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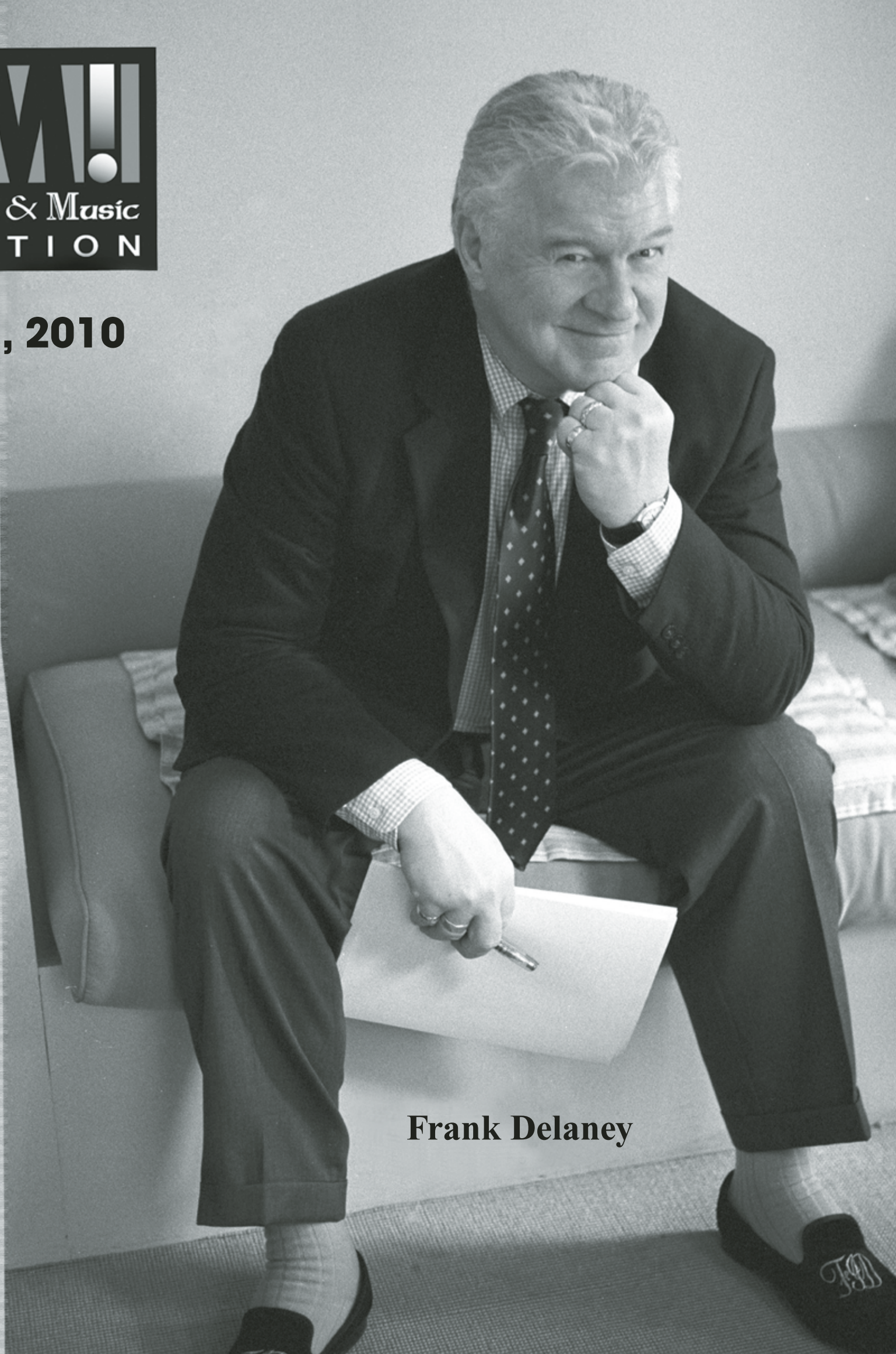
Heritage Center News

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Frank Delaney

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From the Motherland

Sean Farrell



The Banks and The Public

By the time you read this, several issues should be clear. Apart from knowing who won the All Ireland, we should know the terms and extent of the government's renewed guarantee to the Irish banks and we should have some idea of the government's attitude to the potential social time bombs of mortgage arrears and negative equity.

In September 2008, with a metaphorical gun to the head, the government moved to guarantee the assets and liabilities of the major Irish financial institutions. The alternative was a financial meltdown, or, at any rate, such a threat of one as to leave little option. The guarantee was total, with a two year duration. And it worked, after a fashion. The economy has tottered on, without the (feared) Iceland effect, and, despite several scares, without also falling to the depths of Greece. The government's strategy since, whatever you think of it, has been clear—to prop up the banks and aim to restore a viable banking system—and subsequent measures have been to that end.

However, just when the issue of bank bail-out had been thought sorted, it resurfaced. The latest disturbing revelations were half-year losses of around \$10 billion posted by Anglo Irish Bank, the now nationalised bank which many consider the Celtic Tiger's nemesis. To date around \$30 billion of taxpayers' money has been committed to help write off Anglo's bad loans, more than the other banks put together. With the latest losses the revelation that more money will be required for Anglo, at a time when the country is on its uppers and as a direct consequence of a guarantee shortly set to expire, has prompted a heated debate on what to do next about the bank.

This could be a psychological tipping point. The Irish public is heartily sick of the banks. It was all very well to commit funds to rescue the two main high street banks, if this was what it took to get them (and the country) going again. But this has not happened. The cost of rescue proved many times the original estimates. The resuscitated banks have reverted to type and are turning the screw on small businesses and other debtors. They would be acting similarly to-

wards mortgage holders in difficulties if they were let, or thought it worthwhile. Anglo Irish was not a "High Street" bank, and bailing it out has always sat unhappily with the public.

The relationship between the banks and the public has become an uneasy one as the recession has taken hold. There are no friendly bank managers where money is tight. An expert group on mortgage arrears and personal debt is set to deliver its second report. Its earlier one, on measures to help those with mortgage arrears, appeared in July. It in effect threw those in difficulties a temporary lifeline by suggesting a moratorium on repossessions pending a negotiating process, but left the banks the final option of repossession. The second report will concentrate on negative equity and could touch on the ticklish issue of debt forgiveness.

The latest figures on mortgage arrears emphasize the growing extent of the problem. The number in arrears of 90 days or more is now 36,438, or roughly 5% of all residential mortgages. Much more worryingly, the number in arrears for 6 months or more is now 24,797, a figure which looks set to rise. There is no chance that any economic recovery will come in time, or be extensive enough, to help those in this group. The issue looks set to come to a head before the end of 2011 as the moratorium expires.

The worst case scenario—the government doing nothing—is not one to be relished. The current trickle of repossessions will become a flood. Selling off the repossessed properties will depress property prices even further. The banks will seek to chase up borrowers for the balance owing; many, if not most, will face bankruptcy. Guarantees given by parents will be called in, widening the circle of those affected. There will be no winners, only losers. Even the banks themselves don't appear to relish this prospect; but banks are banks, and on past form we should not expect any favours from them.

Could Irish society deal with a crisis of this dimension—25,000 repossessions, thousands of bankruptcies? These are uncharted waters. But so was the situation re: the banks two years ago. There are no easy options.

Any official action to assist those in mortgage trouble would represent a radical new departure and would, like the bank bailout, require new legislation. And there are inhibiting factors. Public opinion on the property situation remains ambivalent. Many of those affected were first time buyers with no other option; others were would-be investors (seen now as get rich quick merchants).

Some of those who did not venture are now taking the moral high ground and suggesting that those in financial difficulties have only themselves to blame. The phrase "moral hazard" is being heard. A popular line is that mortgages are another form of credit, representing future consumption brought into the present, and therefore cannot be written off. There is clearly also a difficulty with those locked in negative equity with large mortgages but who are managing to pay up. If some are to be helped, where is the line to be drawn? And why should the prudent pay for the others? (This last was not heard when bailing out the banks!) It is worth pointing out here that the cost of bailing out 25,000 mortgages at \$300,000 or so (something no one is suggesting) would come to under \$10 billion, much less than the monies thrown at Anglo.

