grade, when one, then the other's family boarded a boat and headed to the promise of a new life in America.

Fast-forward 71 years. Thanks to a series of serendipitous events—Thomas J. Crowley and his buddy, "T.J."—were reconnected through a casual conversation that took place between their nieces at the Irish American Heritage Center's 25th Annual Irish Fest in July. The providential events: The grown-up nieces are members of an Irish book club at Paddy's On the Square in Long Grove. At the Fest, they recognized each other and started an "Oh what are you doing here," conversation, sharing their connections to the Center.

Each living 30 miles away from the IAHC, one niece was there because her parents were regulars at IAHC's St. Patrick's Day celebrations; the other because her uncle invited her to the Fest. Turns out both families hailed from County Mayo, and the coincidences began to build. T.J., who happened to be in attendance that Sunday, was ushered over to see if he had ever heard of Thomas. "You bet," he verified. But he'd lost touch since childhood, only heard bits and pieces about his buddy Thomas who he had heard became a police officer somewhere in the Chicago area. More questions, it was confirmed: Thomas and T.J. were "the Thomas and T.J.," the guys who hung out more than 70 years before.

One month later, with plans to connect the two County Mayo "boys" in place, Irish bag pipers, a team of Oak Park police officers and a legacy of neighbors, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, friends from the Claddagh Club he helped found, and new and old friends led Thomas Crowley's funeral procession through the streets of the town where he once served as police sergeant. His passing and his life were celebrated the Irish way, and his niece smiled from her post on the altar (doing the first reading at the Mass) remembering the day after the Irish Fest when she

raced over to her Uncle Tommy's to tell him about his long-lost friend. She will never forget the smile that spread across his face. He spent his final days in his "chair" sorting through boxes of photos from his early life in Ireland, naming people and places to his daughter who scrawled them on Post-it notes. "I want you to know who your family was," he told her.

Thomas Crowley is my uncle. He was a simple man, but a guy who loved to tell stories, especially stories about family relatives and Ireland. He loved his Irishness. He was buried with his Claddagh Club cap; wearing his favorite Irish wool turtleneck and Kelly Green sport coat and with an Irish rosary clasped in his hands. Of course "Danny Boy," and "May The Road Rise to Meet You," were the mainstays at his goodbye celebration.

It's been said that everyone on this planet is separated by only six other people; six degrees of separation. It's a profound thought and one I know is true because of the events that hallmarked my Uncle Tommy's last month of life. He was thrilled to know a guy he knew as a child still remembered him and their friendship.

Everyone has a story, and at the Irish American Heritage Center, this is evident every day in the six degrees of separation experiences that come to life for 35 years since a small group of Irish-Americans had a dream to create a centrifugal place to celebrate and share a legacy for their common Irish heritage.

For many of us, these are stories we can hardly imagine, but stories we yearn to embrace. They are stories that are fast slipping away, or perhaps already have with the passing of these first, second and third generation immigrants. But all of us long to keep them alive, because we know that if we understand where we came from, we can better understand where we are going.

In honor of the IAHC's 35th anniversary, we are launching "The IAHC Storytelling Project." We hope it will become a moving exploration of life behind the scenes at the IAHC and the rich collection of people here that are connecting, uncovering

family stories and coming here to share the passion and pathos of everyday life as Irish Americans.

We invite IAHC members into this project to share their stories and journeys. We hope all of you will be inspired to look back to their own family trees, open the branches and hear the voices of the past that can inspire you and all of us in our journeys today.

"Much of our power comes from our past. We need the spirit of our past more than we need the facts; we need the pride more than we need the proof. And the more mobile we become, the farther we travel from our point of origin, the more we seem to want to return. That is, if the Irish example can be judged, to have come from Ireland, no matter how long ago, is to be of Ireland, in some part, forever. To grasp where our relatives come from and who they were, may guide us to who we might become."—**Author** Frank Delaney, who will appear at iBAM.

Tell Us Your Story!

Become a Part of the Storytelling Project

In honor of the Center's anniversary, we are launching a project to capture the most memorable moments and the stories of the families and individuals who have brought their culture, friendship and passion here to help shape this unique community of Irish-Americans in Chicago. We honor their commitment, dedication and verve and the connection they inspire and bring to all of us who celebrate deep Irish roots, or share a love for all things Irish.

In an effort to celebrate their stories and the people who have found their way here, we are launching a storytelling project during the coming year to share and pay homage to the Irish heritage we carry with us. Please help us jump-start our efforts by filling out the questionnaire on the website.



THE HERITAGE LINE

Irish American heritage center Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

August 2010

September 1	TIR NA NOG Seniors meeting	Fifth Province	11am
September 4	Shamrock American Club Social	Sham Amer Rm	8pm
September 11	St. Patrick's Fathers Social	Social Center	8pm
September 12	Great Irish Books Club	Library	1pm
	Francis O'Neill Ceili Dance	Fifth Province	8pm
September 18	IAHC Golf Open	St. Andrews Golf Club	1pm
	Roscommon Club Dance	Room 111	8pm
September 21	Celtic Women Meeting	Room 304	7pm
September 23	Irish Immigrant Support Meetings	Erin Room	10am
September 25	Arthur Guinness Day Music Festival	Fifth Province and South Lot	4pm
September 26	Genealogy Meeting	Library	1pm
	Eugene O'Neill and the Women in His Life	Room 111	2pm

Regularly Scheduled Events

September 3-September 25	Seanachai Theater's <i>The Weir</i>	Thurs. thru Sat. Sundays	7:30pm 3pm
Tues.	Quilting and Needlework	Room 208	9:30am
	Traditional Irish Art Class	Room 308	7pm
Wed.	Memoir Writing Class	Room TBA	7-9pm
	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

Celtic Celebration at the Races

Celebrate Celtic musical traditions alongside the rich heritage of thoroughbred racing at Arlington Park. The day includes food, music, dancing, racing and more.

Entertainment includes Paddy Homan, Dennis Cahill and Jimmy Keane, Trinity Irish Dancers and a visit from The Chicago Fire Soccer Team and mascot, Sparky. Tickets are \$8 for each ticket, with \$5

for every ticket ordered through the IAHC benefitting the Center and its programs.

To attend and receive the Support IAHC Ticket deal, call the IAHC at 773-282-7035 and purchase tickets, which will be placed at will call or purchase at the IAHC Office and receive your tickets.

The Celtic Celebration is Sunday, September 12 from 11:15am to 5:30pm. For more information, call 773-282-7035.



IRISH AMERICAN HALL OF FAME

Recognizing the Contributions of Outstanding Irish Americans

The Center proudly announces the launch of its newest initiative: The Irish American Hall of Fame (IAHOF). The IAHOF's goal is to preserve and promote the stories of the Irish in America and the ongoing links between Ireland and the United States by honoring the achievements of outstanding Irish Americans who have contributed to society in one or more of the areas of arts and humanities, business and industry, education, public service, religion, science and sports. The IAHOF also recognizes individuals who have positively shaped the Irish American identity in the United States.

"It is with a sense of admiration and gratitude that we launch this initiative to tell the story and celebrate the great contributions of the Irish in America," said Tim McDonnell, Executive Director. "We consider it a privilege to be the proprietors of a worthy tribute to the work and successes of Irish Americans for everyone to enjoy, and we look forward to working with proud and passionate Irish Americans from all over the country over the coming months and years to build a fitting group

of honorees."

While the Hall of Fame is an organization born of and operated under the auspices of the IAHC, it will be overseen by a separate governing committee and have a national focus. While anyone may nominate a candidate, a screening committee will determine the slate of candidates, and submit the nominees to a voting body of distinguished individuals representing academia, government, business and Irish-affiliated organizations from across the United States. Inductees will be honored at a gala hosted at our Center in May, 2011.

Anyone may nominate a candidate and can visit the IAHOF's website, www.iahof.org, for more information. Nominations for the first class of inductees will be accepted through November 15, 2010. Eligible nominees have at least one parent with Irish heritage, are citizens or long-time residents of the U.S., well-recognized as Irish American and distinguished in one of the award categories. Paper nomination forms also are available from the main office at the Center.



the fifth province

UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT

All shows start after 9 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 2010

Fri, 9/3	Ceili Mor
Sat, 9/4	Joe Cullen
Fri, 9/10	Seamus O'Kane and Jimmy Moore
Sat, 9/11	Mulligan Stew
Fri, 9/17	Gerry Haughey
Sat, 9/18	Chancey Brothers
Fri, 9/24	Sullivan Brothers
Sat, 9/25	Arthur Guinness Day Music Festival

\$10-\$15



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 Staff

Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

Contributors:

Alan Duggan	Thersa Choske	Monica Dougherty
Mary Griffin	Pam Marshall	Tim McDonnell
Bob McNamara	Stacy McReynolds	Mary Morris
Sheila Murphy	Mary Beth Sammons	Leslie Singel



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WIN A TRIP TO IRELAND!

Current Odds are 1 in 804!

2010 IAHC Membership Drive Member – Get A Member Contest

The drive to 2010 New Members in 2010 continues! 804 new members have joined The Irish American Heritage Center this year! Incredible! Our Center continues to grow its membership during a difficult economic time when most other non-profits are struggling. It's a true testament to the power of our mission and our programs and the work of our staff and volunteers.

More importantly, remember that for every new member you refer you get entered into a chance to win a trip to Ireland. Right now you're odds are an incredible 1 in 804! That's the best bargain around.

In an effort to strengthen our organization, we are looking to expand our membership and bring our mission to as many people as possible. 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 member 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 has become a

lapsed member.

If you are not a member, join today and you can start recruiting and enter 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.

Contest Rules:

1. All current IAHC members are eligible to recruit new members for this contest.

2. Multiple referrals are allowed. For each person you recruit, you get an additional chance to win! The more new members you find, the better your chances are of winning. Our goal this year is 2010 new members!

3. The person who recruits the most new members wins a party at the Center for 25 friends.

4. For the purpose of the contest, the new member must not have previously been an IAHC Member within the past year.

5. Members whose membership expired at the end of 2009, may renew their membership and then be eligible to refer new members for the contest.

6. Referral entries must be a new member and not an addition to an existing IAHC family membership.

7. New members that are recruited for this contest may in turn also recruit new members and be entered into the contest.

How to enter:

• Once you have identified a new member for the IAHC, have your member fill out an 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 dues to the Center for processing.

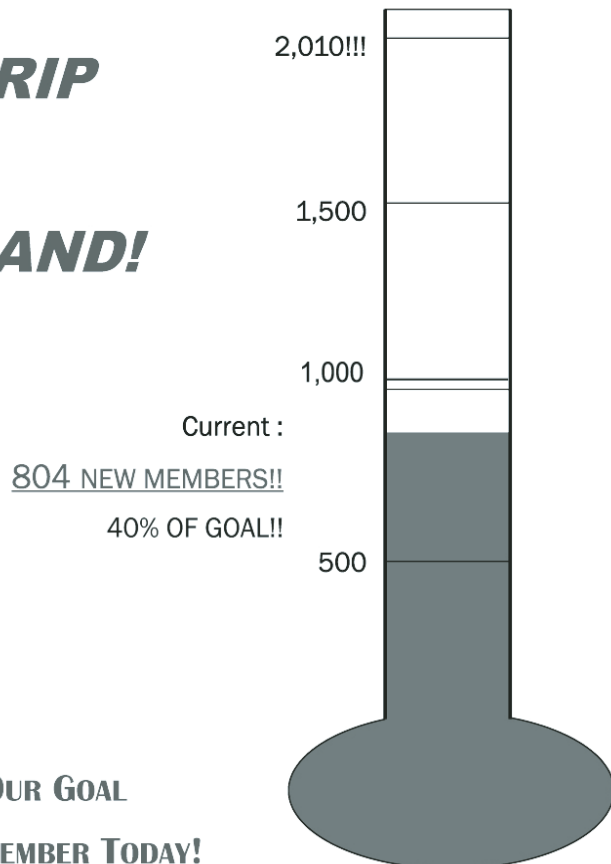
• **Membership Forms** are available below or on-line at www.irish-american.org.

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 Members' Event in January 2011.

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 recruited 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**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Credit Card # _____ Exp _____

3 Digit code on card's back: _____

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

Family Membership

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

\$250 - Harper

3-year membership
 no annual dues

\$500 - Bard

5-year membership
 no annual dues

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

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

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



Edward Norton to Open Chicago Film Fest



Edward Norton

will walk the red carpet and welcome the film for its Chicago premiere at the Harris Theater in Millennium Park (205 E. Randolph St – Chicago) on Thursday, October 7, 2010 at 7pm. Other surprise guests to be announced at a later date.

Stone delivers powerful performances by Academy Award® winner Robert De Niro as a seasoned corrections official and Norton as



Director John Curran.

a scheming inmate whose lives become dangerously intertwined. Founder and Artistic Director Michael Kutza says "De Niro pulls in his best performance in a decade. Norton and Conroy's performances are fantastic and Milla Jovovich offers a captivating breakthrough performance - the entire ensemble is at the top of their game." Head of Programming Mimi Plauché adds, "It is great to welcome back Norton

who filmed his first feature *Primal Fear* in Chicago."

Tickets for the Opening Night of the 46th Chicago International Film Festival are on sale now. For ticket information, please visit www.chicagofilmfestival.com or call 312-683-0121. Tickets range from \$35 for film-only tickets to \$150, which includes the screening at the Harris Theater followed by a reception at the Wit Hotel (201 N. State St. Chicago).

The 46th Chicago International Film Festival will officially open with highly anticipated drama *Stone*. Oscar® nominee Edward Norton and director John Curran (*The Painted Veil*, *We Don't Live Here Anymore*)

Books in Review

Continued from page 5

still viewed with pleasure, joy, and awe today. He fully put that talent and vision into *The Quiet Man*. Ford was an omnivorous reader, but he especially loved, and constantly read, Irish history.

The movie ends with an unusual scene: the village's Catholics are instructed to cheer for the local Church of Ireland rector and his visiting bishop.

The rector was a kind and tolerant person. The local priest liked him and realized he had probably helped people in the Catholic congregation.

The Church of Ireland congregation was so small that the rector feared his bishop would transfer him. The priest helps him by ordering the local Catholics to pretend they are Protestants and to cheer the rector and his bishop as they drive around the town. They do, the bishop is deeply impressed, and the kindly rector stays in the village.

The movie is set in the 1920's and was filmed in 1951. Relations between Catholics and Protestants were only correct but distant, not cordial and respectful. So why did Ford use that scene?

An obscure event like that actually happened in 1837. Where had Ford read about it?

It is a mark of his vision of the future that he used this scene of the relation of the priest and the rector, to show us that people of different religious backgrounds could live harmoniously and in peace. He could foresee the ecumenical and relaxed relations, in future years, between people of different religious beliefs.

I could go on and on, *A Quiet Man Miscellany* is filled with provocative ideas about Ireland and our Irish cultural heritage.

A Quiet Man Miscellany by Des MacHale. Atrium-Attic Press/Dufour Editions, Chester Springs, PA, 2010. 216 pages, \$37.95. info@dufour-editions.com.