We are in an unprecedented situation. The government may have to be proactive and even radical. Ireland has come to earth with a bang. Who would have thought even two years ago that the taxpayer would have had to rescue the banks, and at what cost? The residential loan books of the banks are just as compromised (i.e., overvalued) as were their toxic commercial loans—now largely going or gone to NAMA. Can a situation be permitted where nothing is done to relieve personal debt while the other side of the balance sheet is cleared up by the taxpayer? It is all very well to strike a moral tone re: debt, but the primary task of government is to look after its citizens—not its banks.

As well as considering what the state could do, there could and should be a dialogue with the banks to explore options such as, among others, shared equity (and shared equity loss), more flexible mortgage terms (this for all in negative equity) and even the notion of some debt forgiveness. There could even be a fit-for-purpose second NAMA to deal with those in hock to the banks. There is still time to look further into this. Ultimately there may be a requirement for some tough talking to the banks. They owe us! And one thing is certain. This would be one move by the government guaranteed to have strong popular support.



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Raised on Songs and Stories

Shay Clarke

Barleyjuice... Skulduggery Street

I received this album just in time to be included in this month's column and having played it five times already looking for a bad note, I can tell you that I could not find one because it's just not there. Barleyjuice have raised the bar again with their new album Skulduggery Street, Celtic Rock at it's very best. The lyrics are bawdy, clever, poetic, romantic and irreverent. The music driving, rocking, rollicking, sometimes tender, but always inventive. The influences are everywhere, from country to rock, I can hear McGowan, Lennon and McCartney, even Jagger and Richards on this amazing album. Favorites, phew, they just trip over each other from the title track "Skulduggery Street" to the last track "Generations," a beautiful ballad, I just loves it all.

Skulduggery Street is a story told in song, like a rock opera. A story of love and loss, hard times and hard men, busty barmaids and a few chancers with a bit of drunken debauchery thrown in for good measure. It takes place on a hardscrabble street that could be Dublin, Belfast or Glasgow. It's definitely a port city,

so I suppose it could just as easily be Philly.

We meet Ivan MacRae, down on his luck as usual, as he encounters rascals and rogues on Skulduggery Street—I think I lived there once. We meet Molly and Ginger and some of their patrons at Molly's Tavern, and down the street Jock MacGraw pours whiskey at the Scottish Green, another public house. We meet the postman who is not all he seems to be, and the story comes together in the mad but brilliant mind of Kyf Brewer, but as they say, I came, I drank, I don't remember.

Kyf Brewer and the lads from Barleyjuice have delivered a superb album, their best yet. Skulduggery Street could be their "Tommy." Brilliant altogether.

IAHC Concert Series

I am really excited to be involved with the Irish American Heritage Center on their new upcoming concert series beginning next month with The 4 Courts, Jimmy Keane, Maurice Lennon, Paddy Homan and Jimmy Moore. This opening concert of the

series is on Friday, November 5th, and will be the kick off concert for the iBAM weekend.

In the months that follow, we hope to have Girsra from Pearl River, New York, Frankie Gavin's DeDannan, the return of the High Kings, and also Slide, Scythian, and Barleyjuice. Dates will be firmed up in the near future, and of course, you will be the first to know.

Paddy Noonan

It was my pleasure to have legendary accordion player Paddy

all of the Rego Records videos and DVD's over the years. Paddy came along with Sean O'Donnell, another great box player, who lives in Chica-goland and also entertains on some of Paddy's cruises. We had a rare old time, swapping stories and jokes over cups of tea, but unfortunately, some of the stories were not quite suitable for public radio. It was a great laugh though, and always glad to see Paddy and Sean.

iBAM... IAHC November 6-7

I was sorry to miss the inaugural iBAM last year, but I will be there for this great event in its second year. iBAM is chock full of authors, poets, musicians, bards and sea-nachies, and should not be missed by anybody with a beating Celtic heart. There is something here for everybody, children included, and it will certainly keep you busy for the weekend. Authors Frank Delaney, Arthur Cola, Mary Pat Kelly, Nicole Dixon, Patricia Falvey, Rita Emmett, Kelly Griner and many more will



Paddy Noonan and Sean O'Donnell

Noonan as a guest on Blarney on the Air recently. Paddy was visiting Chicago to see and catch up with some old friends, and stopped by the Glenmoor Studios to record the show. Paddy has been entertaining all over America, Europe, and Australia for well over 50 years, and still packs them in on cruises and tours everywhere. His version of "The Coolin" has always been my favorite, and was the theme tune used in

be there to meet and greet and chat with the public. There will be theater and readings, exhibits of calligraphy, and of course, The O'Shaughnessy exhibit is sure to draw a crowd.

I am particularly looking forward to seeing the Bogside Artists, I have always enjoyed their work and am looking forward to meeting them. They may guest on Blarney on the Air.

Musicians Mickey Coleman, The Kreeellers, Baal Tinne, Joe Cullen, Larkin and Moran Brothers and many more will also be there to entertain. Poets Jerry O'Neill and Justin Romine will be there also. For the kids there is a Fairy Tale party with children's author Sandra McCone.

This is a weekend not to be missed, it is very hands on, interactive, and plenty of face time to be had with all the participants. You can find full details and schedules on their website at ibamchicago.com.

Until next month's column, see you on the radio, Blarney on the Air, at 7pm CST on Mondays, or online at wdcb.org, 90.9FM in Chicago.

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John Doyle and John Williams at ICHC Wisconsin October 16



Guitarist John Doyle and button accor-

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Doyle

Pre-concert music in Quinlan’s Pub will be provided by the exiting and innovative Milwaukee quartet Myserk from 6:30-7:15pm.

Founding members of the groundbreaking Irish-American band Solas in 1995, Doyle and Williams each moved on to solo careers

as well as collaborations with a who’s who of other artists. A recent collaboration for Doyle and fiddler Liz Carroll led to a 2010 Grammy Award nomination for the album Double Play in the traditional world music category while Williams is known for his partnership with guitarist Dean MaGraw. www.ichc.net or 414-345-8800.

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G A E L L I C P A R K

A Chairde

Congratulations to the Central Division Board of the Gaelic Athletic Association for hosting a most successful North American Playoffs at Gaelic Park on Labor Day weekend. The hard work of a huge number of volunteers paid off. For over 125 years, the Gaelic Athletic Association has promoted and perpetuated the unique Irish sports of Gaelic football, Camogie and hurling. The Central Division Board, its volunteers and the Gaelic Park volunteers should be proud of the successful tournament. With the change of seasons, there is always a change of activities at Gaelic Park.

The Monthly Mass and Breakfast begins on Sunday, October 10, at 10:00 a.m. This inspirational event takes place on the second Sunday of every month. Guest priests say Mass in the beautiful Emerald or Tara Room. A delicious Irish breakfast of sausage, eggs, Irish pudding and potatoes are served immediately after the Mass. The Sunday Celtic Supper begins on November 7. Each Sunday, a delicious buffet dinner is served from 4pm until 7pm. The dinner includes soups, a salad bar, multiple entrees, desserts and coffee. There is live dance music from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. The Celtic Supper is a great place to celebrate birthdays, anniversaries and other events. The pub trivia quiz begins every Tuesday on October 5. Tim Tobin returns with all of the hard questions. It's loads of fun to bring a team of five geniuses (or people who think they are). Speaking of the Carraig Pub, there is live music on Friday and Saturday. Delicious pub food is available Sunday through Friday. With the cooler weather, our attention turns indoors. Gaelic Park has plenty of activities, so please stop by.