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Member FDIC



iBAM! Chicago 2010
Book, Art, Music Celebration
November 6-7
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Papal Deflection

Vatican Declines Irish Bishops Resignations. I was in Howth on August 12th when I saw the story in The Irish Times by Paddy McGarry, and Paddy Agnew, "Senior Vatican figures are said to be concerned about the possibility of a 'Domino Effect' if it were to emerge that other Irish Bishops had mishandled allegations of clerical, child sex abuse cases. This is understood to have played a part in Pope Benedict's decision.

The pope has told us by his actions this is far bigger than previously thought, and he wants his puppets to remain in place. Cardinal Ratzinger has been the prefect of the Congregation of Faith since 1982. Anything touching on "faith and morals" is within the competency of this dicastery (congregation)!

Cardinal Ratzinger, aka Pope Benedict XVI has lost touch with reality. The Irish are leaving the church physically, but not spiritually. Nobody should give up their faith over the actions of some disturbed individuals.

In a recent column I wrote about Sister Margaret McBride in Phoenix, Arizona. Her story was retold in the Holy Cross Parish Bulletin, August issue in Beaver Island, Michigan. I think it is worth reprinting the bulletin here.

Holy Cross Parish Bulletin

At every High School Graduation Mass I remind the graduates that no matter where they go or end up, this, Beaver Island, is home. This is where they belong and wherever they go they take the Island and Holy Cross with them.

On this Homecoming, as we continue to celebrate our 150th Anniversary as a Catholic Parish on Beaver Island, we welcome back all who have left and those who have returned for Homecoming and for visitors and friends both near and far. We welcome each other as we give thanks for this wonderful place we are proud to call home - Holy Cross and Beaver island.

A funny thing happened on the way to August, the month of Homecoming and dog days of summer. Actually, it isn't funny at all and we should scratch the word funny and supply: anger, unbelievable, shocking, and unreal, just to mention a few. What happened is that the



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with these new revisions but what has caused the anger, shock and disbelief is that the document equates pedophilia with the ordination of women as priests. I assure you, no woman had any part in this absurd equation.

Hello! Where I come from rape and or molestation of a child is a crime, a felony. If convicted, the guilty party could and should spend years in prison. It has always been a crime and always should be. As I have stated before, as Catholics we oppose abortion because it takes the life of an innocent child. Shouldn't we also oppose child rape and molestation for the same reasons? The lives of innocents are taken and they have to live with this horror all their lives.

The ordination of women as priests is not allowed Irish Catholic Church, so stated Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington. He restated the long and constant teaching of the Catholic Church "that ordination from the very beginning has been reserved to men, a fact that cannot be changed despite a changing times." I do recall a report on a comprehensive study by Jesuits at Berkeley that concluded there were no theological reasons to limit ordinations to males only. Wuerl went on to patronize women by stating that "Women offer unique insight, creative abilities and unstinting generosity at the very heart of the Catholic Church." If he really believes this, then all the more reason to ordain women. These elements are what are sorely needed in the priesthood today.

So tell me, on what basis does the Vatican equate child rape with the ordination of women to the priesthood? I find this to be absolutely absurd. One is a felony, a major crime and the other goes contrary to existing church law but hardly is a felony, or a violation of civil law, for that matter. The document includes the ordination of women with other major offenses such as pedophilia, heresy, apostasy and schism.

The concern apparently was to make sure celibacy was in no way linked to the pedophilia crises. The Vatican document also intended to make the point that the ordination of women would in no way reduce the child molestation by priests. So, to stifle any further discussion, they equate ordination of woman with pedophilia. Now, in my opinion, this is hardly logical, clear, objective thinking!

While the Vatican's new rules and revisions are needed, I think they fall short. They do not hold bishops accountable for abuse by priests on their watch, nor do they require them to report every sexual abuse to civil authorities, nor did it eliminate the statute of limitations for abused children. The new rules do not stop bishops from lobbying legislatures to prevent child-abuse laws from being toughened.

A lawyer friend from New York e-mailed me on this and stated that some in the church continue to live and breathe and dress in an unreal and insulated world and refuse to fol-

low Christ into the world where our salvation is worked out. Unless we hear the cry of the poor, the injured, the woman at the well or the woman caught in adultery, or the public sinner, we cannot be the church of Jesus Christ. Things are frayed and need repair or something could break.

A good example of this fraying is the recent use of excommunication by some bishops. Most of us grew up with an understanding of excommunication as something that happened in the middle ages for heretics, schismatics, priests who break the seal of confession, and bishops who ordain other bishops without Vatican permission. Canon Law also excommunicates anyone involved in obtaining or procuring an abortion.

The recent case in Phoenix where Sr. McBride was excommunicated for making a gut-wrenching decision, allegedly with prayer and good conscience, is a case in point. A former classmate who is now professor of Theological Studies at St. Louis University says, "if she indeed acted in this manner she should not have been excommunicated." He references St. Thomas and Vatican I I on the primacy of following one's conscience.

A case last year in Recife, Brazil points out the cruel and cold use of excommunication without regard to the face of the injured and crushed. I point out that before the current Archbishop in Recife, Helder Dom Camara was the Archbishop. He was the human face of Christ and the voice of the poor and powerless to the government. No way in heaven or hell would he ever have done what the current Archbishop did.

The case involved a 9-year-old girl discovered to be pregnant with twins. This was the result from having been repeatedly raped by her stepfather. In her fourth month, and weighing only 66 pounds, it was doubtful that she or the twins would survive. The girl's mother arranged for an abortion. Archbishop Cardoso Sobrinho of Recife, Brazil, publicly declared that the girl's mother was excommunicated as were all who worked on the abortion. The one person who was not excommunicated was the stepfather rapist.

Unfortunately, it is not a funny thing that happened as we head into August, Homecoming, and the dog days of summer. What some in our church are doing is just unbelievable, embarrassing, and in my opinion, just plain unchristian.

Thank God 'they' are really not the church. We are. It is here at Holy Cross and all the wonderful parishes all over where good and faithful people give thanks for their lives and loved ones, help others in need, for give others and seek forgiveness for our sins, and always celebrate life in all its wonder and splendor.

Let us do the same here at Holy Cross on our 150th year as a Catholic Parish on Beaver Island.

Well, that's the news from Paradise Bay "where their lives the dearest freshness deep down things."

I contacted the author of the newsletter, Reverend Patrick Cawley, and we had an interesting chat. We are in accord as to what needs to change within the church. He was very candid and told me that his Bishop wrote him a blistering two-page letter. Fr. Cawley is 70 years old, a graduate



Daly Investor

By John P. Daly



Have you heard the "D" word?

Lately it seems as though economic outlooks and predictions can change faster than the weather. At the start of this year a major concern of the future economy was inflation. Now it seems the conversation has shifted towards the concern of deflation. I have had many conversations recently with concerned investors about the possibility of deflation and how it will affect them. I wanted to address this concern in this month's article since it seems to be a timely and worrisome topic.

Let's first start off by addressing the basics: What is deflation? Deflation is the decline in prices of goods and services. As a consumer, deflation might sound like a good thing. Like when food or gas prices go down. However, deflation can have a negative effect on the economy and consumers-think of the recent decline in housing prices.

Why is deflation such a concern? Well extended deflation lowers corporate profits, which in turn can lead to wage cuts or layoffs. Not a good thing, especially in this environment. Also,

contrary to the belief that people will buy more if prices are cheaper, consumers actually spend less and end up holding on to their money for perceived cheaper prices in the future (example: Housing market). This can drastically slow an economy's growth.

Another problem with deflation is that it is more difficult to curb than inflation. With inflation, the Fed can raise interest rates as much as needed. With deflation, interest rate can only go to zero, which we are already at. If deflation does become a reality, the Fed will need to use other measures to increase the money supply.

So as an investor, how does deflation affect your investments? Well historically, stocks have not performed well during times of deflation. This is due to the decrease in company profits, decreased economic growth, and lack of consumer spending. However, that does not mean you should shy away from stocks completely. Companies that have large amount of cash and low debt can still do well. Especially, if

they produce products and services that people must use on a daily basis regardless of good times or bad.

Hard assets such as such as real estate and commodities such as gold have also experienced falling prices during deflationary times. But just like stocks, it is unwise to abandon these investments all together.

Long term bonds have historically been a positive area during times of deflation. This is caused by people running to the safety of bonds, especially treasury bonds. Bond yields tend to decrease which causes the prices to increase which in turn add to your total return. Even with low yields, bonds make sense during deflation. If you have a bond paying 2.5% interest and you are in a -2% deflationary environment- your real return is 4.5%.

Overweighting your cash and short term fixed income position also could benefit you during times of deflation. This can give you the flexibility to make purchases when prices decrease. Also, it allows you to reinvest or change your investments into other areas should the economic environment change; from deflation to inflation for example. Again, this should not be an all or nothing move. If your typical short term fixed income weighting is 10%, a move to 20% might make sense.

As of right now, the consensus of deflation seems to be a possibility and not a probability. Unfortunately no one has a crystal ball that will tell us what the future entails. As always you have to look closely at your own personal financial situation and make appropriate investment decisions to help you minimize risks and take advantage of opportunities. And remember, diversification is key.

of the University of Notre Dame, class of 62. He would like to continue his work at Holy Cross Parish if Bishop Hebda allows him to.

If you are afraid of the truth don't read this column, the Irish Times, or the Holy Cross Parish Bulletin.

Kilkenny Wedding

On August 4th my first cousin's daughter, Aoife, Marnell, was married in St. Cannices Church, Dean St., Kilkenny. Irish eyes were smiling as Timmy Marnell, father of the bride, walked his daughter down the aisle. Aoife's mother, Bernadette, who never stopped smiling, planned the wedding as the bride and groom traveled all the way from Brisbane, Australia for their big day. Family and friends from New Zealand and Australia were in attendance. Fr. Martin Delaney, and Fr.

Richard Scrivew were the celebrants. When Mass was over and vows had been exchanged the recessionary hymn was "Waltzing Matilda!" Then it was on to the reception at Langton's Hotel. I gave up the ghost at midnight, but the party went on until 7am. Their was a second party at the bride's home in Bally Bur, Cuffes Grange, County Kilkenny. A festive time.

iBAM!
November 6th and 7th, iBAM! takes center stage at the Irish American Heritage Center. There will be two panel discussions. One will be on the U.S. Civil War with a focus on the Chicago Irish regiments, Camp Douglas, and the Irish in the Confederacy. If you had any ancestors in the Civil War please contact me at editor@irishamericannews.com.

John P. Daly is a Certified Financial Planner™ and President of Daly Investment Management, LLC a fee only Registered Investment Advisor specializing in financial planning and wealth management. Phone: 312-239-1317 Email: john@dalyinvestment.com Readers are encouraged to call or email John with questions regarding Investments or Financial Planning.

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Tradition
In Review
Bill Margeson



This isn't going to be easy. We wanted to do an article on Len Graham's new book, *Joe Holmes—Here I Am Amongst You*. First, let's abandon any pretense of journalistic objectivity here. To the knowledgeable reader, Len Graham is already an icon. There is no more respected performer and scholar of real Irish songs than Len. His career is filled with triumphs, awards, friends and artistic achievements that cover four decades. His contributions to song cannot be overemphasized. The problem is not to decide what to write about Len Graham. The problem is trying to decide what to leave out. When all else fails, stay with the editor's instructions and begin at the beginning.

So, we tied up with Len immediately prior to his appearance at this year's Irish Fest in Milwaukee as teacher and performer. The first question was the easy one. Tell us about *Joe Holmes*, and why a book on him? "Well, I met Joe when I was 19 in Dunminning, Co. Antrim. Joe was living near Ballymoney, which was then home to both of us. He and I performed together for the next 15 years until his death in 1978. I've been planning and working on this book for years. He was a great man, and a great friend. I suppose he had the complete musical personality and outlook. That, and the fact that I never heard him say a bad word about anyone. I think this book will be a valuable tool for anyone interested in the singing tradition of the north, which has a broad and deep musical tradition."

When Len and Joe met, Joe had stopped singing, mostly due to the death of his mother in the 1950's, though he was still an accomplished and active fiddler. Prior to that, the Holmes residence had been a well known ceili house, where singers, dancers, musicians and storytellers met frequently. Once such a fixture on the Irish cultural scene, almost all are gone now. "Well," muses Len, "they are missed. There really aren't any left around us now, save Sarah Anne O'Neill's in Derryresk, Co. Tyrone. She is the famous Geordie Hanna's sister. There used to be a full network of them, like Eddie Butcher's home. He was another great collector and performer of the songs." These names come forward with all their memories

in such a rush from Len that one wishes more attention had been paid in secondary school for shorthand classes. It is small wonder the research took Len years in archives, ranging from Dublin to the Library of Congress in America, among a wealth of other locations.

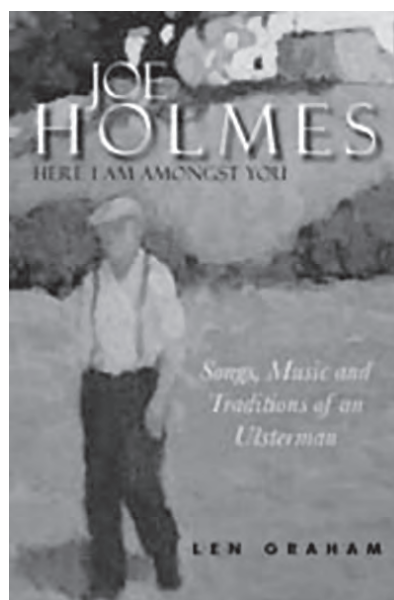
You quickly find that "research" is an important concept to Len Graham. We know Len as the primary, living exponent of traditional Irish song. While that performance is critical in Len's universe, of equal or even greater import is the scholastic research of each song's history. To sit with him for even a brief time, is to hear and feel the excitement for Len as he hunts down songs and lyrics, snippets of papers in archives with one more "new" verse to a song written in, say 1540! "I don't know why that is," he laughs. "I suppose it is something in the DNA. That, really, has been my life's passion. Joe shared that, and he was a storehouse

are such great archives, many in America, like those for Irish song at Harvard and Princeton. Amazing places." There are thousands of songs still undiscovered. "A lot of these were written on scraps of paper, or sold as broadside ballads by itinerant singers at the town markets and fairs. Thousands. Some can be humorous little ditties of a local event of the day, or a gorgeous love ballad or emigration song." Vast numbers of them are still out there waiting. That is the sort of thing that gets Len's dreams flowing. "The Rambling Boys of Pleasure," which Joe learned from his mother, is a classic example. This is a song that is said to have inspired William Butler Yeats to write his poem (it was, indeed, originally a poem), *Down By The Salley Gardens*. Yeats himself described his lines as, "an attempt to reconstruct an old song imperfectly remembered," when he first published his adaptation of the song. In its older form, the song dates to the 18th century. You get the idea. Stunning context, precisely drawn by Len Graham, as scholar.

As you talk to him, the personalities of the old days have their hour again upon the stage. The aforementioned, Eddie Butcher, Maggie Barry, Paddy Tunney, Robert Cinnamond, Sarah Makem, Sarah and Rita Keane, Mary Anne Carolan, Frank Harte. All great collectors, singers, friends. Through all this history in the book, we are reminded of a different time. A time when the music was so openly and eagerly shared. Celi houses. Finding a wonderful song at some isolated farm, where the words have lain, waiting, since the 1700's. Great, humorous stories. Moving, and some sad, memories. The real stuff of the real music. The book has them all, especially of the north of Ireland. Is there a young man or woman out there ready to carry on the scholastic side of all this in the future? "I'm not sure," relates Len. "There is such a premium put on performance today. The focus is not the scholarship, really anywhere. That is a shame. I'm not sure where this goes in the future."

For now, Len was on his way to Milwaukee to share his expertise, his passion and his songs with a full class of students. After that? Well, we were discussing those archives at Harvard, Princeton and The Library of Congress, and they are whispering their siren's song to Len as we speak. The future is still the future. But, for now, Irish music has Len Graham, thanks be to God.

The book is available through www.fourcourtspress.ie.



of songs he offered easily to others." This research is all detailed in the back of the book in the appendices. It is hard to imagine any other study as notated and as exhaustive as this. Complete, really.

"My parents reared me tenderly, I being their only son," are the opening lines to one of the 80 notated songs in the book. An anti-war song from the 19th century, it was one of Joe's favorites. Strangely, the song is also known in Newfoundland, "the only other place it turns up," states Len. It is that detail, and far more, that comes flowing naturally from Len in a current of memory and experience. Collectors like Len are constantly on the hunt for an undiscovered song, or the additional lyric. "There

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Consider Undergraduate Study in Ireland

Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister & Minister for Education and Skills, Tánaiste Mary Coughlan T.D., is coming to Chicago this month with many of the country's top universities and colleges to showcase the best of Irish education.

The Irish have always known that education was the key to freedom and its precious value is embedded in the Irish psyche. Today, Ireland has one of the highest education participation rates in the world, along with other significant qualities to attract international students:

Ireland is a Safe Environment: Ireland was voted the tenth safest country in last year's Global Peace Index. That's good news for international students and even better news for their parents who can rest assured that their children will be safe while living in Ireland.

Ireland is Cost Competitive: Average third-level institution tuition fees start at around \$11,000, depending on the course and duration of stay. In addition, the deep worldwide recession in recent years has reduced the cost of living and an over-supply of rental accommodation has driven student rent down. There is also the option of staying with a local family, where students are provided with a home from home environment with an Irish family.

Ireland is Vibrant and Fun: 40% of the Irish population is under 25, meaning the social scene has never been livelier. This young and vibrant social mix has resulted in new clubs, forums and societies who welcome international members. 11% of the student population in Irish universities are international students, shaping Ireland's modern Global society. Visitors are always welcomed with a natural, quirky curiosity and a sense of humour. It's little wonder that Ireland was voted by Lonely Planet as the friendliest country in the world in both 2008 and 2010.

Ireland has excellent Graduate Opportunities:

Despite the economic hard times, large numbers of International companies have made Ireland their European base (Intel, Google, HP, Yahoo, Facebook) and are still significant investors in the country. Ireland is one of the world's leading centres for computer software, hardware and pharmaceutical industries. After a rapid period of growth, fuelled largely by our educated workforce, Ireland is now emerging from the slump in the world economy to reach new heights as Europe's leading Smart Economy. Irish graduates continue to be hailed as some of

the best educated and most employable in the world and are often headhunted for their skills. It's a new dawn for Irish education and the international economy will benefit from another wave of world-class graduates of Ireland.

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After all, it's about the "can do" attitude of the Irish matched with the magic of its education.

High school Students, Parents and Career Guidance counselors are welcome to join us for our Chicago Student Fair, where we will answer all of your questions about studying in Ireland. Representatives from Irish Universities and Colleges will be on hand to discuss course options and demonstrate why it's never been a better time to be a student in Ireland.



Commissioner Terrence J. O'Brien, President of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago recently announced that a resolution was presented congratulating Dennis J. Gannon on his many years of devoted service to the Chicago Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, at a recent MWRD Board meeting. Presenting Dennis J. Gannon, retiring President of the Federation of Labor, are Commissioner Kathleen Therese Meany, Vice President of MWRD and Commissioner Cynthia Santos, Chairman of Public Information and Education Committee.

We Get Letters

Dear Editor,

The subject of manning levels in the Chicago Police Department has been an issue that has received greater attention lately due in part to the recent rash of violence in some communities that has also included the murders of three Chicago Police Officers.

It is unfortunate that when these tragic events happen, it is only then that some law makers begin to listen. The Chicago Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 7 has been addressing this issue in many ways for several years. We have brought it up at contract negotiations the last two cycles only to have the City dismiss discussion outright because of an arbitrary rule in the Illinois Labor Act which fails to mandate that the City discuss this issue with their Law Enforcement employees. The Lodge attempted to discuss the issue due to the grave concerns we have had for the safety of the officers working for the department particularly those assigned to District Law Enforcement. We have been attempting to amend the Public Labor Act in Springfield to force the City to discuss the problems we feel they have with the deployment of their manpower resources. That effort has received the City's top priority status in attempting to keep it from passage. So important is it for them that one City representative has vowed that the City will "fight to the death" to keep the FOP from amending the Act. This type of attitude really flies in the face of what can be done in "meaningful negotiations" with the City of Chicago and their level of concern for "officer safety."

Our objective is nothing more than having the department properly man the beat cars in the 25 districts throughout the City. The department dictates how many personnel are required to properly do so based on crime conditions in a given geographic area. Simply put, they set the numbers and the FOP would like to see them retain those numbers for the safety of the officers and the members in those communities. In most districts throughout the year particularly on the afternoon watch, the police keep busy for their entire tour going from call to call with little or no time to do any real pro-active police work. There is no time for them to address situations that they may see and be able to do something about before a crime is committed. There is no time to confront the gang bangers they may

come across hanging out in your areas due to the backlog of calls for service because of the manpower shortages. We have recently heard from the department that crime is down throughout the City but that is not the case when the crime is committed against Police Officers.

The Police Department Research and Development Division publishes quarterly Officer Battery reports. Those reports show that batteries on the Police are up 20% over the levels of just three years ago. Their figures show that on any given day about 10 Chicago Police Officers are going to be battered while carrying out their duties. The manning issue goes hand in hand with their ability to protect you and themselves and this is why it is important for the City Council to get involved in these discussions to help protect the Citizens and the Police Officers in this Great City.

Mark P. Donahue, President
Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 7

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Belleek promotions executive, Claire Flaherty, will be on hand to personalize purchases made that day—including the speciality shamrock mug- with family names or special messages.

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For The Republic



Chris Fogarty



DID YOU, or did anyone you know, see the taxi run over Daniel Firkins at about 1625 No. Honore Street on Friday, May 14 at about 3pm? If so, please contact Daniel’s parents, David and Maureen at 815/978-7710.

ANTRIM-TO-GAZA. Padraig McShane, Ex-Manager of Erin’s Own Hurling Club, Chicago, now an Independent Councillor in his native County Antrim, is organizing a van-full of medical supplies and will co-drive it 4000 miles from Ireland to the people of Gaza.

Padraig writes: “We formed a

small group, Antrim to Gaza, less than a month ago and started fund-raising to achieve our aims. The response from all sections of the local community is excellent. John Quinn, my “co-pilot” (and bricklayer turned barber) and I are being approached in the street by total strangers who not only want to donate but want to express their horror at what’s being inflicted on Gaza. We were aware of Ireland’s affinity with Palestinians, we just didn’t realize its magnitude. Donations have come from across the religious and political spectrum here. Catholics, Protestants, Hindus, Muslims and Jews have all come together to help alleviate the suffering in Gaza. We’d expected the bad economy to make fund-raising difficult; but many who could ill-afford to donate, dug deep.”

“The van will depart County Antrim mid-September. Along the route some 500 other vans will join. Also up to 20 shiploads will attempt to break the siege on Gaza. The effort is co-ordinated by Viva Palestina.”

Padraig added: “Efficiency is enhanced by our contacts in Gaza who are telling us which supplies are most vital.”

“The convoy is about much more than providing aid. The world is sending a message to Israel and her allies; that the genocidal, illegal siege of Gaza must end. Antrim to Gaza now has a Facebook page and anyone wishing to chat with us or follow our progress can do so by joining it.” Phone Shay McShane (773/835-0675) or make out a cheque (as Mary and I did) to Antrim-to-Gaza and mail it to Padraig McShane, 42 Main St., Ballintoy, Ballycastle, Co. Antrim, No. Ireland BT546LX.

EVEN THE BRITS! Prime Minister Cameron recently stated; “Let me be clear: the Israeli attack on the Gaza flotilla was completely unacceptable. I told Prime Minister Netanyahu we expect the Israeli inquiry to be swift, transparent and rigorous. Let me also be clear that the situation in Gaza has to change. Humanitarian goods and people must flow in both directions. Gaza cannot and must not remain a prison camp.”

WHERE IS OBAMA? Why his silence?

DEMONIZING ISLAM. When Muslims bought a building in lower Manhattan and planned to convert it to a mosque/community center the neighborhood including many Jews

officially OK’d it. Everything copacetic. Then a big-lie TV campaign to block the mosque was mounted by the ADL, Beck, Palin, Gingrich, and other poisoners of our national discourse. They claim it’s “at ground zero,” a “desecration.” Palin tweeted: “Peace-seeking Muslims, pls understand, Ground Zero mosque is UNNECESSARY provocation; it stabs hearts. Pls reject it in interest of healing.”

Palin’s “Ground Zero mosque” is an abominable lie to inflame her racist base.

Here’s the truth: it’s not “at ground zero.” To get from “ground zero” to the mosque one must go north to Vesey Street, southwest along Vesey to Broadway; northeast on Broadway past Barclay Street to Park Place, then southwest on Park Place to No. 45-47. That distance exposes all the lies about its being “at” or “near” Ground Zero. For opponents’ further hypocrisy: AN ACTUAL DESECRATION is underway—by Israel in Jerusalem. It boggles the mind to contemplate it, but an Israeli “Museum of Tolerance” is being built, not at, nor near, a sacred site, but atop centuries-old Mammilla cemetery, Jerusalem’s oldest and largest Muslim cemetery, sacred to Muslims and all who respect human life. The complaints of Muslims with family members buried there are being ignored. The main perpetrators, in addition to the Israeli gov’t, are the Simon Wiesenthal Center and the ADL, abetted by the US news media. Jeremiah Haber writes: “I’m a Jew, but this is disgusting. Fifteen of Jerusalem’s oldest families filed a case at the U.N. in Geneva and held news conferences there, also in Los Angeles and Jerusalem. Rashid Khalidi, Edward Said Professor of Arab Studies at Columbia University has family-members buried there; said: ‘It further desecrates a cemetery they have been nibbling away at for over three decades, despite many protests. That it was desecrated in the ’60s doesn’t mean that it’s right to desecrate it further. In the 1960s some of the graves were paved over for a parking lot. Now they are digging down and disinterring four layers, according to the Chief of Israel’s Archaeological Authority, four layers of graves.’”

YOU COULDN’T make this stuff up: The Simon Wiesenthal Center, while violating international sensibilities by, against all objections, building a “Museum of Tolerance” atop a Muslim cemetery in Jerusalem, has the chutzpah to publicly object to a mosque in lower Manhattan, by claiming that it is “near Ground Zero which is a cemetery!”

THOSE WHO OPPOSE the

mosque while building their “Museum of Tolerance” atop a cemetery, are also trying lie us into additional wars; especially against Iran.

WAR PROFITEERS claim to be spreading democracy. Let’s examine that. The Shibley 2010 polls in Arab countries shows the results of our expenditures of life and treasure. Asked to name the two countries that pose the greatest threat, 88% named Israel, and 77% named the United States, while 10% named Iran (down from 13% last year). Asked to name the leader they most admire, 12% cited Ahmadinejad, making him the third most admired by Arabs; after Turkish P.M. Erdogan at 20% and Venezuelan President Chavez at 13%. Despite the corporate-controlled media’s smears Ahmadinejad’s popularity has risen each of the past three years.

BUSH’S WARS NOW OBAMA’S, so the righteous anger is now against Obama. Bush’s major crimes remain unprosecuted. Having won office by promising to rectify Bush’s policies, Obama has intensified them. What happened? Don’t Iraqis understand that kicking in front doors and pushing occupants around at gunpoint is just an American way of saying “Howdy”? Don’t they understand that bombing groups of people, especially wedding celebrants, is merely America’s way of helping to reduce excess population? Why aren’t they grateful for our well-meaning tortures inflicted on Saddam’s ex-supporters because he was a torturer.

ARABS LOSE FAITH in U.S. Shibley’s poll data also show that we have lost the Arab world. Last year 51% were hopeful about Obama. This year it’s 16%, while 63% say they are discouraged. Showing flagrant lack of appreciation for all the front doors our soldiers have kicked down, and all of the women and children we have sensitively killed, this year only 2% view the U.S.”very favorable,” down from 4% in 2008, Bush’s last year in office. Despite these polls, it’s supposedly Ahmadinejad’s unpopularity that makes Iran bombable.

\$BILLIONS of Ireland’s petroleum wealth given to multinationals by crooked pols. See www.shelltosea.com.

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.friendsofcolinduff.com, and www.freegerry.com. In Maghberry prison the Brits have reimposed pre-Hunger Strike conditions.



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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



summer program, we anticipate that we will have served between 325,000 and 400,000 meals to the children. Last year, over the span of 10 weeks, this program served 105,000 meals at 48 sites. As the need for food and good nutrition has grown, so have our efforts to feed hungry adults and children of all faiths. Almost 100 new staff and youth workers were hired and trained in basic job skills to prepare these meals.

Year-round in Cook and Lake counties, Catholic Charities operates scores of other food and nutrition programs for our neighbors in need of all ages. Healthy and nutritious food packages distributed at our dozens of food centers and meal programs keep families and seniors well-fed. Catholic Charities' 16 Women, Infant and Children Food Centers supply low-income mothers and children with food products necessary for their health; and teach classes in the preparation of seasonal fruits and vegetables—that parents otherwise might not use. The Food Centers also provide a wide variety of job experiences for employees, as varied as cashiering, taking inventory and training in forklift driving.

Senior nutrition is a high priority every day. In Lake County and Chicago's South suburbs, daily Meals on Wheels programs keep hundreds of

frail or homebound seniors healthy, well-fed, and assured that they are cared for—while other seniors enjoy getting together for companionship and hot meals at two Catholic Charities centers. In Cook and Lake counties, the Senior Farmer's Market is a favorite place to purchase fruits and vegetables with coupons, and seniors enjoy sharing their favorite recipes using commodities received through our Senior, Mother and Child Nutrition Program.

Catholic Charities operates 12 Food Pantries throughout Cook and Lake counties to help struggling families and individuals. Weekly, six parish and Catholic Charities sites from Des Plaines to Hazelcrest welcome and feed more than 500 low-income and homeless guests

with hot, sit-down suppers. Veterans, seniors, and families with young children all leave our suppers with a smile, because they will not go to bed hungry that night.

Hopefully, you are asking: "How can I participate in Hunger Action Month?" I have a suggestion: It has been a struggle to keep the shelves of our 12 Food Pantries stocked this year, so monetary and food contributions are most welcome, as well as volunteering at our Food Pantries.

Please visit www.catholiccharities.net/hunger or call (312) 655-7315 to donate to our food programs, purchase virtual groceries, organize a food drive, sponsor a banner at one of our food pantry sites, or volunteer. Thank you for helping to feed our hungry neighbors.

Join the Fight to End Hunger!

"Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ... And the king will say to them in reply: 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" *Matthew 25:37,40*

Throughout the United States, September is "Hunger Action Month," but at Catholic Charities in Cook and Lake counties, we "Join the Fight to End Hunger!" every day of the year. I ask you, our readers, to join us in this fight against hunger.

Catholic Charities has been on the frontlines of the fight against poverty and hunger for decades. We have developed a continuum of care for low-income or unemployed families, seniors, children and individuals that begins with food, and leads to better health, increased benefits, employment, and an increased sense of food security and human dignity for each person.

The need is great—and grow-

ing. In 2008, our 12 food pantries served more than 101,000 people. In 2009, these pantries served 136,800 individuals.

Through the 11 major food and nutrition programs in Catholic Charities' Community Development and Outreach Services, for example, our staff and leadership face this fight daily with great determination and dedication, because caring for the poor, feeding the hungry, and educating parents, children, seniors and veterans about healthy food is a matter of respect for life. And each food program has healthy "side effects," such as the development of new job skills for employees, or the opportunity for clients to determine their eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

For example, during the first six weeks of Catholic Charities' 2010 Summer Lunch Program, more than 200,000 meals were prepared and served at 152 sites to children and youth, ages one through 18 years, in the poorest neighborhoods of Chicago and suburbs. By the end of this

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Hooliganism
Mike Houlihan



Judy Barr Topinka showed up at my garage sale last July.

I took that to be some sort of sign from God that I was doing the right thing.

I was lucky enough to sell my house and get a pretty good price in the midst of The Great Recession, and the lovely Mary and I were hoping to unload about twenty years of accumulated flotsam.

So we had scheduled back to back garage sales for two Saturdays and held our breath, hoping to make enough money to go out for a couple of nice dinners together. We didn't. Unless we were going to White Castle.

We scheduled them to start at 10am, and before 7:30am my backyard had at least ten wack jobs milling around asking me questions. "Got any antique watches? Got any antique jewelry? What year was this made?"

I wasn't in the mood for being quizzed by rabid garage sale hustlers, and I teed off on the guy who had followed me through my garage and onto my back porch.

"Hey dipstick! This thing don't start for another three hours so back off with the cross-examination. If I had all the answers, I wouldn't be having a frickin' garage sale in the first place!"

Mary looked at me and knew my misplaced aggression was once again acting up.

She knew what was really bugging me, the fact that in three weeks we would be moving to Berwyn. How did that happen?

My next-door neighbor in River Forest was Marty Paris, son of former RF Mayor and my pal, Frank Paris. Marty is a real estate developer and he gave me a great deal on a brand new condo in Berwyn in "The Depot District." The condo is terrific with a balcony and view of the depot and just kitty corner from McNeal Hospital. The train downtown is right outside my door and I can get anywhere by driving in either direction on Ogden. So what was the problem?

Well it was still in Berwyn. I had some sort of mental block on Berwyn. Maybe it was all those wise cracks Svengoolie had been making about Berwyn for the last twenty years. Or the images of people dressed as mushrooms in the annual Houby Parade that I saw on TV. I remember thinking, "Are they ANY Irish people in Berwyn?"

I pondered my future with the Bohemians in Berwyn while I sat in my yard during the garage sale. I watched an Asian guy as he picked up a backscratcher that we were selling for a buck on the odds and ends table. That's funny I thought, I bought that thing for a quarter in Chinatown only a few months ago. He finally handed in his buck and walked down the street scratching his back with a big grin on his face.

Hmmm, I guess everything depends on your perspective.

So that night I took a drive over to Berwyn and stood on the balcony of the empty condo.

It was the 4th of July weekend and you could see the fireworks in the sky. I looked down the street and could see the front door of The James Joyce Irish Pub, owned by my pal Colin Downes. I walked over to a little bar not fifty yards from my crib called "Cabin Fever." They had a live band playing. I got a delicious cheeseburger for three bucks and two fat chicks tried flirting with me at the bar.

I talked to them about Berwyn. They told me of all the great spots along Ogden and Cermak Road. I wondered, "Could Berwyn be hip?"

The following week at the final garage sale, I walked outside, and there in my driveway was Judy Baar Topinka. What the hell could she possible be doing here? I immediately remembered where Judy grew up. Yeah, she was practically the Queen of Berwyn at one time.

Hi Judy, guess where I'm moving. She seemed thrilled by this news. She was positively gushing about the "new" Berwyn, and told me about the new 16th Street Theatre Company, and all the great art happenings, and how much I was going to love it.

I laughed after she left. I was tossing books we couldn't sell into a box for the dumpster, when I came across a title that caught my eye. "Myself Must I Remake, The Life and Poetry of W. B. Yeats."

The book looked familiar although I hadn't seen it in twenty some years. Then I opened the book and remembered it had been a gift from my wife in the early years of our marriage. The inscription read, "To the man who has 'remade my soul.' All my love, Always, Mary"

Wow, that's when it hit me. "Myself Must I Remake." Yeats was right, and so was Judy Baar Topinka. Berwyn could be the best thing to ever happen to me. I'm discovering it. I'm hitting all the great restaurants and riding my bike all over town, and my old pal Father Tony Brankin from Tommy Moore is the pastor of my new parish, St. Odilo's.

Berwyn is diverse and friendly, with more taverns than I could ever hope to hit. Hey Svengoolie, you got it all wrong, Berwyn is cool!

The night we moved in, I stood on the balcony with Mary as we looked down at the Depot and I said, "Ich bin ein Berwynner!"

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Piping It In

Jack Baker

The kids are back at school, but the festival season rolls on. This month we'll start out at the Fox Valley Folk Festival in Geneva, IL on Labor Day weekend, followed by the Pittsburgh Irish Festival on the 10th, 11th & 12th, the Michigan Irish Music Festival in Muskegon on the 17th, 18th and 19th, and ending with the Celtic Classic in Bethlehem, PA on the 24th, 25th & 26th. That's 12 days of festifying for the month! By the 27th, I'll be one tired puppy.

My sincere congratulations go to Pat Lynch and the City of Chicago Pipe Band. This great Windy City band sailed into Maxville, Ontario and took first place in the North American Pipe Band Championships, Grade 2. No small accomplishment, that! If you haven't heard this band yet, you've a treat in store. Is a CD in the works? Don't know, but I sure hope so.

Got a pile of new CDs to talk about and I think I'll start with another pipe band recording. Capital City Pipes and Drums from Columbus, Ohio, have been around for a long time and we've always looked forward to seeing them. They're a fun bunch who always deliver quality piping and love to chat. They've released a CD as a fundraiser and it's just like them—solid, entertaining and fun. Along with the usual tunes you'd expect, they do a very good rendition of "Craggs of Tumbledown Mountain" (from the Falklands War) and Jim Motherwell's "Itchy Fingers." Want a good grade 4 band CD? Try this one, it's "A Capital Idea." Okay, I tried being clever with the CD's title and it didn't quite work, but you'll love this CD and the band. Good piping from good folks.

You already know, if you've read this column before, that I do love Robert Burns' poems and songs. Now, two of my favorite artists have tried their hand at a collection of Burns and have created one of the loveliest CDs I've ever heard. Ross Sutter and Laura Mackenzie have joined forces on this recording *Ye Banks and Braes, Song and Music of Robert Burns* and I'm so glad they did. Ross has a lovely strong voice and plays very solid guitar. Laura has a sweet voice which goes well with her sweet nature, plus she's a very talented multi-instrumentalist, holding forth on wooden flute, Scottish small pipes, Bor-



der half-long bagpipes, whistle and concertina. Ross is the creator of one of my favorite kid's CD *Mama Will You Buy Me a Banana*. Kids love

that CD, and it doesn't drive adults crazy either. Laura has a list of wonder CDs to her credit including *Piney Woods* that she teamed up with Daithi Sproule to record. Together these two great artists have created a monument to Burns' genius. Their treatment is gentle and precise and just bloody lovely. I really like this one, you might have guessed.

One of the most popular bands on the circuit these days is Scythian. They've had a very busy summer and have issued three new products that range from great to spectacular. First off is their new CD *Scythian Live Vol. 2*. Well-recorded, lacking noise but full of the energy that their stage performances are noted for, this recording



captures the fun that they project on stage, a great addition to your Scythian collection. Secondly, they have released a DVD, titled *Live at Sunflowerfest*. Running over 2 hours, this DVD captures the high-energy antics of this very visual band plus several other bands. I haven't had so much fun with a concert DVD since Kila released theirs. Got friends who haven't seen Scythian? Here's your chance to show them what they've been missing and enjoy it yourself. Finally, Scythian has earned themselves a higher position in my book by creating and releasing a superb kids CD, called *Cake for Dinner*. Now nowhere on the CD does it say that it was created by Scythian, and I like that. It keeps fans from buying a CD that they expect will sound like what they heard on stage and being disappointed. Meanwhile, kids will have a wonderful time with this CD, singing along and dancing their hearts out to the music. It's fun, well done, and the kind of stuff you

want your little ones to listen to. Unfortunately, there aren't a lot of kids CDs available in Celtic music. Ross Sutter's aforementioned *Mama Will You Buy Me a Banana*, Seamus Kennedy's *Gets On Everybody's Nerves*, Alex Beaton's *Kidding Around*, Bonnie Rideout's *Gi'me Elbow Room* and Mim Eichmann's *Wander Down Beyond the Rainbow*, are about it, but now they've been joined by *Cake For Dinner*. We need to remember to include the kids.

Last bit I saved to write about is the latest release from Compass Records. I know I sound like they're paying me but they keep putting out the best in Celtic Music. This month they've released the long-awaited CD from Old Blind Dogs, called *Wherever Yet May Be*. This is a gem, not that any release from Old Blind Dogs has ever been anything but great. On the first track, Jonny Hardie performs some of the best fiddle work I've ever heard him, or anyone, perform. His fiddle was like that all through the recording. Aaron Jones' vocals are stunning, best he's ever done. Fraser Stone has become the finest percussionist, not just a drummer, with a touch that's absolute magic. I sat through the CD one whole time just listening to Fraser's work. Then, talking about magic, Ali Hutton's pipes... words fail me. Think of the best integrated pipes, where their sound is part of the whole, not blasting over the rest, here it is. I was blown away by this CD. These four superb artists are creating some of the best music. Can it get better than this? I thought it couldn't after *Four On The Floor*, their last CD, but here I am with my jaw hanging open, listening to this magic these guys create. I know I said magic three times but I also said words fail me, so there you go. The coolest part is that these guys sound this great in person. We got to see them at a house concert and we were just mesmerized. The guys themselves are great fun, no monster egos to get in the way of having a good time, just huge talent.

Finally, a little bit more news from Compass Records. Later this month they'll be releasing Heidi Talbot's third recording on their label. She is a stunning talent and I can't wait to hear the new CD. Also later this month, they'll be releasing Luka Bloom's new CD. This great talent has always had a problem with recording companies and I'm glad to see him hooking up with Compass. It means we'll be able to bring his music to the customer much easier.

Slainté to all our friends, whether we've met them yet or not. I treasure your input and you can reach me at 630-834-8108 (when I'm in town) or at pipingitin@comcast.net.

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Careers



By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



What are the Characteristics of the Most Admired Leaders?

This column will explore the final four characteristics the authors of *The Leadership Challenge*, Kouzes and Posner, say are the ones that our most admired leaders demonstrate. The top eight attributes were discussed in the previous two editions of this column. They are: (1-4) honest, forward-looking, inspiring, competent; (5-8), fair minded, supportive, broad-minded and intelligent.

The final four characteristics are the subject of this column; each of which are vitally important in assessing how you stack up against this litany of twelve: straight-forward, dependable, courageous and cooperative.

Straight-forward

Haven't we all met a person who never seems to speak to the specific issue at hand? S/he waits for everyone else to venture an opinion before saying anything. They don't want to be identified with their opinion or be held accountable for their point of view. Rather they would prefer that their opinion simply be assimilated into the pool of opinions.

Most of us have spoken to a person who persists in avoiding any suggestion of disagreement with you or the others in a conversation. They encourage others to state an opinion while avoiding doing the same themselves.

The real difficulty with this approach is that a subordinate or colleague is left NOT knowing what you may want them to do. They may think they know what is expected of them but they don't really know.

My suggestion is that as a routine matter you ask the other person to repeat back to you what you have told them. Always confirm that they have understood you correctly.

Dependable

Frankly, I don't understand why this characteristic isn't considered more important than being 10th on a list of twelve. If you can't rely on a person to follow through on something, how can you "charge" them with the responsibility to complete a given task?

Haven't you found that some of your workmates have great outward

appearances and substantial self assurance but never get the job done?

As parents, we have all experienced the youngster who is going to do some household chore, but it never seems to get done. In my view, the responsible parent insists that the child finish the chore. But we know that the chore itself is not the critical issue; rather it is a bench mark on the road to dependability. Clearly, we recognize that people value highly a Dependable person.

Courageous

Again, this characteristic is one that can't be overrated. We have all watched the line of least resistance surface and succeed in meetings. Many people simply don't want to be held accountable for their point of view. Perhaps they have been put down or "punished" for their opinions. The Chief Operating Officer of a \$500 million company told me he observed his Chief Executive Officer devastate the Vice President-Human Resources in front of the Board. After that incident, do you think the Vice President spoke up again? No, he didn't speak up; he quit.

Do you find that having people unwilling to speak up invalidates them? How often have you heard the quote by Simon Wiesenthal, "for evil to flourish, all that is needed is for good people to do nothing." To paraphrase Wiesenthal, "for dumb or dopey decisions to flourish, all that is needed is for the smart, competent, intelligent, insightful people in the audience to sit still and say nothing." Does one really have to display the physical courage that one might attribute to a war hero? I don't think that to object one needs to draw battle lines, so to speak, but rather be willing to raise a pertinent point or ask a thoughtful question.

I have heard many executives speak of their open door policy, but they need to consider how few people ever make use of the policy. This characteristic cuts two ways. If you are the subordinate, you need to be willing to endure the wrath of the boss. If you are the boss, you must genuinely assure people that their opinions are valued. Being "valued" doesn't mean that their opinions are going to be accepted, but instead be

considered.

Cooperative

How often have you heard people say how much they appreciate your help, your cooperation? Many times, I hope. Cooperation is an essential element in the fabric of our society. Don't we all want cooperative fellow workers? Don't we reward people for being cooperative? But of course, there has to be a balance between the cooperative spirit and the competitive spirit.

I would strongly recommend that you read *The Leadership Challenge* if you want to learn more about these characteristics and their effect on the perception people have of you. Using whatever system works for you, try rating yourself in each one of these characteristics. You might even consider doing it once or twice a year. If you would be willing to share your own assessment, I would be pleased to hear about it.

There are a million different "tests" you can take to prove that you are a wonderful parent or child, brilliant scholar or knowledgeable trivia expert. But the real challenge of a test of your characteristics is how the proper awareness of your strengths and weaknesses can significantly affect your daily life. Do you have the capacity or perhaps even more importantly, the will to address deficiencies in any of these characteristics? Fortunately, you need only answer those questions to yourself. But you may find that your life can be enhanced by getting to know yourself better. It is far easier to say it than to do it. We live in a busy world.