Yours very truly,

John C. Griffin, President

Gaelic Park Annual Fundraiser

Tickets will soon be in circulation, a sure sign in the Irish-American Community that the holiday season is not far off. We find that most people enjoy taking a chance and the Grand Prize is a big incentive. The major remodeling of both The Tara and Emerald Rooms in recent years has been possible because of proceeds from the Grand Raffle, and we feel that many people respond to our raffle because they know that the proceeds go to enhance the beauty of Gaelic Park. Many ticket buyers pur-

chase tickets on behalf of their children or grandchildren, and often we see groups of people pool together to purchase tickets. In 2009, Gaelic Park reduced the limit of tickets sold and in recognition of current economic circumstances, once again, only 1000 tickets will be sold. Tickets can be purchased at Gaelic Park or by contacting the raffle coordinator, John Devitt 708.710.8591. All directors have a supply of tickets and for Northsiders, The Sixpenny Bit on West Diversey will have tickets. Tickets will be in circulation mid-October, and the Grand Raffle will take place at Gaelic



Park on Saturday December 4th at 8pm. Gaelic Park is grateful for your support and good luck to all participants.

Gaelic Park Players Fall Production

of The Last Rose by Anne Dunphy 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;

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Chicago Irish Immigrant Support

events at Gaelic Park on Thursdays at 10am. All are welcome and anyone with any questions or in need of transport to Gaelic Park for meetings should contact them on 312-534-8445. 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.

Heritage & Harvest Day - The Best One Yet!

Irish traditions were alive and well at our annual Irish Heritage and Harvest Day in September. We had a turnout of more than 1,000 people come out to Gaelic Park which began with a telecast of the All-Ireland football championship

game - won by County Cork! Following the threshing demonstrations by Eamon Malone, an afternoon of fun for children and adults began including children's games, a tug of war, water balloon toss, and barrel races. Original paintings created by the children were displayed along the fences and others participated in apple bobbing, bean bag toss and cow milking competition. Marla Butler was the winner of the homemade apple pie contest! There

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was music, dancing and entertainment until the sun went down! Thanks to all the volunteers who made this day happen.

GAA North American Champions!

That is what three proud Chicago teams were able to yell at the end of Labor Day weekend at Chicago Gaelic Park. The Michael Cusack's Hurling Club, The St. Brigid's Ladies Football Club, and The St. Mary's Camogie Club will sport this new title until next year in San Francisco when they get a chance to take a run at the next level's cup. The North American Board recently passed a ruling stating that if a club wins the finals, they must move up to the next level for the following two years. From Junior C to Junior B, from junior B to Junior A, and so on. Though the games will not be held in Chicago again for a few years, each team will be looking for new players and fans for their next season. As Joe McDonough, the GAA Overseas Chairman, said, "It is amazing to see the growth of Gaelic games here in Chicago...and all these primarily American-born teams show us that we have an organization that is very much looking toward the future." Though plenty of our teams are filled with athletes from the old sod, I have to appreciate the big wins that our American players gave us. Among some of the hardest fought victories were the Patriots win against the Detroit Wolfe Tones, which came down to a single point at the end of the second half. With taste of the loss to Detroit over Memorial Day weekend still in their mouths, the Patriots entered the second half with only one point on the board. Now with the wind at their back and pure determination pulsing through the field, the hometown boys refused to be pushed around on the very field they trained on all year. In the end Chicago was celebrating,

but hats off to Detroit Junior B footballers for giving them a brilliant run for their money. Can't wait until next year. Greg Miller, GAA Assistant Pro.

St. Jarlath's Youth

attended the Continental Youth Championship (CYC) in Eisenhower Park, Long Island, New York this summer. The CYC is an annual tournament that features boys and girls from ages 8-18 from the United States, Canada, United Kingdom and Ireland competing at Gaelic football, hurling and camogie. Originating in Ireland, the two main games are Gaelic football and hurling. Camogie is the highly popular female version of hurling. The tournament was attended by GAA President Christy Cooney, Overseas Chairman Joe McDonough, Ladies GAA Pat Quill and Camogie GAA, Joan O'Flynn. Congratulations to St Jarlath's U14 hurlers and the U16 footballers who won the final in the CYC, and to the U16 hurlers, U18 boys, and U18 girls who were selected to play on the North American County teams. Well done to all the Chicago teams who attended the tournament! A big thank you to all the coaches, parents, volunteers and board members who are dedicated in keeping

the Irish tradition of football and hurling alive! For more information, visit our website, www.chicagostjarlaths.com.

Holiday Happenings at Chicago Gaelic Park

11/25 Thanksgiving Day Dinner Buffet
3pm - reservations required

12/4 Grand Raffle Fundraiser - 8pm

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USA Today, IndieWire, The Life and Times of Gary Burke... www.bloodoftheirish.com

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Uncensored, uncut and unpredictable, internationally-renowned comedian/actor Billy Connolly will expose Chicago audiences to his hilarious, oxygen-depriving new show Billy Connolly Live! for five shows only at the Royal George Theatre, 1641 North Halsted Street in Chicago, on October 5-9, 2010.

Making a rare appearance in Chicago, for the first time in over a decade, Connolly is considered "Britain's greatest living comedian." Critics have hailed him as "a genius," "a comic legend," "brilliantly funny" and "a superstar." His comedy has been referred to as "priceless, non-stop laughter



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Guggenheim Grotto with Ingrid Michaelson for Fall Tour

After a busy summer promoting the June release of its third album, *The Universe Is Laughing*, Dublin alt-folk

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Niall Griffiths and Irvine Welsh Live Book Readings

On Thursday October 14, at 7:30pm, contemporary Scottish novelist Irvine Welsh (*Trainspotting*, *Marabou Stork Nightmares*, *If You Liked School You'll Love Work*) and Welsh author Niall Griffiths (*Grits*, *Sheepshagger*, *Wreckage*) will perform live readings of their work at Smart Bar, 3730 N. Clark St. in Chicago, sponsored by The Chicago Scots and the Chicago Tafa Welsh



Niall Griffiths

Society. Tickets are \$8 and are available from: https://www.etix.com/ticket/servlet/onlineSale%3bjsessionid=2832BFDE13C247F0BF2FE98F2E5FFB67?action=selectPerformance&cobrand=metrochicago&performance_id=1330805.



Irvine Welsh

duo The Guggenheim Grotto has been picked up as direct support for Ingrid Michaelson on her 20-date October/November tour.

The follow-up to 2009's critically acclaimed *Happy The Man*, *The Universe Is Laughing* didn't take long to catch the attention of critics far and wide. Released June 15 on indie label United for Opportunity, the album is a lyrical journey through life's beau-

tiful mysteries with equal amounts melancholy and jubilation. Largely written and recorded in hotels and living rooms while crossing this wide country on tour, it sees Kevin May and Mick Lynch further develop themes of self-discovery and enlightenment while maintaining their signature mix of timeless alt-folk, soaring melodies and emotionally intelligent lyrics with a hint of electro-pop.



The Guggenheim Grotto, with Ingrid Michaelson, will perform the following area dates:

- October 20 – Chicago, IL – Vic Theatre
 - October 21 – Columbus, OH – Newport Music Hall
 - October 22 – Bloomington, IN – The Bluebird
 - October 23 – Madison, WI – Capitol Theater
- www.guggenheimgrotto.com.



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Boyle the Kettle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

Tom Boyle




Mayoral Scramble

Tuesday, September 7th, I walked out the back door of the Irish American Heritage Center at 2:30pm, just as an Aer Lingus Airbus was on its final approach to O'Hare—it was a beautiful site, the shamrock glistening in the sun. I hopped in the car and was surprised by the news on the radio that Richard M. Daley would not seek another term as mayor. The end of an era, and a body blow to the Democratic Party. There are many candidates across the political spectrum, but no Republican candidate as yet. The City is deep in debt, the union halls are full of people looking for work. Job creation is priority one. The sale of the city's assets has been a disaster. City pensions are still the biggest drain on the budget, and the same is true for the State.