PERSONAL NOTE: Writing this column is great fun for me. Occasionally I get a letter that really increases my delight. Recently a reader sent me a letter regarding my June column that had dealt with making a difference. Here's a snippet of Mary's letter "And, of course, this was my "ah-ha" moment. People are so busy flying in formation that they rarely stop to consider flying alone and stepping outside their box. I hoped I was a bird that flew alone who made a small difference in her day. Yes, as you wrote 'we have great counsel around us all the time.'" The complete letter is on the *Irish American News* website. (<http://irishamericannews.com>)

Carpe Diem.

James F. Fitzgerald is the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, Inc., an Oak Brook, IL-based senior executive career transition and executive coaching firm. Phone: # 630-684-2204. NEW email: jamesfitz37@hotmail.com.

Owners of Gage Open Henri Next Door

Henri's now open at 18 S. Michigan, Chicago, IL 60603.

In what is called "a soft opening," the new restaurant built from scratch by the Lawless family, "Henri," opened Saturday, August 21, 2010 to rave reviews.

Located in a historically landmarked building at 18 South Michigan, Henri features the seasonal classic and contemporary American fare of Executive Chef Dirk Flanigan.

The restaurant takes its name from famed Chicago architect, Louis Henri Sullivan, who designed the building in the late 1800s. He also

designed the stencil which appears in the logo to the left.

Just steps from the city's cultural landmarks including museums, theaters, Millennium Park and the Symphony, Henri will provide an elegant respite from bustling Michigan Avenue.

Check out the spot, Michael Londra gives an 'A+!' And don't despair! If the restaurant is full, check out The Gage - their other fine restaurant right next door!



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An Immigrant's Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



Labor Day and Immigration

Most people are aware that Labor Day is one of our most important holidays. When we pause and reflect on all of the goods and services which sustain and support the American dream, we realize that without an enormous army of laborers this dream could not be sustained.

The contribution of Immigrants to American society at all levels is, of course, incalculable. In every area of what makes this United States great, the contribution of foreign-born individuals is enormous. Think of life without the input of the following people:

Alexander Graham Bell

Bell was born March 3, 1847, in Edinburgh, Scotland. In 1872, he moved to the United States, where he taught at Boston University. Bell became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1882. At an early age, he was fascinated with the idea of transmitting speech. While working with his assistant, Thomas Watson, in Boston, Bell shared his idea of what would become the telephone.

The invention of the telephone led to the organization of the Bell Telephone Company. In addition, he was a co-founder of the National Geographic Society, and served as its president from 1898 to 1904.

Frances Xavier Cabrini

American humanitarian and social worker, first U.S. citizen to be canonized by the Catholic Church—Cabrini was born July 15, 1850, in Sant'Angelo Lodigiano, Italy. After taking vows to become a nun in 1877, she began teaching at an orphanage in Codogno, Italy. In 1889, Pope Leo XIII sent her to New York to begin ministering to the growing number of new immigrants in the United States. She became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1909. Throughout her lifetime, Cabrini worked with all those in need, including the poor, the uneducated, and the sick. She helped organize schools, orphanages, and adult education classes for immigrants in her nearly forty years of ministry. In 1946, Pope Pius XII canonized her, making her the first U.S. citizen to be canonized. Cabrini is now the Catholic Church's patron saint of immigrants.

Albert Einstein

American scientist and Nobel laureate in physics widely considered to be the greatest scientist of the twentieth century, Einstein was born March 14, 1879, at Ulm, in Württemberg, Germany. In 1921, he received the Nobel Prize in Physics for his discovery of the law of the photoelectric effect. Einstein's special theory of relativity containing the famous equation $E=mc^2$ also won him international praise. When the Nazis came to power in Germany in 1933, he immigrated to the United States and joined the newly formed Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton University. Einstein became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1940.

Igor Stravinsky

American composer—Stravinsky was born June 17, 1882, in Lomonosov, Russia. His early career was spent composing in Switzerland and Paris. Stravinsky's works include *The Rite of Spring* (1913), *The Soldier's Tale* (1918), *Oedipus Rex* (1927), and *Persephone* (1934). In 1939, he left Europe and settled in the United States. Stravinsky became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1945. The various styles of music he experimented with made Stravinsky one of the most influential composers of his time. He is now widely regarded as one of the greatest composers of the twentieth century.

Irving Berlin

American composer and songwriter, Berlin was born May 11, 1888, in Mogilyov, Russia (now Belarus). In 1893, his family immigrated to the United States. He became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1918. Berlin wrote music and lyrics for Broadway shows such as *Annie Get Your Gun* (1946) and *Miss Liberty* (1949), as well as for films such as *Holiday Inn* (1942), *Blue Skies* (1946), and *Easter Parade* (1948). He also wrote popular songs such as "There's No Business Like Show Business," "God Bless America," and the holiday classic "White Christmas." In 1955, President Dwight D. Eisenhower recognized Berlin's patriotic songs by presenting him with a special medal authorized by the U.S. Congress. In 1986, Berlin was one of twelve naturalized U.S. citizens to receive the Medal of Liberty from President Ronald Reagan.

Marlene Dietrich

American actress and singer, Dietrich was born December 27, 1901, in Berlin, Germany. She began her acting career in Berlin where she quickly became popular in the theater and in silent films. In 1929, she was cast in the film *The Blue Angel* (1930) by American director Josef von Sternberg. Her performance was widely acclaimed and Dietrich promptly moved to the United States. She starred in a variety of films during her career, including *Morocco* (1930), *The Devil Is a Woman* (1935), *Desire* (1936), and *Judgment at Nuremberg* (1961). She became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1939. During World War II, Dietrich made over 500 appearances before American troops overseas.

Bob Hope

One of America's best-known and loved entertainers, Hope was born May 29, 1903, in Eltham, Great Britain. In 1907, his father moved the family to Cleveland, Ohio. In 1920, by virtue of his father's naturalization, "Bob"—the name he took for the rest of his life—became a U.S. citizen. Throughout his career, he appeared in a variety of films and television specials, and performed many shows for American troops overseas, including World War II (1939–1945), the Korean War (1950–1953), the Vietnam War (1959–1975), and the Persian Gulf War (1991). In 1997, President Clinton named him an honorary military veteran.

Kenneth B. Clark

American psychologist, Clark was born July 14, 1914, in the Panama. In 1919, he moved to the United States, settling in New York with his mother and sister. He became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1931. Clark obtained a bachelor's degree from Howard University in 1935 and a master's degree in 1936. He went on to earn a doctorate in experimental psychology from Columbia University in 1940, becoming the first African American to earn a doctorate in psychology at the school. In 1946, he and his wife Mamie founded the North Side Center for Child Development in Harlem, New York, where they began conducting research on racial bias in education. A 1950 report from Clark on racial discrimination was cited in the landmark Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision, which ruled public school segregation unconstitutional. Clark was also the first African American to serve as president of the American Psychological Association. In 1986, he was one of twelve naturalized U.S. citizens to receive the Medal of Liberty from President Ronald Reagan.

The Acorn Planter

In the 1930s a young traveler was exploring the French Alps. He came upon a vast stretch of barren land. It was desolate. It was forbidding. It was ugly. It was the kind of place you hurry away from.

Then, suddenly, the young traveler stopped dead in his tracks. In the middle of this vast wasteland was a bent-over old man. On his back was a sack of acorns. In his hand was a four-foot length of iron pipe.

The man was using the iron pipe to punch holes in the ground. Then from the sack he would take an acorn and put it in the hole. Later the old man told the traveler, "I've planted over 100,000 acorns. Perhaps only a tenth of them will grow." The old man's wife and son had died, and this was how he chose to spend his final years. "I want to do something useful," he said.

Twenty-five years later the now-not-as-young traveler returned to the same desolate area. What he saw amazed him. He could not believe his own eyes. The land was covered with a beautiful forest two miles wide and five miles long. Birds were singing, animals were playing, and wild flowers perfumed the air.

The traveler stood there recalling the desolation that once was; a beautiful oak forest stood there now—all because someone cared.

Chicago 3k Kilt Run 9-19

The inaugural Chicago Kilt 3K Run takes place September 19, 2010 Sunday morning at 10 am.

Start and finish at Trinity Pub, 5943 N. Northwest Hwy Chicago.

You can run, walk, or jog the 1.86 miles for fun or competition.

Several leaders in the Irish community plan on running in and supporting this race.

The event is to celebrate and educate the public on Celtic music and culture from the 7 Celtic Nations. Those Nations are Ireland; Scotland; Isle of Man; Cornwall; Wales; Galicia, Spain; and Brittany, France.

The Charitable organization that will benefit from the run for 2010 will be the Chicago Police Chaplain's Ministry. There will be music and activities after the run so plan on spending the day with the family.

There will be music and activities after the run so plan on spending the day with the family.

The registration fee of \$25 includes a kilt which is encouraged to be worn at the start of the event. The kilt can be worn over shorts.

Be a founding sponsor or participant. www.chicagokilt.com.

Call Neal (773) 497-2856 or e-mail chicagokilt@gmail.com.

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Chicago Gaelic Park

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



G A E L I C P A R K

A Chairde

While supporters of Gaelic Park come from all 32 counties, a significant number grew up in rural Ireland on farms. Under the leadership of Eamon Malone, a group of them got together several years ago to begin Heritage and Harvest Day at Gaelic Park. The general idea for this event is to commemorate fall activities in rural Ireland, especially those regarding the appearance of the threshing machine and fall harvest. It's appropriate then that the day begins with a threshing which, for all of us people who were born and raised in cities, is the separating of the wheat from the chaff. Eamon Malone brings an authentic threshing machine and antique tractors to be put on display. They actually separate the wheat and use the chaff for numerous activities, such as a straw scramble and pillow fights. In our high-tech society, all of the activities are low-tech. The admission is free and includes traditional Irish music, step dancing and Ceili dancing. Most importantly, this cross-generational event is a great time for the experienced Irish farmers to share their stories with their children and grandchildren. On Sunday, September 19, the day begins at 11:30 a.m. and runs most of the afternoon. Labor Day weekend is loaded with activities at Gaelic Park. The North American County Board playoffs of the Gaelic Athletic Associations take place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Saturday includes an NBC-sponsored viewing party of Notre Dame's opening game against traditional rival, Purdue. This also represents the first game for the new head football coach of the Irish, Brian Kelly. Thank you very much to all of the volunteers who dedicate their time and talents to make Gaelic Park and its activities successful.

Yours very truly,
John C. Griffin

Annual Heritage and Harvest Sunday September 19

In the past, Irish farmers would bring their fall harvests into the town center to trade or to sell. Each town would celebrate the harvests with dancing, singing, music, and storytelling. Chicago Gaelic Park, established over 25 years ago with the purpose of promoting and fostering Irish culture, continues this tradition with their annual Heritage & Harvest Day to be held on September 19. Come out and view Ireland's history as you watch the old threshing mill, piking the straw, making of the sugan, and the churning of milk. The day

will start with the "threshing" beginning at 11:30 with a full schedule of events throughout the day. This free, family fun-filled day promises to be lots of fun for all ages. Games for kids include a straw pillow fight, candy in the straw scramble, three-legged race, sack race, dizzy stick race, barrel race and water balloon toss. Games for adults include a barrel race, Wellington throw, skittles, three-legged race and more. Other highlights include music by Sean Cleland and the Irish Music School of Chicago, dancing by the Cross Keys Irish School of Dancing, a display of the very beautiful Connemara ponies, youth football, a display of antique tractors, a Ceili and Set Dancing exhibition, lessons on how to pour a proper Guinness pint (with free tasting), a homemade apple pie competition (first prize is dinner for two) and much, much more. For more information, see our web site www.chicagogaelicpark.org or phone 708.687.9323.

Heritage & Harvest Day Apple Pie Contest

is open to everyone. Pre-register by emailing GPapplepie@hotmail.com or call the office 708. 687.9323. Last minute bakers are always welcome; just bring your pie to Heritage & Harvest Day **BEFORE 1pm**. Your pie or apple tart **must be homemade, including the crust** but can be any shape (round, square, oblong). The pies will be judged on appearance, crust and taste. **PRIZE** - Four tickets to any Gaelic Park Players Production and a \$100 dining gift certificate for the Carraig Pub or Sunday Celtic Supper.

Gaelic Park Hosts North American Gaelic Finals

Labor Day weekend the Park will be flooded with Gaelic sportsmen from all over the country and Canada. Look forward to some fierce match ups for hurling, camogie and all levels of Gaelic football. Chicago has its best shot in years to win multiple Gaelic football titles with five different men's teams and one women's teams taking the pitch as Chicago final champions. Chicago's newest Gaelic football team will be there competing in Junior D. The Chicago Fire Department team, led by Chairman Michael Flanagan, was started last year to answer the challenge of a tournament hosted by the Dublin Fire Brigade. This year they have been training hard and holding their own against other local Chicago teams. There's been talk of a Police Department team next year, but nothing has been confirmed. One thing

for sure though, as Gaelic sport grows in America, Chicago will always lead the charge in passion for the games. *Greg Miller, GAA Assistant Pro.* Continental Youth Championships were held in New York at the end of July, and the Chicago teams won both the Under 14 Hurling and the Under 16 Boys B Football.

Gaelic Park Players Fall

Production of The Last Rose This play by Anne Dunph and directed by Lisa Krueger is a poignant and moving tale about life's loves and losses. **The Last Rose** weaves a delicate story of how some lives can be shaped by invisible hands, and how secrets can keep us locked in the past. **November Show Dates:** Fridays, 8pm, 5, 12 & 19; Saturdays, 8pm 6, 13 & 20; Sundays, 3pm 7, 14 & 21 **OPENING NIGHT ONLY - Friday, November 5 - BUY ONE GET ONE FREE! TICKET PRICES: Friday/Saturday nights \$12 Sunday afternoon special \$25** for dinner/theatre **RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST** for Dinner & Theatre. Tickets are non-refundable. Call 708.687.9323 for tickets & reservations. Tickets available for purchase October 1.

Chicago Irish Immigrant Support

is happy to announce that our senior drop-in group will be reconvening at Gaelic Park in September. Events are held on Thursdays at 10am. We have another exciting program of guest speakers discussing a wide variety of interesting and educational topics. All are welcome to come along to our meetings and anyone with any questions or in need of transport to Gaelic Park for meetings should contact us on **312.534.8445**. We would like to remind IAN readers of our outreach program that offers case management and friendly visiting services. We are also available to those experiencing immigration or social difficulties. 9/2 Opening celebrations with Mass by Fr. Michael Leonard 9/16 Representatives from the Japanese Consulate demonstrate aspects of their culture 10/30 Games and exercises to improve memories and cognitive functioning 10/14 Day trip -- **destination to be confirmed** 10/21 Chicago branch of the Industrial Development Agency Ireland Representative 11/4 Coordinator for the Senior Medicare Patrol program to discuss Medicare fraud 12/18 Tom O'Gorman speaks on a Chicago artist whose image was on the Irish pound note 12/9 Irish Vice Consulate General Tim Reilly 12/16 Christmas Party - more details to follow.



Chicago Gaelic Park

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



Gaelic Park Charities is an organization dedicated to providing charitable assistance to the needy, supporting education, and fostering and promoting an appreciation of Irish and Irish-American history. It was founded in August, 2002 as an outgrowth of Chicago Gaelic Park. This organization was initially funded by a very generous donation from the John F. McCarthy Charitable Lead Trust and private gifts from many donors. It is an Illinois Not for Profit Corporation that is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a charitable organization as described in Internal Revenue Code Section 501 (c)(3). This organization has funded genealogy and language classes; supported Irish dance, music and culture; provided relief to tsunami, hurricane and earthquake victims; and supported many charities, schools, parishes and benefits. Public support of Gaelic Park Charities is welcomed. Donations can be sent to: Gaelic Park Charities, 6119 W. 147th Street, Oak Forest, IL 60452

Ceili at the Park will resume this fall on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30. Not only do the classes promote Irish tradition and culture while offering a little exercise in a social setting, but they have a charitable component as well. Donna Killen, who hails from the Mt. Greenwood community in Chicago, has been teaching the class for about 20 years. Killen is one of the south suburbs' experts in this form of Irish folk dancing and says that some dances are very simple while others could take about a year to master. She says that some are courtship dances, and some are progressive dances where you change partners and get to dance with everyone. About 50 or 60 regulars show up at each session for the donation of \$2 for the night and monies are donated to charitable causes and organizations such as the American Cancer Society and Haiti Relief. In addition, care packages have been sent to American troops in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as donations to local benefits. The primary reason for gathering together is to enjoy each other's company through a common interest. Everyone is welcome! For more information, contact the office at 708.687.9323.

Announcements:

Gaelic Park Ladies Auxiliary meetings resume Wednesday September 8th at 7:30pm with Mass. There is a yearly membership of \$15 and meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month, September thru May, with no meeting in March.

The County Down Association Dance will be held on Friday October 8, from 8pm until midnight at Gaelic Park. Music provided by Gerry Haughey and Sean O'Donnell. There is a donation of \$10 with a cash bar. The group is celebrating 47 years! Donna Killen President

CGP Sunday Radio Program

Sundays, 7:05pm-9pm, WCEV 1450 AM

Irish Heritage & Harvest Day

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th, 2010

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Games for **ALL AGES** including **ADULTS** to start at 12:30pm include: Straw Pillow Fight, Candy in the Straw Scramble, Three Legged Race, Sack Race, Dizzy Stick Race, Barrel Race, Water Balloon Toss, Tug of War, Wellington Toss & Gaelic Sports Skills Test

(all times subject to change)

Live Telecast of the All Ireland Football Final starting at 7:30am. Admission to Telecast is \$20.00

For more information call 708-687-9323 or visit www.chicagogaelpark.org

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.

Misconceptions About On Job Injuries

In several past issues, we have discussed the rights and remedies that injured individuals have when they file a workers’ compensation claim. From talking to our readers, it is clear that some have misconceptions about the Illinois Workers’ Compensation Act and whether they have the right to file a claim. This article will address some of the questions we have been asked. In some cases there was a potential claim, in others not.

“I can’t file a claim

because the accident was my fault”

The Workers’ Compensation Act is a compromise between business and labor that provides compensation to injured workers. Unlike civil lawsuits, the amount of compensation an injured worker receives is limited. The advantage to the employee is that the employee does not have to prove any fault on the part of the employer or a co-worker. Instead, the employee must only prove that the accident “arose out of” and “in the course of” the employment. Generally speaking, this means you must be at work and doing something work-related when you are injured.

For instance, while at work an employee may drop heavy materials on his foot causing a fracture. Or, a carpenter while using a hammer may strike his hand. Even though the accident may have been caused by the employee’s own actions, he can receive workers’ compensation benefits.

“I can’t file a claim because I

violated a safety rule or didn’t have

safety equipment on when I was injured”

Many individuals, especially construction workers, have safety rules they must follow at work or must wear certain safety equipment while working. For example, if you are working road construction, you might be required to wear a reflective vest. If you are welding or soldering you might be required to wear safety goggles. When working on scaffolding or on other heights, you may be required to use a safety gate or wear a safety harness. Oftentimes, we talk to individuals who do not believe they can pursue a claim because when

they were injured they had forgotten to use safety equipment or follow a workplace safety rule.

So long as the individual was doing something in furtherance of his employment, he has a right to benefits, even if the employee forgot to wear safety equipment or follow a safety rule. However, if an individual violates a safety rule purely for his own personal benefit, he may not be entitled to benefits.

In one notable case, an employee was denied benefits when he was riding double on a forklift during a lunch break in violation of a workplace rule prohibiting double riding. The court found that the employee was not due any compensation not simply because he violated a safety rule, but because he was acting for his own personal benefit, instead of doing something work related.

A similar situation is presented when employees getting into a physical altercation at work. If the altercation is based on a personal issue between the two employees, such as one lending money to the other, then any injury will not be compensable.

“I was receiving benefits but now my employer went out of business, so I guess my claim is gone too”

In these unfortunate economic times, some employers have closed their doors for good. Others have been bought-out by larger companies. Others still have chosen to lay-off some, or a large portion, of their workforce. What happens if you had an on-the-job injury but work for an employer who falls into one of these categories? The short answer is your claim goes on.

Almost all workers’ compensation benefits are paid through insurance, so the fact that your employer went out of business or was bought-out will not have a large effect on your claim. The insurance company will still have to pay benefits.

In these scenarios, an important question is whether you are working light duty or have restrictions to return back to work. Many employees

who are injured return to work with restrictions; for instance, they cannot lift anything over 10 pounds. The employer may offer them a light duty or accommodated position, such as administrative duties instead of heavy labor. If you have work restrictions and your employer goes out of business or lays you off, the insurance company will be responsible for paying two-thirds of your average weekly wage while you are off work, and may have to assist you in finding a new job.

The insurance company will sometimes argue that the lay off was for “economic reasons” and that a large number of employees were let go. However, the reason for the lay-off is immaterial. The important issue is whether you have work restrictions. In fact, even if you are fired for cause, you may still be eligible for wage benefits in most instances, so long as you have work restrictions.

“I’ve always had back problems but now I injured my back at work – do I have a claim?”

Working in the trades is hard on the body. In addition to a full workday of heavy labor, many workers stay very active with sports and perform work around the home. Over time, all of this activity puts more and more stress on the body even if you do not have a specific accident or injury. Some estimate that as many as 85-90% of all people will have back pain at some point in their lives. These people may have occasional back pain or discomfort and may even seek medical treatment for their back. For some, an injury at work may exacerbate or aggravate their back pain. In many cases, a work injury can transform occasional back discomfort into a need for aggressive medical treatment, including surgical intervention.

Under the Illinois Workers’ Compensation Act an employee is entitled to full benefits for aggravation of a pre-existing condition. The employee must demonstrate that his activities at work were one cause, not the only or

primary cause, of his injury or condition. So long as an accident at work made that condition worse, or made additional treatment necessary, recovery under the Act is possible.

Conclusion

Many varied employment injury fact situations arise. Whether a particular injury is compensable may, on occasion, be unclear. The Act is remedial in nature and is given a construction in favor of coverage. If you

have a question about compensability, call your attorney or speak to one of the attorneys at The Healy Law Firm.



By: Dennis M. Lynch



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Safe Home

By Heather Begley



Buckle up, baby!

En route to a recent outing, a friend who was sitting in the back seat wondered aloud if she needed to use her seat belt. Another friend said it was optional, but we all agreed it was probably a good idea to play it safe. This sparked a discussion regarding the law on seat belt safety for adults and children. I looked into it and share information on seat belt safety, including portions of the Illinois Child Passenger Protection Act, 625 ILCS 25, with you to help keep your precious cargo safe:

Adults: Under Illinois law, adults in the front seat must wear a seat belt. It is not mandatory to wear a seat belt in the back seat.

Children and teens: Children under the age of 8 must be secured in an age-appropriate child safety seat, such as, an infant seat, convertible seat, or booster seat used with the vehicle lap shoulder belt system. From birth to age 1-year and until the child weighs at least 20 pounds, infants should be in a rear-facing infant seat or con-

vertible seat.

Children aged 1 to 4 years and at least 20 pounds, up to approximately 40 pounds, should be seated in a convertible seat used forward-facing or a high-back booster with internal harness. Children aged 4 to 8 years who weigh between 40 to 80 pounds and under 57 inches tall should be seated in a backless booster seat or a high back booster used with the vehicle's lap belt and shoulder belts. Children and teens aged 8 to 16, must wear seat belts in any position in the vehicle. It is recommended that children under the age of 13 sit in the back seat so that they are protected from serious injury in the event that the air bag deploys.

It is important that the child safety seat is installed correctly. For infants, the child safety seat should recline at a 45 degree angle. The lads and lasses using car seats with harnesses should be strapped in snugly with the harness straps at or below shoulder level and the harness clip at armpit level. For children using booster seats, the belt should rest snugly across the chest

and rest on the shoulder and the lap belt should rest on the child's lap, not across the child's stomach. Do not place the belt under the arm or behind the back.

Note that if the vehicle's back seat is not equipped with a lap and shoulder system, a child over 40 pounds may be transported wearing only a lap belt. Children do not have to wear seat belts in commercial vehicles, such as limos and taxi cabs.

Importantly, the parent or legal guardian of a child under the age of eight years is responsible for providing a child safety seat to anyone who transports his or her child. Thus, if your child is going to be in someone else's car, send their car seat along too, and install it yourself, if possible, to ensure that it is done correctly.

Sadly, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's 2008 Crash Statistics showed that motor vehicle crashes were the number one cause of death of children between the ages of 3 and 14 years old. Let's do our part to make sure our wee ones have safe journeys.

Heather A. Begley works for the Law Offices of Jeffrey J. Kroll

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The Irish Rover

By James McClure



A Governor, a Senator a Mayor

In more than 25 years as a journalist, I've covered and met a lot of politicians.

As I write this column in mid-August, three in particular come to mind as I read their stories in the local Chicago newspapers.

The first is former Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich. We crossed paths four years ago when I was interviewing for a television news reporting job in Peoria. One of the quirks of t.v. news is that sometimes going for an interview includes interviewing someone for the station. In this case, Blagojevich was in town for a press event and my prospective boss asked me to go cover the event.

It was fairly routine as things gubernatorial go—he was traveling around the state promoting his new plan to offer free healthcare to impoverished children in Illinois. My assignment was to cover that, and also ask a tough question about something embarrassing in his administration on behalf of another t.v. station downstate that wanted his comment.

I forget the question to be asked, other than that it was something about fiscal irresponsibility. His answer I won't forget. For the record, he answered something about having to clean up the mess of the corrupt Republicans before him. Off the record he turned to an aide and whispered something I clearly heard, and could easily lip read: "That's what you get when f---ing Republicans send people to ask questions!"

At the time I was pretty shocked. Now it reads like it was lifted from his corruption trial wiretap transcripts.

That same year, I was working up in Alaska and was sent to a press conference with Republican Senator Ted Stevens. I thought back to that meeting when news came this week that Stevens had died in a mountaintop plane crash during a fishing trip in the 49th state.

In person, Stevens was much smaller in height than expected and much larger than life in experience. It starts when you arrive at the main passenger airport in Alaska... the Ted Stevens International Airport. At the time few places could claim an airport named for a living sitting senator.

He didn't hesitate to answer tough questions or give tough responses airing the answers. Surprisingly for some of the answers, he was getting a bit of coaching from a Blackberry. He kept glancing down during the more obscure topics that came up from the reporters at the conference. Not all that unusual when you consider that political and business leaders often approach a news conference with "talking points" prepared and ready on an index card. That he could find such things electronically, I thought was pretty impressive for someone in his Eighties.

The day after Steven's death another politician I've met passed away, in this case, from heart failure at the age of 59. You've never heard of him, but maybe you should.

Roger Ness was the mayor and then village trustee of Newark, Illinois, a small farming community in Kendall County. He also served as a Little League coach and volunteer firefighter in the community, and sold cars and trucks on the side for the Ford dealer in town.

His main profession was being a barber. Roger owned the City Barber Shop in Geneva, Illinois and held court there Monday

through Saturday with Wednesday and Sunday off. Until his retirement due to ill health last year, his shop was the place to go in town for a simple haircut, some great political and sports discussions and lots of laughs. You could get the same at his Country Cousins barber shop in Newark, which he opened on Wednesdays to mostly cut the hair of friends and family.

Roger was well connected, but also humble and down home. I often got more than a haircut when I went to see him in Newark and Geneva. He was full of funny observations, practical advice, and insights into how things work in small towns and big states. He cared about his customers and the feeling was mutual.

I like to think of Roger when I ponder what a politician should be and what a life should stand for. IrishRoverJim@aol.com.



Reel Jiggy

By Deirdre Kozicki



I am so happy! Something really awesome happened! I got a 2nd in my Treble Jig which means I qualified to dance Oirechtas solos. I was so relieved and excited when I read the results board. I know I will have to work hard and practice a lot but I'm sure it will all pay off. I was glad I got a 2nd until I looked at my results online and saw I only missed first by a half of a point. Oh well, I'll get them next time.

During my summer break, I read *Liffy Rivers: In the Shadow of the Serpent* by Brenna Briggs and it was really good. It's the fourth book in the series. Liffy Rivers and her Aunt Jean set out on another adventure, this time in South Africa. But with her long lost mom in the hospital and her dad with her, Mr. Rivers doesn't know that his daughter is in Africa on a safari. With a feis only a few days away, is someone out for Liffy this time with a deadly snake? This story kept me asking questions every minute. If you like Irish dance or mysteries, I would definitely recommend this book.

Speaking of aunts, one of mine just got married. The ceremony was on the beach, then it was up to the party. There was a bagpiper leading us up from the beach. My aunt, sister, cousins, and I did a jig and a reel. Even my 2 year old cousin did a jig. They had a cupcake cake shaped as a tree. It was a great wedding and a fun weekend. Congratulation Aunt Dee and Uncle Joe!

We had a t-shirt design contest for my summer golf league. At the awards dinner, I found out my design was one the finalists. Mine didn't win, but I was excited to be a finalist. I had fun at the dinner, dancing with my friends.

I had a busy summer! I'm excited about getting back to school, but it is always hard to say goodbye to summer! I have a few feises coming up that I'll be focusing on getting firsts. So wish me luck!

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Pappas Awards Senior Art Programs
Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas presents a senior easel award to Marie Sheehan (left) with the Senior Citizens Center Lifelong Learning Center at the Oak Park-River Forest Senior Citizens Center in Pappas' downtown Chicago office. Three programs in which senior citizens show their artistic skills were honored in a reception in Pappas' office.

Ireland in Black and White Lives On

Barry Hedrickson, a commercial photographer who photographed Ireland in black and white, died in May 2010 of pancreatic cancer. His legacy lives on in the haunting photographs he created to capture the beauty of the land of his ancestors, Ireland.

Barry and his wife, Nancy spent three weeks, pre-cancer years, traveling the hills and boroughs of the emerald Isle. Barry was struck with the history of this wild country and decided to photograph the essence of landscape in black and white. Since that first visit, the couple returned to Erin as Barry's health allowed, always for three wonderful, photography-filled weeks. Adding to his growing portfolio proved to be an overwhelming task to jury the hundreds of negatives and decide which ones to print.

Barry was a commercial photographer at the time. He always carried his camera with him and was photographing things. But he just fell in love with Ireland. I mean it really moved him. Just the tragic history, and the landscape, and being a commercial photographer he was

always using color so he decided to shoot it in black and white. He really loved black and white photography. When we got back from Ireland he decided to print some of these images for himself. And, he showed them to a few people and they just went crazy over them.