There are big question marks, is there somebody out there with the vision and leadership skills needed for the job? O'Hare Airport is still the biggest economic engine, and Mayor Daley just got the City Council to approve another \$billion bond. The local election campaigns are shifting

into high gear. For the Senate, Giannoulis vs. Kirk, tax increase vs. tax cut, questionable banking practices vs. embellishing the truth. Is there another choice? Besides a basketball player and somebody in a VFW hat? Obama's backing Giannoulis. Quin vs. Brady for governor; seems the Democrats have left us quite a mess, can Brady fix the problems? What's going to happen here, either way, is more taxes! Taxes would have been raised long ago, if this was not an election year. Both of the candidates are career politicians. We'll have to put up with the smear campaigns, and Barack Obama raising his voice, and stabbing the air with his finger when he speaks. I happened to see Colin Powell on Meet the Press last Sunday. This is the man who should be President.

Minorities now make up 70% of the population in Chicago. I look for a new mayor to come from the Hispanic community. Will Jesse Jackson, Jr. run? His wife Sandi? They "might" carry the African American vote, but it will be a crowded field as Carol Mosely Braun has announced her candidacy, along with Danny Davis and Rev. Meeks. They will have a difficult time getting enough votes if they all run.

Congressman Luis Gutierrez said one thing that made sense regarding Social Security cards and immigration. He said they should be able to scan the Social Security cards just as they do passports, that way nobody can be hired for a job without a legitimate Social Security card. Comprehensive immigration reform will be an issue in the national elections, but will certainly be discussed by the Hispanic candidates in the local elections.

How about Rahm Emanuel, who has been conducting polls to see if he would be a viable candidate. Oops, what about Tom Dart? Which way will Labor go? Mayor Daley is staying out of it, believe it or not. Just remember to vote.

Mary O'Reilly

The Irish community lost another great woman. Mary O'Reilly, Cultural Chair Emeritus and a founding member of the Irish American Heritage Center, passed away Sunday, September 12th. Mary hails from Ennistymon, Co. Clare. She was the champion of Irish culture in Chicago, and all of her dreams were fulfilled when the Irish American Heritage Center was born, and the theatre, museum, library, art

gallery, and archives, all became a reality. The President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, dedicated the museum in 1991, and Irish President, Mary McAleese, dedicated the library in 2004. Mary O'Reilly left us her legacy of Irish culture. She was always looking for ways to improve the Irish American Heritage Center. She donated the carpeting for the museum and art gallery, and she did so anonymously, swearing me to secrecy until such time as that information could be divulged.

Mark Butler

Mark Butler fought a courageous battle with cancer for three years, and he finally succumbed to the disease. Mark and his father Mike have been dying the Chicago River green for the St. Patrick's Day Parade for many, many years. He will be sorely missed. A benefit will be held for Mark to raise funds to offset his medical debt. The benefit will be held on Saturday, October 9th, 2010, at Hawthorne Race Course from 3-9pm. They are seeking help with donations for the silent auction and raffle. You may visit their website at www.bet4butts.com.

Judge John Griffin

Judge John C. Griffin, perennial President of Gaelic Park, was honored as the 2010 Emerald Society Irishman of the Year by the The Emerald Society of Illinois Irish American Police Association at a dinner on Friday, September 25th. This honor is richly deserved, as John continues to give to the Irish community.

GAA North America

The GAA North American Finals were held on Labor Day Weekend, Sept. 3-5, 2010. I was there for the kickoff of the University of Notre Dame's football season. Heisman Trophy winner, Johnny Lattner, was there with his Heisman Trophy. I brought down a display of photographs from the Harry Boland's Hurling Team in 1961, along with a large photograph of the Chicago Hurling All-Stars in 1953, and the Erin's Own Camogie team of 1961. The exhibit was extraordinarily well received. A man by the name of Brendan McCormack asked if he could get a copy of the picture of the Championship Cup being presented to the Harry Boland's. I asked him why he would like that picture. He answered, "My father is in the picture." He was the captain of the Harry Boland's team. "I have the trophy on my mantel in Kansas City." I was delighted to be able to send him all of the pictures in my archives of the Harry Boland's team. It was a great day. Gaelic Park did a tremendous job of hosting the GAA games, and the crowd for the Notre Dame game.

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Dublin's Abbey Theatre Coming to Chicago with Terminus

By Terry Boyle

In March of 2011, Dublin's Abbey Theatre will bring to the Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA), Mark O'Rowe's award winning play Terminus. The Abbey, a premiere theater group, has achieved international renown. Founded by the poet, W.B Yeats at the beginning of the 20th Century, they have fostered and cultivated some of Ireland's best-known dramatists. O'Rowe, a successful screenplay writer and dramatist, has been critically acclaimed for his experimental and daring work. For those not familiar with O'Rowe's work the 2003 movie Intermission is a great introduction to his talent. A combination of these important theatrical forces must surely make for a tremendous night of Irish theater.



Terry Boyle

The characters of Terminus are edgy and neurotically driven. Their monologues intersect as they recall their stories of a single night. Three people rooted to the spot, immobile, with horizontal lights crisscrossing take us beyond familiar. We enter a completely different world of demons and angels. A lonely woman in search of love; her mother seeking forgiveness, and a serial killer, who has sold his soul to the devil, make for an experience that is profoundly unnerving. The darkness of the stage adds to the sense of suspense; whereas the surreal aspect allows us access to the psychology of the characters.

In writing Terminus O'Rowe states: "This play felt like an opening up of my world," Mr. O'Rowe said. "I realized when I wrote about the demon that if you can tell it well enough, you can go anywhere with this. Literally anywhere. That was a

real discovery."

O'Rowe's theatre is experimental, innovative, and dark. In exploring the mythological and supernatural, O'Rowe presents us with what essentially drives us as human beings to make sense of the world around us. He confronts his audience with the dark side of life, the demons we avoid, and the desire for something



more, atonement or salvation. The visual starkness of the stage is reflected in the structured language; beams of light, singular and yet interconnecting, are in itself a metaphor for life. While we may feel disconnected, isolated, we are connected in ways we do not suspect or realize.

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THE HERITAGE LINE

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Second Annual iBAM! Celebration Two-Day Showcase of Irish Books, Arts and Music

Highly acclaimed Irish broadcaster and prolific author Frank Delaney and The Bogside Artists from Derry, Northern Ireland, are just some of the many names appearing at iBAM! Chicago 2010 celebration this fall at the IAHC.



Frank Delaney

A fundraiser for the Irish American Heritage Center and its library, iBAM! returns for its second year, 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 a "live" mural painting, book signings, panel discussions, workshops, a poetry competition, art exhibits, lectures, theatre performances, live music and Irish dance, and kids' activities.

More than 100 Irish and Irish-themed

authors, artists and musicians will participate in iBAM!

Festivities kick off at 11am daily, with a full Irish Breakfast, live Skype calls from Irish celebrities and live entertainment. The breakfast is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children and reservations are recommended. Food and drink will be served all day and places to relax and enjoy a cup of tea or a refreshing pint while reading your new purchases will be everywhere!

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 Erin Ballroom. Dinner includes live music and the annual iBAM! Cultural Arts awards, 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, reservations are required, and include a cocktail party from 5:30-7pm.

For those who can not attend the dinner, cocktail party tickets are available for mingling with many of the weekend's

honored guests. Tickets are \$30 with an open bar and reservations are required.

Confirmed iBAM! artists and performers are:

Authors: Frank Delaney, Rita Emmett, Mark Quinn, Nicole Dickson, Mike Harvey, Arthur Cola, Mary Pat Kelly, Patricia Falvey, Sandra McCone, Joan Naper, John O'Brien, Mike Houlihan, Vicki Quade, Harolyn Enis, Mary McDonagh Murphy, John O'Brien, Kevin O'Hara, John Toomey, Kathleen Hill.

Artists: The Bogside Artists, who will paint a historic "peace" mural at the celebration, The Chicago Calligraphy Collective and Cindy Matyi.

Musicians: Mickey Coleman, Baal Tinne, The Irish Music School of Chicago, The Academy of Irish Music, Murphy-Roche School of Irish Music, Irish Harper Aislinn Gagliardi, Joe Cullen, The Larkin and Moran Brothers, The Dooley Brothers, The Cannadys and The Kreellers.

Highlights include a screening of Academy Award nominated, *Secret of*



Bogside Area, Derry, Ireland



Bogside Artist Mural Tribute to John Hume



iBAM! Poetry Competition

Poetry is an integral part of the upcoming iBAM! Irish Books, Arts, and Music celebration at the IAHC this fall.

Original poems in English or Irish, with no length or style requirements, can be submitted for a chance to win a prize at the iBAM! Poetry Competition.

The poems will be reviewed by a panel of judges and the winning poem will be read on November 7 as one of the iBAM! scheduled events. A prize of \$100 and publication in the *Irish American News* will be the award for the winning poem.

Entries must be received by November 1st 2010.

Contestants can send poems to Theresa Choske, IAHC, 4626 N Knox Ave, Chicago, IL 60630 or by email to editor@irishamericannews.com.



Secret of Kells

Kells both days, a documentary by the Bogside Artists and Mary Pat Kelly's award-winning documentary on the life of John Hume, Nobel Prize winner for peace.

To purchase tickets, call the IAHC at 773-282-7035 or visit www.irish-american.org or www.irishamericannews.com.

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THE HERITAGE LINE

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President's Message

Finishing Strong!

2010 has been a great year so far for the Irish American Heritage Center. We have seen our membership ranks grow dramatically, we have had numerous successful programs and events, we have been able to rectify and strengthen our financial position, and general activity levels around the Center continue to pick up as more and more people are coming around the Center for different things. If the year ended today, by any measurement 2010 would be considered a success. However, we still have three months to go and several important initiatives that could make 2010 one of our greatest years ever.

Irish American Hall of Fame

We launched perhaps our most exciting initiative since the creation of our Library at Irish Fest in July. The Irish American Hall of Fame will be housed at the Center, but will be a national institution in both its scope and participation. The Hall of Fame is currently accepting nominations for the first class of inductees. Anyone may nominate a candidate for the Hall of Fame. Nominations close on November 15. We currently have more than 75 nominations made from people across the country and in Ireland as well! A Selection Committee made up of prominent Irish leaders from Chicago and across the country will winnow the nominees down to a select number. A voting body made up of hundreds of Irish leaders, educators, artists, and professionals from throughout the country will then vote and determine



the inaugural class of inductees which will be announced in February of 2011.

The Hall of Fame will be a major feature of our Center for years to come and one that will help us achieve our vision of becoming the premier Irish organization in the country. A tremendous effort has been put forth by the Hall of Fame Committee and the

interest has been growing exponentially the last few months. For more information, to nominate a candidate, or to make a donation of support, visit our Irish American Hall of Fame website at www.iahof.org.

The Annual Appeal

Each year, we close our year by conducting our annual appeal with our membership. This is an integral fundraising aspect for our organization. Once again Center benefactors, Pat and Peggy Burke, again offered \$1 for every \$2 that we are able to raise from others during this year-end appeal. It's an incredibly generous offer, and I hope that our membership will once again rise to the occasion and support our Center financially so that we can ensure that the Burkes will need to make good on every penny of their promise! Watch your mail for more information on the appeal. Thank you to the many who have already donated.

Membership

We are currently in a membership drive for the organization. You can find the details in this issue, but already 840 new members have joined the organization this year. With the incentive of winning a trip to Ireland, I ask all of our members to help us reach our goal of 2010 members in 2010 and find one new member before the end of year.

The Annual Raffle

We are also in the midst of our \$100 raffle campaign. Each year only 600 tickets are sold and the grand prize is \$10,000. Fantastic odds! Tickets can be bought by individual groups, to purchase your tickets, call the office at 773-282-7035.

We also have a number of exciting programs to close out the year; theatre productions, concerts (featuring our own choir's fall fundraiser), special programs and iBAM!. Stop by the Center soon and help us meet all of our goals and to be a part of the most exciting year around the Center for a long time!

Bob McNamara

President, Irish American Heritage Center

Special Congratulations to our amazing volunteer crew who supply the expertise and muscle around our building projects. They have just completed another beautification project for our Center with the completion of Phase I of our kitchen renovation. Drop by to see their incredible handiwork sometime soon!

Shapeshifters Production Banks on Laughs

Shapeshifters Theatre presents *Anyone Could Rob A Bank* for its fall production.

The comedy, written by Thomas Coffey, involves Badger Grey and his family and friends who get caught in a comedy of errors, mistaken identity and who's to blame for a bank robbery.

After a few bank robberies appear in the local papers, Badger his bumbling nephews can't help but critique the shoddy work of the robbers. They plan the perfect crime and the mayhem begins when the local bank is robbed exactly as they planned but not by them.

Hilarity ensues when the would-be thugs try to out-smart the law, stumble over each other and try clear their names.

The comedy is directed by Robert Ayres and runs Friday, October 29 through Sunday, November 21. Performances are Friday and Saturday nights at 8pm and Sundays at 3pm.

During opening weekend, patrons can purchase "Bring a Buddy" tickets, which are buy-one, get-one free. Tickets are \$10 for IAHC members and \$15 for general admission.

The production is also part of the annual iBAM! celebration November 6 and 7. For tickets, call 773-282-7035 ext 10.

Singers Fundraiser Raises Funds and Raises the Dead



The Irish Heritage Singers are branching into new directions for their annual fundraising event this fall.

In place of the annual concert for which they have become so well-known, they are trying something new! *Finnegan's Wake and Estate Sale* is a good old-fashioned Irish wake, with lots of singing, story-telling, tears, snacks, raffles and auctions.

This is a departure from Singer's annual fundraising concert, but one which they hope will attract lots of attention. This departure for the departed is Sunday, November 21 and "Visitation" is 3pm to 5pm in the Erin Room, which will be open for drinks.

Tickets prices are broken down into four categories:

- Acquaintances are \$10 per person, which includes admission

to the wake

- Friends are \$15, with one raffle tickets for a Best Buy Gift card of \$150

- Family ticket is \$20, with three chances for the door prize

- Enemies pay \$25, with five chances for the door prize

Additional chances for the door prize will be available at the event for purchase, along with many items on auction from Finnegan's "Estate."

There will be lots of audience interaction with the audience, so come prepared to have lots of fun and help the Singers "mourn" the loss of poor old Finnegan!

To purchase tickets, call the IAHC at 773-282-7035, ext. 10.



THE HERITAGE LINE

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Executive Director's Message

Gaelic Park Does Chicago Proud

Tom Boyle and I very much enjoyed our time down at the North American GAA Championships held at Gaelic Park over Labor Day weekend. Teams traveled in from all around the continent to compete, and I had the privilege of watching a number of matches, including Milwaukee v. San Francisco hurling, Chicago Fire Department football team v. Philadelphia, and the Chicago McBrides v. San Diego football. Other teams came in from as far away as Charlotte, Phoenix and Vancouver. Groups from such towns must be astonished by what they find when they arrive at Gaelic Park - with action stretched across 6 pitches and several acres of land and a small army of volunteers looking after three long days of competition, all driven by a love for their Park and a passion for the sports being played there. Congratulations to Gaelic Park for a job extremely well done.

Also—quick anecdote from our time at the championships. My father always says that the world shrinks when you are talking to the Irish. This was certainly the case when a gentleman approached Tom's Chicago GAA heritage photo exhibit that he had brought with us from the Center's museum and set up in the side ballroom in Gaelic

Park. The gentleman asked for a copy of one of the photos, which depicted a trophy presentation scene in Chicago from several decades ago. Curious, Tom asked what about the photo intrigued him. He replied that the man holding the trophy was his father, and that the trophy itself currently sits on his mantle in Kansas City. Well, I would hazard a guess that an enlarged copy of the photo will be hanging over the very same mantle not too far into the future. Thanks to Tom for organizing the exhibit and to Gaelic Park for allowing us to share it. It was fun to watch dozens of young sportsmen marvel at the photos throughout the day. And thanks to John Griffin for organizing a fun gathering to watch the Notre Dame opener against Purdue. It is not everyday that you get to see the Heisman Trophy, let alone meet a Heisman winner!