They showed their images at Irish festivals around the US and always were met with "oh, can you take more of County Mayo?" or "County Claire".

"Barry knew he had these images, and it frustrated him that he didn't have the energy or health to finish them," said Nancy.

Today, Nancy is undertaking an amazing homage to her beloved husband. She is continuing where he left off, developing and showing the vast collection. There are hundred of images that were never printed. It takes time and patience to develop and print the black and white images. "The time and attention he took to print them was truly a work of art," Nancy recalls. "When Barry got sick, we weren't sure what we were going to do. He was our provider." Barry continued to work on the collection as long as he physically could, leaving a legacy that can, hopefully, keep providing for the family he loved so much.

Nancy remembers, "He was very particular when it came to his work. He was very emotive and very dramatic, especially when it came to his photography. "I miss him and I feel that if I can continue his work, then he'll still be around" irelandinblackandwhite.com, or call 612-617-8170.

at 6pm, and two tickets to the exhibition and reception at 7pm.

Booking: www.eventelephant.com/thegreatbookofirelandinchicago

Dublin Designated UNESCO City of Literature

Dublin has been designated a UNESCO City of Literature, one of only four in the world. The sought after accolade recognizes Dublin's cultural profile and its international standing as a city of literary excellence.

Birthplace of James Joyce and Nobel Prize for Literature win-

ners William Butler Yeats, George Bernard Shaw and Samuel Beckett, Dublin's literary tradition dates back over a thousand years when monks would transcribe the bible into beautiful manuscripts. The best surviving example of which, The Book of Kells dating from 800 AD, is on show at Trinity College.

Heather A. Begley



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The Great Book of Ireland Here 10-20

The Great Book of Ireland is a unique manuscript containing works by 140 poets, 120 artists and 9 composers, including Nobel laureates Samuel Beckett, Derek Walcott and Seamus Heaney and renowned painters Louis le Brocqy, Pauline Bewick and Basil Blackshaw. It is widely regarded as one of Ireland's greatest national treasures and has been described as 'the Book of Kells of the second millennium' by former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson. Its large handmade vellum pages are bound in naturally cured goatskin and it is housed in a wooden box made from an elm tree planted by WB Yeats at Thoor, Ballylee.

UCC hopes to acquire the *Great Book of Ireland* from Poetry Ireland and the Clashganna Mills Trust, two charities dedicated to the support and celebration of poetry and art in Ireland. A special reception, with the opportunity to view the *Great Book of Ireland*, will be held in Chicago on October 20th, 2010, from 7pm-9pm at the Union League Club of Chicago to raise money for this significant acquisition*. Tickets are \$100; sponsorship, \$500.

Funds raised through ticket sales, sponsorship and donations will help UCC in its endeavour to purchase and publicly display the *Great Book of Ireland*.

UCC alumnus, Mr Devon Bruce and his wife, Mrs Yvonne Bruce, are very kindly hosting the reception. All

proceeds from ticket sales, sponsorship and donations will thus be channelled directly towards the acquisition of the *Great Book of Ireland*.

If you are unable to attend this event but would like to make an online donation to support the acquisition please visit www.ucc.ie, click "Support UCC" and select UCC Library Fund from the drop-down list provided.

*In acquiring the Great Book of Ireland, UCC and its graduates and friends will enable public access to this hugely significant volume while simultaneously providing much needed support to the poets and artists of Ireland. Sponsors will be honoured on a dedicated plaque when the Great Book is on display at UCC, will receive two tickets to an exclusive private viewing



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O'BITUARIES

Virginia Faye "Ginger" LeFevour, nee McHugh, passed away peacefully on Thursday, August 19, 2010. She will be remembered for the great love she had for her husband, Richard, and her family and her life long quest to bring beauty into the world through her artistic talents.

Born July 6, 1932 to Florence and Buddy McHugh, she was to meet her future husband at the age of three. Thus began a lifelong romance, marked by their marriage on August 22, 1953, and the subsequent birth of their seven sons, Terrence (Roseann), Rick (Gina), Timothy (Judy), Mark (Terry Anne), Matthew (deceased), Andrew (Suzanne), and Martin (Anne).

The blessings of grandchildren and great grandchildren brought Ginger some of her happiest moments. She loved dearly and will be missed by all of them - Genevieve, Conor, Sarah and Michael; Rick, Laura and Justin; Megan (Chris) Villarreal, Matt (Melissa), Kate and Amy; Joseph, Mark, Anthony Matthew (deceased) and Annie; Bridget, Andrew, Kathleen Virginia, Mary Clare and Emmett; Madeline, Maeve and Owen, and great grandchildren Audrey Villarreal and Gavin and Braden LeFevour.

She was a loving Aunt to many nieces and nephews and a life long friend of her beloved sister in law, Judy Veselik. Beside her family her enduring legacy will be the artistic treasures she created, from the hand painted Celtic vestments worn at Old St. Patrick's Church, to the "Grandma Ginger" trunks which hold (held) the treasures of our youth.

She is preceded in death by her husband Richard; her son Matthew, her parents, and her siblings, Janet Jennings and Richard McHugh. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Fr. Jack Wall Preservation Endowment for Old St. Patrick's Church would be greatly appreciated.



Ed McElroy, host of The Ed McElroy Show recently interviewed Tom Cusack, proprietor of Cusack Insurance Company in Oak Lawn and Ann Scoigletti, MS, FNP, BC, Nurse Practitioner, Clinic Coordinator of the Take Care Health Services at Walgreens in Oak Lawn. Pictured (L-R) are Tom Cusack, Ed McElroy and Ann Scoigletti.



Terry Hamilton as Richard Nixon and Andrew Carter as David Frost in TimeLine's production of Frost/Nixon by Peter Morgan. Photo by Ryan Robinson.

Peter Morgan's Frost/Nixon at TimeLine

TimeLine Theatre Company opened its 2010-11 season with the Chicago premiere of *Frost/Nixon* by Peter Morgan, running through October 10, 2010 at 615 W. Wellington Ave.

Three years after the Watergate scandal ended his presidency, Richard Nixon has agreed to break his silence in a series of interviews with up-and-coming British broadcaster David Frost. Behind-the-scenes it's a battle of egos for the upper hand in controlling history, but as the cameras roll, the world is riveted by a remarkably honest exchange between one man who has lost everything and another with everything to gain. 773-281-8463 x24 or timelinetheatre.com.

St. Patrick's High School to Celebrates 150 Years

Saint Patrick High School will begin its 150th Anniversary school year on Mon., Aug. 23 (7:50 a.m.).

Established by the Christian Brothers, St. Pat's is Chicago's oldest all-male Catholic high school. As Illinois' first high school to implement mandatory drug-testing, St. Pat's has developed a reputation for instilling moral and academic excellence in students from all over the city and surrounding suburbs.

A 150th Anniversary Committee has planned events for the banner year including a school wide mass that will involve members of the community on Wed., Sept. 29 at 11 a.m. For more information on these and other events visit www.stpatrick.org or call 773.282.8844.



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American Irish Studies Midwest Conference in Grand Rapids in October

By Kurt Bullock, Grand Valley State University

Dr. Terence Brown (Trinity College, Dublin), Dr. Roisin Kennedy (University College, Dublin) and Lynne Parker (Rough Magic Theatre Company, Dublin) headline the American Conference on Irish Studies-Midwest conference to be held at Grand Valley State University's Pew Campus in downtown Grand Rapids, October 21-23. Community members are welcome to attend the conference, which will include panel presentations from scholars in history, literature, theater, art, and music, along with plenary presentations from the special guests, and an opening reception with the Irish Consul General from Chicago.

Brown, professor emeritus and the conference's McBride Keynote Lecturer, has just last month published a collection of essays entitled *The Literature of Ireland: Culture and Criticism*; he recently published *Ireland: A Social and Cultural History, 1922-2002*, and also is a biographer of W.B. Yeats. Kennedy, a lecturer at UCD, is formerly the Jack Yeats curator at the National Gallery of Ireland and has published *Masquerade and Spectacle: The Circus and Travelling Fair in the Work of Jack B. Yeats*. Parker is the niece of Irish playwright Stewart Parker and the co-founder and artistic director of Rough

Liz Knowles CD

Release at Matyrs 9/25

Liz Knowles, (below) the hardest-working fiddler in Irish music, is proud to announce the release of her latest CD, *Making Time*, on the Major B Music label. The album is a stirring new exploration, a sonic reflection upon two decades of playing, living, and breathing Irish music. *Making Time* is composed of both familiar and never-before-heard Irish tunes from various old



collections of music, arranged with Liz's unique sensibility for strings and harmony. Her stirringly strong solo playing, signature string arrangements, and the powerful bouzouki of Pat Broaders provide the lush palette

and landscape of this magnificently engineered album. Guest musicians include Donna Long on piano, Dublin accordionist Johnny Connolly, and Kieran O'Hare on the uilleann pipes.

Making Time will receive its official release on September 25, 2010, in Chicago. As part of World Music Festival Chicago 2010, Liz and her musical guests will appear at 7pm at Martyrs', at 3855 North Lincoln Avenue. The evening's performance will include the music from the album live in concert. Immediately following this event, Liz will fly to France to undertake a 60-date tour of some of the largest venues in France as soloist and Music Director with Celtic Legends, for which Liz has composed and arranged a brand new show for the 2010-2011 season.

Contact Kieran O'Hare at majorbmusic@gmail.com or by phone at 773.531.8778

Magic, which recently completed production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, starring Stockard Channing.

In addition to lectures by these individuals, papers will be presented on a variety of topics in the arts and humanities by scholars and academicians from across the United States. The reception with the Irish Consul

General will be held Thursday evening; presentations by Parker and Brown, along with a number of panel presentations, will take place Friday; Kennedy's lecture will be held on Saturday morning, along with additional panel presentations. Pre-event registration for community members is \$45, providing access to all events. For more

information on registration and an events schedule, please visit the link at the ACIS website (www.acisweb.com), or feel free to contact conference co-host Kurt Bullock (bullockk@gvsu.edu).

The American Conference for Irish Studies (ACIS) is a multidisciplinary scholarly organization with approximately 800 members in the United States, Canada, Ireland, and other countries.

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The Playful Mysteries

By Terrence Boyle

It was with excitement, and anticipation that I traveled from Ireland to York, England, where every four years the city stages the *Mystery Cycle*, a collection of religious works that dates back to the 14th Century. These plays, older than



then the quest to contemporize such works require creativity from the actors and directors. And considering that each of these troupes range from professional, semi-professional to amateur, the level of expertise, as one would expect, varies. Experienced players and high school pupils face the same challenge of creatively interpreting

the archaic language without compromising the original work. One has to admire the effort (a parable in itself of human endeavor) and energy that goes into interpreting these ancient texts to a modern secular world.

Added to the difficulty of updating these works, there is also the very real challenge of working within a confined area. Since the plays take place on wagons, the space afforded to the actors is extremely limited. The lack of space means that every part of the wagon is utilized to aid the performance. The technical ingenuity required to showcase such performances demonstrates the skillfulness of the craftsmen.

For instance, in the creation story, the only actor present, playing the role of God, narrates the first five days of creation, and as he does painted wooden depictions of the sun, moon, animals, plants and the sea all pop up from various parts of the wagon. While the audience is entertained by the cleverness of the craftsmen, the play, ironically, becomes more

about human creativity, and invention and less about origins. The creation myth becomes the inspiration for the tradesman, the actor, and the artist, striving towards an ideal realization of their craft.

The play, *The Crucifixion*, takes the opportunity to demonstrate the skillful talents of the tradesmen further by creating a very intricate Calvary scene. Whereas the *Creation* play celebrates the positive aspect of technical expertise, the elaborate construction of the cross demonstrates the ability to turn such advancements into weapons of destruction. In both these works the directors have, consciously, or unconsciously, shift the emphasis from the metaphysical to the physical, from the divine to the human, so that we learn more about the complexity of human nature. We are capable of greatness, and destruction.

If you imagine the modern version of the Renaissance fair, the pageantry, the costumes, and the sense of wonder we find in days gone by, then you have some idea of what the *Mystery Cycles* aims to present. The difficulty comes when modern pre-occupations are superimposed onto an ancient text and the result can be either sublime or ridiculous. Sometimes an abundance of creative energy and enthusiasm may prove infectious, show stealing, but miss out on a very important part of the play, the text. The high school performance of the *Massacre of the Innocents*, Herod’s killing of infants, attempts to show the ineffectiveness of a dictatorship to subdue change. Herod, dressed as the archetypical, businessman lives in fear of being usurped.

The beautiful use of music, live and recorded, the choreography, and innovative use of a puppet all make for a good theatre experience. Unfortunately, the language of the text gets submerged amid the gimmickry. A pivotal moment in the play, the words of the soldiers, wracked with doubt and fear, is lost. The internal conflict of those perpetuating the crime adds a sense of compassion to the work. But even here, when enthusiasm over reaches and a vital insight into human nature is overlooked, one can still celebrate the limitations of human nature. We aim for perfection, and yet what make us interesting are our failures. However, they might want to change the puppet, who looked more like an evil Chucky than one of innocents.

Another example of how innovation can be entertaining, but not necessarily as intended, is the *Transfiguration of Christ*. Jesus, accompanied by his chosen disciples, climbs a mountain where his true divine nature is re-

vealed. This serious moment in New Testament is given a non-traditional rendering. Jesus, played by a very short young man, a possible comment on the rights of small people, is towered over by all the other actors. The social statement, if intended, becomes almost farcical when Jesus is, almost inappropriately, direct eye



level with Peter’s waist. And the comedy reaches its zenith when at the moment of transfiguration, the true revealing,

the son of God looks more like Frodo that the Messiah.

The need to believe is absurdly conveyed in the play *The Incredulity of Thomas*. The disciple who doubted the resurrection is given a second chance. Jesus, who initially appears with a light shining over his head, in a space that resembles a shower stall, steps out onto the wagon wearing nothing more than a towel around his waist, looking more like a modern metro-sexual man with his perfectly manicured body hair, than someone from biblical times. His refined looks, matched by his excellent manners, lead him to share the breaking of bread with three of his disciples. The whole scene appears ridiculously like a nice English tea party, with an almost naked Jesus presiding (something Monty Python would happily endorse). As Jesus sits down, legs apart, the moment of solemnity disappears. Someone should have had the good grace to inform the Messiah that it is good etiquette to keep your knees together. Fortunately, he was wearing shorts underneath the towel. While this version of the play wasn’t the most exciting performance, it did perfectly illustrate the difficulty

of depicting the mystery of faith to a skeptical Thomas-like audience.

What makes the *Mystery Cycle* worth seeing is its exploration of the human desire to believe. Spirituality, whether traditional or not, presents us with a reality beyond ourselves. Religion has been used to incite wars, yet it also encourages compassion and acts of charity. What makes the *Mystery Cycle* work is that it shows us at our best and worst. The *Tragedy of Cain and Abel* conveys the tragic consequences of sibling rivalry. Cain, the infamous murderer of his brother Abel, is sympathetically portrayed. His annoyance with the good son, his reluctance to give to God a tithe, is brilliantly dramatized. Cain demonstrates the fickleness of human nature and steals the show.