Mike Doyle. Everyone who comes to the Center regularly knows Mike for always being the first on the dance-floor and of course for his love of the Center. Mike recently donated a substantial amount of beautiful Belleek china in memory of his late wife, and the collection has helped dress up the main hallway. Thanks Mike for your support.

I would also like to thank Tom O'Brien, Senior Consultant for Roof Spec, Inc. Tom is a member of the Center and recently conducted a comprehensive survey of our roof, which will be incredibly valuable to us as we look to refurbish it across the coming few years. Tom did this work free-of-charge, and we very much appreciate his generosity and support.

Finally, a huge thank you to the Arthur Guinness Day Music Festival planning committee, chaired by Imelda Gallagher and Fiona McEntee: two new faces that will hopefully be with us for a long time to come. A lot of hard work went into this first year event, and what an event it was!

Onwards,
Tim McDonnell, Executive Director
Irish American Heritage Center

Humble Notes of Thanks

I just wanted to send a quick thank out to my friend,

Rose of Tralee Blooms at IAHC



Enter to represent Chicago in Ireland for the 2011 Rose of Tralee Selection Regionals in June and compete to return to Ireland again in August for the International Televised Selection. If you are a young lady of Irish descent between the ages of 18 and 27, you may enter to win the experience of a lifetime.

There will be only 40 girls chosen in the surrounding Chicagoland area to participate in this year's selection to be held Friday, March 11, 2011, during the St. Patrick's Day festivities in Chicago. The selection will take place in the Center's elegant Erin Ballroom and the 40 winners will participate in the entire weekend that will include bands, vendors, parades and more! Two-night stay is included in your sponsorship entry! The staged event will be held Friday and the winner will be announced on Saturday.

The mission of the Chicago Rose of Tralee is to provide enrichment opportunities that will encourage young women of Irish descent to be exemplary role models for tomorrow's youth and to make a positive difference in the world. The Chicago Rose of Tralee is currently accepting applications for 2010 Rose candidates, Rosepetals and Rosebuds. For information call 773-239-3927 or email at info@chicagoroseoftralee.com.

For more information, visit the website at www.chicagoroseoftralee.com.

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2pm Erin Room

Donation \$10

For tickets, call 773-282-7035

Go Undercover with the Great Irish Books Club

The IAHC Library continues its discussions of the work of Irish and Irish-American writers with the Great Irish Books Club in the library on the second Sunday of each month from 1pm-3pm.

For more information, contact moderator Virginia Gibbons at vgibbon@oakton.edu.

- 10/10 *The Famine* by Liam O'Flaherty
- 11/14 *At Weddings and Wakes* by Alice McDermott
- 12/12 *The Yellow House* by Patricia Falvey
- 1/9 *Stalking Irish Madness* by Patrick Tracey
- 2/13 *Let the Great World Spin* by Colum McCann
- 3/13 *The Chairman* by Mark Quinn
- 4/10 *The Woman Who Walked into Doors* and *Paula Spencer* by Roddy Doyle
- 5/15 *Tortilla Curtain* by T.C. Boyle

Annual Golf Open Rescheduled

The 21st Annual Irish American Heritage Center Golf Open was postponed due to poor weather and is now Saturday, October 16, 2010. The outing is at St. Andrews Golf Club in West Chicago at 11am. The event is a fundraiser for the IAHC. All spots in the outing that were purchased will be honored and if you have not yet purchased tickets,



you can still reserve a place at the outing.

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.



THE HERITAGE LINE

IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

October 2010

October 1	Francis O'Neill Ceili Dance	Fifth Province	8pm
October 2	Shamrock American Club Social	Sham Amer Rm	8pm
October 6	<i>The Weir</i>	3rd Flr Theatre	7:30pm
October 8	<i>The Weir</i>	3rd Flr Theatre	7:30pm
October 9	Trinity Mommy and Me Tea Party	Erin Room	10am
	St. Patrick's Fathers Social	Room 109	8pm
	<i>The Weir</i>	3rd Flr Theatre	7:30pm
October 10	Great Irish Books Club	Library	1pm
	<i>The Weir</i>	3rd Flr Theatre	3pm
October 13	TIR NA NOG Seniors meeting	Fifth Province	11am
October 14	Irish Immigrant Support Meeting	Room 304	10am
	<i>The Weir</i>	3rd Flr Theatre	7:30pm
October 15	<i>The Weir</i>	3rd Flr Theatre	7:30pm
October 16	Roscommon Club Dance	Room 111	8pm
	<i>The Weir</i>	3rd Flr Theatre	7:30pm
	IAHC Golf Open	Offsite	11am
October 17	Galway Fellowship Brunch	Fifth Province	10am
	<i>The Weir</i>	3rd Flr Theatre	3pm
October 19	Celtic Women Monthly Meeting	Room 304	7pm
October 23	Margo Concert	Auditorium	7pm
	Margo After Party	Fifth Province	9:30pm
October 28	Irish Immigrant Support Meeting	Room 304	10am
October 29	<i>Anyone Could Rob a Bank</i>	3rd Flr Theatre	8pm
October 30	<i>Anyone Could Rob a Bank</i>	3rd Flr Theatre	8pm
October 31	Genealogy Meeting	Library	1pm
	<i>Anyone Could Rob a Bank</i>	3rd Flr Theatre	3pm

Regularly Scheduled Events

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



the fifth province

UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT

All shows start after 9 p.m.

OCTOBER 2010

Fri, 10/1	Ceili Mor
Sat, 10/2	deejay
Fri, 10/8	Seamus O'Kane and Jimmy Moore
Sat, 10/9	Joe Cullen and Kathleen Bremer
Fri, 10/15	Gerry Haughey
Sat, 10/16	Tom Hughes
Fri, 10/22	Matt Stedman Band
Sat, 10/23	Dooley Brothers
Fri, 10/29	John Devlin
Sat, 10/30	Gavin Coyle



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Irish American Hall of Fame Seeks Nominations



More Than 75 Irish Americans Nominated... Is Your Nomination In?

More than 75 nominations have been submitted for the inaugural class of the Irish American Hall of Fame (IAHOF). The IAHOF is national in scope and nominations are coming in from all over: Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Florida, Pennsylvania, New York and even Ireland!

Here is a sampling of the nominations to date...

Chief Francis O'Neill - Irish-born American police officer and collector of Irish traditional music. He became Chief of Police in Chicago in 1901 and after retiring from the police force in 1905, he devoted much of his energy to publishing the music he had collected. (Arts & Humanities and Public Service)

John Ford - an American film director of Irish heritage famous for both his westerns such as *Stagecoach*, and adaptations of such classic 20th-century American novels as *The Grapes of Wrath*. His won four Best Director Academy Awards including *How Green Was My Valley* in 1940, which also won Best Picture, and *The Quiet Man* in 1952. (Arts & Humanities)

Annette Rogers Kelly - a two time Olympian who was a member of the gold medal winning 4 x 100 relay team that set a world record in 1932 in Los Angeles, she also competed in the high jump and 100 meter events in Berlin in 1936. A Chicagoan, Annette Rogers Kelly was a member of the Illinois Catholic Women's Club that entered the 1932 AAU Championships at Northwestern University. Her results in the high jump and relay qualified her for the 1932 U.S. Olympic team. (Sports)

Father Edward Flanagan - born in Ballymoe, County Roscommon, was a priest and founder of Boys Town. (Religion and Public Service)

Cyrus McCormick - an Irish American inventor who developed the first mechanical reaper that revolutionized farming. (Science)

Nominate a Candidate

The IAHOF will honor the achievements of outstanding Irish American individuals 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 will recognize individuals who have positively shaped the Irish American identity in the United States.

Nominations for the first class of inductees will be accepted through November 15, 2010.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Must have either parent born of Irish heritage
- Must be a U.S. citizen or have been a full-time resident of the United States for an extended period of time
- Most associated as being an Irish American
- Must have distinguished him/herself in one or more of the award categories.

Learn more about the IAHOF by visiting our website at www.iahof.org.

Submit your nomination today! For more information email info@iahof.org or call 773-282-7035.

The Heritage Line Staff

Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

Contributors:

Mary Griffin
Bob McNamara
Peg Reid

Pam Marshall
Mary Morris
Leslie Singel

Tim McDonnell
Sheila Murphy
Kathy Werning



THE HERITAGE LINE
 IRISH AMERICAN
 heritage center Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

WIN A TRIP TO IRELAND!

Clock is ticking on your chance to win! Odds are still only an amazing 1 in 840!

2010 IAHC Membership Drive Member – Get A Member Contest

Someone is going to Ireland courtesy of The Irish American Heritage Center and it could be you!! With the membership drive coming into its final three months, your odds at winning this trip are infinitely better than any other raffle or lottery. Currently, the odds are 1 in 840. We still hope to reach our goal by the end of the year, but that still only means 1 in 2,010. Wouldn't you rather have those odds than playing the Lotto? Besides this raffle doesn't cost you anything! It costs your friend! Whenever you refer a new member, that paid membership enters you into the raffle. It's that simple – get someone to join today! 840 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 the programs and events being held and the work being done by our volunteers and staff at our Center.

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. So remember, encourage a new person to join the IAHC and you

have the chance to win a trip for two to Ireland. If you are not a member, join today and you can start recruiting members to get into the contest.

The goal for 2010 is 2,010 new members!

Get your family and friends to join and Win a Trip to Ireland or other great prizes.

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.

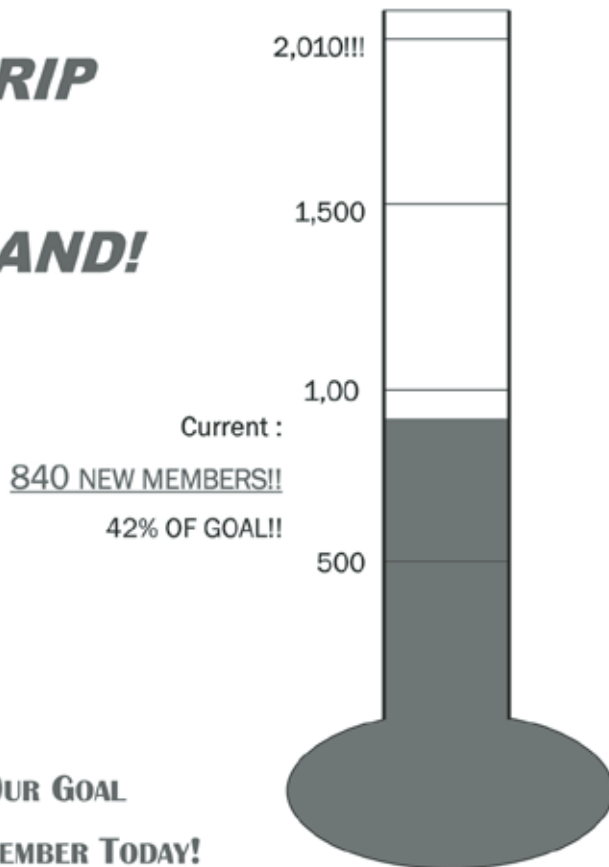
• **Membership Forms** are available below or on-line at www.irish-american.org.

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!**



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2010 NEW MEMBERS IN 2010!!

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To join call 773-282-7035 x10, visit www.irish-american.org, or fill out the form below. Send payment to:

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Address _____

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

\$2,500 - High King
 25-year membership without
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\$5,000 - Saint
 Lifetime membership without
 annual dues





pH Factor

By Pat Hickey



The PH Factor – Ecce Homo Sapiens

The ballerina rose gracefully en Pointe and extended one slender leg behind her, like a dog at a fire hydrant. - Anonymous

I do not know who penned that elegant sentence, but I love it. I love every turn thought and phrase that elicits a smile and somehow brings people together. At the very least the written word should be satisfying – inform and entertain. Taking an idea over the hill to another vista really delights me.

Like food, writing should reflect a temperament. I hope that my writing is at the very least satisfying and at best wholesome, but spicy.

The charming Nordic gent who publishes Irish American News – Cliff Carlson – asked if I would write something each month for this delightful magazine. I write something every morning between four and six AM and generally post what I have written on my blog – With Both Hands. I also work on a screenplay that I have developed about the Chicago Stockyards between the strike of 1904 and the Chicago Riots of 1919. I am only too happy to offer something for the readers of Irish American News (IAN).

This is humbling, given the depth and quality of the IAN contributors: Chris Fogarty who actually lives what he writes; Mike Houlihan who a Renaissance Man – auteur, actor, critic, journalist, radio personality and editor; Tom Boyle – who presents the heart at the hearth of Irish Chicago with wit and honesty; Dr. Sean Callan – whose plays have been performed in the States and Ireland and whose brilliant biography of Irish Illinois Hero James J. Shields stopped a callous and cowardly attempt at Politically Correct iconoclasm.

Who am I to join such talented inkmen? My name is Pat Hickey

and I never, ever, if at all possible, employ the formal cognomen – no one ever good news'd me with Patrick. Patrick was always prelude to a thorough and more than likely much needed arse kicking.

To my family – the vast and wonderful Hickey/Winters/Brennan/Lewis/ Burke/Walsh/Dimatteo/Gunkel/Cleary/Donahue – family – linked by blood and marriage to Larry and Nora Hickey of County Kerry – I am Pdraigin (Chicago-ized by my uncles to Pat Sheen), Larry and Nora arrived in this great country of ours from County Kerry in 1912 and immediately presented Christ and His Mother with thirteen children. Subsequently, Chicago was swelled with the copious offspring of Larry and Nora.

Pat Sheen seems an accurate sobriquet for this guy, which is me. Patrick comes from the Latin Patricius meaning nobleman and while my late father Patrick Eugene was truly noble his minor Patrick Francis is less so. My family is a tribe of skilled tradesmen – stationary engineers, carpenters, electricians, and machinists with sprinkling of talented lawyers. I became a Catholic high school teacher of English.

The classroom was my workplace, shop, tool bench, or cutting-board from 1975 until 1995. Since then, my labors in education have been raising money – writing grants, doing prospect research, and above all asking wonderful people to help the poor kids at Leo High School.

Most of the givers are Irish Americans who used to live around 79th Street. They are working class kids who have made good and never forget where they are from and who helped them go beyond 79th Street. These folks have names like Considine, Landis, Blandford, Donahue, Cassidy, Enright, O'Connor, McK-

enna, Power, Joyce, and also Badke, Koloseike, Panatera, Tanarelli, and Karaitis who married Mary Beths Eileens, Maureens, Sheilas, Megs, and Gerts.

The kids going to Leo High School have given names like Jelanni, Darius, Curtis, Akin and Marquis – they are all African American, but have much in common with the working class Irish, Polish, Lithuanian, and Italian guys who write checks with a lot of zeros after a number. In fact, they have much in common with the housing project kids in contemporary Dublin, Cork and Galway so celebrated by Irish novelist Roddy Doyle.

This is important and vital to a school like Leo High School as African American philanthropy is invisible or pretended to exist out of PC imperatives. That lack of civic giving, like the thug culture that bleeds the life and energy out of America, is something African Americans need to address themselves. Instead of carping about other ethnic groups they might do well to imitate what the charity and community sensibilities that are Catholic America. Catholics are rooted in the working classes.