In each of these plays we see the racist, the hypocrite, the self-righteous, the friend, the lover, the godly, the godless in ourselves. And, having judged ourselves, we are finally led to the *The Final Judgment*. This grand finale is a delightful spectacle of gothic horror and fantasy. Devils and angels await the judgment of the human race and it is fun to watch the pillars of society, a bishop and other members of the cloth, consigned to the fiery furnace, while the less likely members of society, taxmen and prostitutes, are raised to heavenly heights. One can only imagine that the original audiences would have taken as much satisfaction with that accounting of the final judgment, as we do today.

The *Mystery Cycle* aims to remind us to become better people. The moral is quite clear, immaterial as to whether we are believers or not, we are all capable of great good or evil. We each share in the contradictions of humanity.

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The Long Process to Produce a Play

By Frank West

Sarah Wellington (pictured) explains that process. She is Co-Artistic Director, with Michael Grant, of the Seanachai Theatre Company.

The Seanachai ensemble of actors has produced great theatre in Chicago for 16 years! That is a great record of endurance and achievement that few other companies can match.

Seanachai is at its new home at the Irish American Heritage Center. And it just finished the exuberant production there of Brian Frid’s bittersweet play, “Dancing at Lughnasa.”

For the first play in its 2010/2011 season Seanachai is producing Conor McPherson’s *The Weir*. This will be presented from August 26th to October 3rd. And in spring it will produce the hilarious *That Was Then* by Gerard Stenbridge.

I asked Sarah Wellington to please explain to me the process of producing a play.

SW: “We search out scripts of Irish origin and interest, and then conduct play-readings to share some of those scripts and hear them aloud. Then we evaluate the script according to whether we feel it excites enough interest for our ensemble and audiences alike... and whether it fulfills our artistic mission, which is to create compelling productions through storytelling.”

FW: “Please describe the process Seanachai uses to take a play from script to stage.”

SW: “Our first reading of a script may be a year or more prior to production. Once a play is in rehearsal, the process generally lasts about five or six weeks, and is usually conducted in a separate space from the theatre itself. At the first rehearsal, we always start with a table reading, so that everyone can hear the play out loud. Then the director will share his/her vision for the production, followed by the designers—sound, lighting,



set, costumes.”

“Next we will get the play ‘up on its feet,’ and start blocking the scenes—figuring out where the characters move around on the stage. Over the next few weeks, the actors and director will experiment with different ways of playing scenes before settling on the final version. The last week of rehearsal is called Tech-week. That’s when you move into the performance set to rehearse and fine-tune all the technical elements, so that the show is ready for previews and Opening Night.”

FW: “*The Weir* is one of my favorite plays. Why did you choose this contemporary classic?”

SW: “Our artistic mission is to create compelling productions through exceptional storytelling.”

“*The Weir* struck us as a perfect Seanachai play: a storytelling piece, Irish in character and feel, but universal in theme. It also reflects the cultural

landscape of Ireland as a whole—its setting could be anywhere on the isle... and probably anywhere in the world where there is a separation between rural communities and their urban counterparts.”

FW: “It is extraordinary that Conor McPherson wrote *The Weir* when he was only 26 years old! To me that is a powerful example of the presence of genius in a playwright. What are some of the themes that he explores in the play?”

SW: “Transformation through storytelling is a central theme... The characters use stories to

impress and entertain each other, but on a deeper level to share experience and connect with one another. As each character relates his particular story, he, the listeners, and the audience themselves are transformed by what they have heard. When Valerie, the stranger from Dublin, tells her heartbreaking tale, the effect on the men and women in the audience is quite palpable. Throughout the piece, McPherson explores themes of loneliness, grief, disillusion and lives curtailed, often through the sparring humor of his richly drawn characters.

“*The Weir* is a very atmospheric piece, and lighting and sound in particular will be of paramount importance in showing how McPherson presents these themes.”

FW: “Thank you, Sarah, for describing the long and careful process of producing a play.”

Seanachai will present *The Weir* at the Irish American Heritage Center on Thursday, Friday, and Saturdays at 7:30pm, and Sundays at 3pm.

I’m looking forward to seeing this subtle but very potent play.



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Chicago Represented in All-Ireland GAA Golf Challenge

Atlantic Bar patrons (Upper left) Barry Tinley, Billy Heneghan, Paul Canavan and Padraic Canavan will represent Chicago in the All-Ireland GAA Golf Challenge in Waterford, Ireland on Sept. 11 and 12.

The foursome, who has been playing together for the last eight years, qualified for the tournament by beating out 13 other teams in Tinley Park in August. The team defeated the second-placed team by two points.

“It’s one of those things if you play well, you have as shot,” Tinley said. “It was our day.”

Tinley (originally from Dublin), Heneghan (Mayo), Paul Canavan (Connemara) and Paul’s son Padraic Canavan (Chicago) will face five other teams in Waterford. The teams will be represented by each of Ireland’s four provinces and another from New York.

“We’ll be considered outsiders,” Heneghan said. “When you’ve been gone as long as we have from Ireland, we’ll be outsiders.”

The team is sponsored by Robe Construction, which is owned by Paul Mulvey, and has been provided with shirts, golf balls, shoes and more for its trip. Mulvey is also an owner of The Atlantic, which is located at 5062 N. Lincoln Ave. in Chicago.

The team belongs to Goalpost, a golf society on Chicago’s South Side. Goalpost hosts 14 tournaments, including three majors, at golf courses throughout the Chicago area.

Notre Dame

Continued from next page
tial unrest, not the kind of universal rancor that registered across Bearcat Nation as word slowly trickled that coach Kelly was indeed leaving for Notre Dame.

Watching Kelly from afar, you can see why the Cincinnati fans’ feel so passionate about him. Kelly’s energy crackles as he speaks about the game of football. He is as comfortable in front of the cameras as Charlie Weis was not.

The Heritage Center Goes “Upscale”

In August, TV producer William J. Kelly of the Emmy award-winning Upscale TV, and his new bride, Laura, generously decided to open the doors of their exclusive upscale wedding at the Irish American Heritage Center’s new Erin Room for all to see. With ten of the Chicago’s most coveted wedding specialists and craftsmen, William and Laura hatched a plan to transform the Irish American Heritage Center, using a recipe of creativity, imagination, and of course, everything Irish.

“Driving up, the Heritage Center is definitely a fooler,” says star wedding planner, Anthony Navarro of Livin’ It Up Events, who was recently awarded the Best of the Knot, Winner 2010. “From the outside, to the inside and up the elevator to the beautiful Erin Room, it is two totally different experiences,” says Navarro. “The Irish American Heritage Center has a very unique feel that no other place in Chicago offers for wedding and events.”

To transform the Irish American Heritage Center, Navarro needed to assemble the perfect wedding team for William and Laura. He tapped Juliet Tan of Cattleya Bridal for floral, Deborah Weisenhaus of Art of Imagination for fabric and lighting design; Martha Olson of Tablescapes for unique tablewear and furnishings, Jenny Moran of Tabletoppers for custom linens; Naomi Levine, up-and-coming cake artist from Topsy Cake, D’Absolute Catering, photographers Angie Garbot and Joe Dowling, music by one of the hottest deejays around, DJ Harsh; and a retro 1930s/1940s style swing band called the Flat Cats.

Building on William’s love of all things Chicago and Laura’s passion for vintage, Navarro and the wedding team decided on a theme of Chicago nostalgia. Signature tables evoked the names of famous Chicago streets like “The Magnificent Mile,” landmarks like “The Pump Room,” and the wedding cake was inspired by the Chicago Theater complete

with the bride and groom’s names on the marquis. Dramatic ivory fabric and lighting from Art of Imagination draped the stage behind the Flat Cats, bringing guests back to an earlier era. DJ Harsh spun old classics like Bing Crosby’s “Swinging on a Star,” Louis Armstrong’s “What a Wonderful World,” and the Mills



William and Laura Kelly

Brothers’ “Let Me Call You Sweetheart” while the Flat Cats’ Amanda Wolff stunned with songs like “Paper Moon,” “Come Fly with Me,” and “Danke Schoen.” An entertainer at heart, William, the groom, even joined the Flat Cats for a “bring down the house” rendition of “Chicago.”

William’s bride, Laura, loved the Irish Heritage Center from the instant she walked inside. “Even though I’m Polish and Italian, it felt like home,” says Laura. “That’s why I was 100% happy with our decision to have our reception there.” William agrees. “The Irish American Heritage Center is my home away from home. That way I could share our wedding with the people who matter most to us, our family, dear friends like Maureen O’Looney and Irish boxer Henry Coyle, and everyone at the Heritage Center that I have come to know over the years.”

For more pictures go online to www.iannews.com.



Eamonn Kelly’s grandson, Eamonn Kelly, sits in the Stanley Cup during a recent celebration at the Tribune Tower in downtown Chicago. Mother Susan, and father, Kevin Kelly were on hand to make sure baby Eamonn didn’t get carried away!

Chicagoland Sports Hall of Fame Induction Awards Dinner September 15

On Wednesday, September 15, 2010, the Chicagoland Sports Hall Of Fame with the Standing Tall Charitable Foundation and the National MS Society-Illinois Chapter will present the 14th Annual Induction Awards Dinner at Hawthorne Race Course, 3501 S. Laramie in Cicero, IL. Cocktails are 6pm; dinner at 7pm in The Gold Cup Dining Room. This year’s emcee will be Tom Shaer.

The Chicagoland Sports Hall of Fame is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational and literary purposes, including to honor and memorialize athlete’s, coaches, teams, officials, media and others who have distinguished themselves with their contribution to sports. The Chicagoland Sports Hall of Fame qualifies as a tax exempt organization under section 501C3. Tax ID number N5861-660-5.

This year’s Honorary Chairman is Honorable Richard M. Daley. Honorees are: Mike Krzyzewski, Ray Meyer College Coach of the Year Award, NCAA Champion, Duke University; John Hannah, New England Patriots legend will receive the George Connor Lifetime Achievement Award for invaluable contributions to the game of Football; Doc Rivers*, Marquette University, Coach of NBA Boston Celtics 2010; Rocky Wirtz, Chairman, Chicago Blackhawks; Bill Madlock, Chicago Cubs; Frank Thomas, Chicago White Sox; Jeremy Roenick, Chicago Blackhawks; Jerry Vainisi, Chicago Bears & NFL Executive; Jim Corno, Comcast Sportsnet; Larry Wert, NBCU Chicago; Linda Mastandrea, Paralympic Gold Medal Champion; Simeon Rice, Univ. Illinois, NFL; Nick Rassas, Notre Dame All-American; Ted Cachey, Univ. Michigan; Emmette Bryant, DePaul University, NBA; Matt Senffner, Providence Catholic H.S.; Ed Maracich, Big Ten Official; Gerry Sullivan, Univ. Illinois, NFL; Willie May, All American/Indiana Univ.; and Richard Hazelton, Legendary Thoroughbred Trainer. * Upon Availability

With Kelly, you get the sense he really does believe that he will win at Notre Dame. You also get the sense that he does not expect it to take very long.

Nevertheless, Notre Dame fans have been down this road before...

Despite Charlie Weis’ yeoman’s work on the recruiting front—one area in which he fared unquestionably well—Brian Kelly will have his work cut out for him. For many of these talented kids that he has inherited will have to be deprogrammed

and taught how to win. At Cincinnati, Kelly did a marvelous job of winning with middling talent, guys who typically would not be offered scholarships by Notre Dame. At Notre Dame, his challenge will be to ramp up recruiting even more, maximizing the abilities of four-star and five-star athletes who have underachieved all too often in recent vintage.

If his track record is any indication of what Brian Kelly will be at Notre Dame, Irish fans will be cautiously optimistic.

Notre Dame Football

As August Saturdays retreat into the rearview mirror, Fighting Irish fans from coast to coast brace themselves for what promises to be a watershed season in Notre Dame Football.

Since 1996, when Lou Holtz was last seen nervously plucking grass from The House that Rockne Built, it has been an uneasy ride for Notre Dame followers, marked by embarrassing defeats along the way.

So why will 2010 be any different, you wonder? Well, for one, of the last three Notre Dame head coaches, only Tyrone Willingham had any prior head-coaching experience. Bob Davie, the man who replaced Lou Holtz, was the beneficiary of feckless leadership run amok within the Notre Dame athletic department.

Sure, under Davie Notre Dame’s defense had its moments, and they did generate a decent amount of sacks, but a championship-caliber defense it was not.

More importantly, Davie had not yet proven he was capable of stepping into the most pressure-packed job in all of sports. And as the legendary Ara Parseghian always said, “Notre Dame is not the place to learn how to be a head coach.”

As for Willingham, he did have prior head-coaching experience. However, coaching at Stanford, where there are fewer fans in the seats than a Styx reunion tour, is a far cry from being on national television each and every week. What Tyrone Willingham managed to do was parlay an 8-4 campaign, including a Rose Bowl berth (and loss) versus Wisconsin. By Notre Dame’s standards, that would earn him a steady hail of boos from legions of disappointed Irish fans. By contrast, the Cardinal faithful rejoiced in its first outright Pac-Ten title in 29 years.

Thrust into the cauldron of Notre Dame Football, Willingham,



By Brian Clarke

of course, raced out to a perfect start—8-0—to be exact. Then the fortuitous bounces stopped coming, and his opportunistic defense finally buckled under the pressure of having to carry an unproductive offense all season long. Blowout losses quickly became Willingham’s calling card, a hallmark of a coach seemingly phoning it in from the sideline, as he later proved to do on the recruiting trail—and later at the University of Washington.

And the rest is history.

Next up was New England Patriots’ offensive coordinator Charlie Weis. Weis, arrived at Notre Dame with high praise, and despite never having been a head coach (unless you count his one-year stint as the head honcho at Franklin High School in New Jersey, circa 1989) prior to his hiring at Notre Dame, many believed he possessed

the requisite abilities to succeed in South Bend. He was intelligent and outspoken, a hard worker and was also an alum—if that sort of thing matters. For many Irish followers, they hoped he would be able to infuse excitement into a boring and stagnant Irish offense.

Like Willingham, Weis got off to a fast start, taking Southern Cal all the way to the wire during the famous ‘Bush Push’ contest in 2005. At year’s end Weis’ directed his charges to the Fiesta Bowl against Ohio State. The game ended in a two-touchdown defeat that seemed a helluva lot worse than the final score had indicated. It also served notice that, under Charlie Weis, the Fighting Irish had better win by simply outgunning opponents, rather than playing shutdown defense.

Finally, and perhaps a year or two longer than it should’ve taken, Notre Dame relieved Weis of his coaching duties, humbling the cocky New Jersey native whose public demeanor during his final season left little doubt that his time in South Bend had taken its toll on him.

Hope or Yet Another Mirage?

Into the media glare steps new head coach Brian Kelly. Kelly, unlike his predecessors, comes to Notre Dame armed with a sterling pedigree, having won two National Championships (albeit at Division II Grand Valley State University), turning around a moribund Central Michigan program, eventually winning a MAC Championship during his third season and most recently guiding the Cincinnati Bearcats to a 34-6 record, spanning three seasons, including at least ten wins each year.

The level to which Kelly vaulted the Bearcat program was reinforced by the widespread negative reaction to his sudden departure to Notre Dame. Before Kelly’s tenure in Cincinnati, a head coach’s decision to up and leave shortly before his team was to participate in a bowl game would be met with only par-

Continued on previous page bottom right!

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