There is a working-class antagonism to success, in our 21st Century world. This was born out of the secular popular culture and the more leftist political manipulation of what appears in print and on the airwaves. Irish journalist Kevin Myers of the Irish Independent writes of the parallel world to contemporary Chicago –

"We are more comfortable with Barrytown caricatures, with their horses going up in lifts, with their great good humour, and the endless crack. Equally, we are acutely uncomfortable when dealing with the real reasons why we have the least social mobility of any country in Western Europe. And I'm not talking about the easy target of middle-class prejudice against ambitious working-class boys, but the more difficult one of the working-class culture itself -- its self-regarding defeatism, its pathological unpunctuality, its addiction to alcohol and its disdain

for academic achievement.

What in reality will happen to the lad waiting for a bus in Darndale or Kilbarrack in the uniform of Belvedere College? He will, of course, be nearly lynched by his peers. And will many adults come to his aid? Or will they instead wryly reflect, "That's good enough for him. That'll teach him his place?"

Coercive conformism breeds low standards. Be honest now: when you book an Irish plumber or electrician, do you really expect him (and tragically, it's always a 'him') to turn up on time? Are you all that surprised if he doesn't turn up at all? But then you might get a phone call a couple of days later saying, sorry, he got tied up on another job, so he'll pop round tomorrow. Ask him why he didn't phone, and he'll throw you a few porkies. And if you're really weak and cowardly, you'll agree to a new appointment, which he might keep, or he might not, according to whatever suits him. "

What in reality will happen to the young man waiting for the CTA in Brainerd, Gresham, or Roseland in the white shirt and tie of Leo High School? He may get gunned down at the CTA bus terminal at 79th & Western. And will many adults see what happened? Or will they instead wryly reflect, "Wrong spot, G! This N don't snitch."

At Leo High School, which is driven by tuition and primarily donations, these kids meet the first white people in their lives, faculty and Alumni. They are mentored by black men as well – Leo Alumni on the staff like football coach Mike Holmes '75. Leo has one of the only full-time boxing programs in the State coached and directed by Mike Joyce '86, who happens to be mar-

ried to the daughter of Ennis County Clare rooted Muhammad Ali.

Boxing teaches self-respect and self-reliance. Too many American kids have gotten morbidly morally and spiritually obese and boxing knocks the phony self-esteem – I am special right out of them. It is tough to hide in the square ring. But, it is in the classroom that the real challenge to the streets is met – ideas and values duke it out with complacency and prejudice. Work ethic and personal responsibility bumps the gloves of excuses and opportunism. The kids mix it up, get knocked on their backs, but always come back to center ring for more.

All of this is supported by great and generous people and most of them are Irish Catholics. Circumstance of blood and birth do not make people special at all, rather it is laborious lessons learned from caring and tough people. Fact Non Verba, Leo's motto, means Deeds Not Words.

These black kids have wonderful people named Considine, Koloseike, Bradke, and Burns covering their backs. The old south side Irish aphorism, "We take care of our own" is only partially true – we take care of so many.

My family built a great life here in Chicago with help from the Irish community and they try to give back a little of what they have received. I hope that I have held up my end of the load, given my small talent and energy. My small talent sees the humor and beauty in a dancer's art and a dog's necessity and tries to make sense of that junction. God help me.

I have a very blessed life and I am delighted to be here with Cliff Carlson's wonderful folks.

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Chicago Express Newest Member of ECHL

C & S Sports, the ownership behind Chicago's expansion ECHL Hockey team, recently announced it will be the "Chicago Express" that will make its home at the Sears Centre Arena in Hoffman Estates, IL beginning with the 2011-12 season. Former NHL and AHL player, and most recently head coach of the Elmira Jackals, Steve Martinson, brings championship experience along with an unblemished playoff qualification record to the team.



The Chicago Express train logo was chosen in tribute to Chicago's long history with railways and the manufacturing of train cars. The secondary brand marker is an active train whistle. The colors of both logos include navy, grey, and sky blue.

In 15 seasons as a head coach, Steve Martinson has never missed the postseason. His

teams have taken advantage of their playoff opportunities, winning six championships.

The Chicago Express will offer affordable family-friendly buzzer-to-buzzer excitement to hockey enthusiasts of all ages. The East Coast Hockey League is a Premier AA hockey league and feeder for the National Hockey League and American Hockey League teams.

Season ticket packages are now on sale by calling 224-220-1333. Season ticket holders receive various benefits including access to exclusive parties and events, free "Friend Tickets," discounted merchandise and concessions, playoff ticket priority purchasing, discounted parking, and best of all—never waste a ticket; exchange unused tickets during any 2011-12 game.

Mighty Joe at An Seanachi in Blue Island

Chicago area singer/songwriter Mighty Joe Beatty will be performing at An Seanachi in Blue Island on Saturday, October 2nd at 9pm. An Seanachi is a cozy & welcoming place located at 2825 Burr Oak Ave. (127th Street) in Blue Island, IL.

An Seanachi provides the perfect setting to showcase Mighty Joe material, a combination of serious and also humorous songs that crowds enjoy singing along with.

MJ will be performing songs from his last few CD releases ("No Kids in the Beer Garden," "Songs for Cash," & "Balance") along with new material from an upcoming recording that is not yet completed, but is slated for release sometime in 2011.

For more Mighty Joe information, please visit www.MightyJoeMusic.com. To find out more about An Seanachi, please call (708)385-6916.

Great Book of Ireland Fund-Raising Reception at Union League Club 10-20

You are invited by University College Cork (UCC) to view the Great Book of Ireland at a special fundraising reception. October 20th, 2010 7pm - 9pm Union League Club of Chicago

Tickets: \$100 Sponsorship: \$500

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 Brocquy, 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 will be held in Chicago to raise money for this significant acquisition*. Funds raised through ticket sales, sponsorship and donations will help UCC in its endeavour to purchase and

Heather Begley Named an Under 40 Illinois Attorney to Watch

Heather A. Begley, 32, an associate at the Law Offices of Jeffrey J. Kroll, was selected as one of the Law Bulletin Publishing Company's 40 Under 40 Illinois Attorneys to Watch.

The 40 Under 40 Committee received over 900 applications for this honor. Fellow attorneys recommended nominees and the "up-and-comers" chosen demonstrated "intelligence, passion, scores of successful verdicts, hard work for their clients, a desire to help the community and willingness to work hard at one of the country's most important professions."

Begley practices personal injury and wrongful death law and has represented clients in trucking negligence litigation, railroad disasters,



Heather Begley

medical malpractice, car crashes and construction negligence. Begley grew up in Mt. Greenwood where she attended Queen of Martyrs and attended Mother McAuley High School. Begley graduated from University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana and DePaul University College of Law. She lives in Palos Heights with her husband and two daughters. Heather's husband, Ciaran Begley, emigrated from Dingle, Co. Kerry.

Begley can be reached by email at heather@kroll-lawfirm.com.



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publicly display the Great Book of Ireland. Booking: <https://www.eventelephant.com/thegreatbookofirelandinchicago>

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.

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

Additional Information Email: k.kelly@ucc.ie This e-mail address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it Telephone: +353 (21) 490 3643

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.

Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady

Revelations From Some Unexpected Quarters

"A false word is what the righteous hates, but the wicked ones act shamefully and cause disgrace for themselves."

—Proverbs, Chapter 13, Verse 5.

Is there something in the atmosphere at the moment? What is it with all this negative energy that is being poured my way? (He said, sounding like some ageing old hippy.)

I wrote the article on Sinn Fein at least two months ago and yet I'm still getting emails as to what a terrible person I am. Look, I know I'm a terrible person, so I don't actually need to be reminded of it every time I press Inbox.

Still, keep them coming. At least you are reading the damned stuff and take the trouble to write. For that I thank you.

It's odd, though. Most of the righteous indignation comes from America and yet here I am in Oranmore in County Galway where one guy that I socialise with and who is a die-hard Shinner just says: "You've a cheek, Brady, but your entitled to your feckin' opinion."

This is as it should be. I may not like his thinking and he sure as hell doesn't like mine, but we agree to disagree. Mainly because he's a good bloke. And hasn't shot me. Yet.

This week, though, I received a rather interesting letter, posted to me by way of the newspaper and... well, it just makes me wonder and I think it is deserving of being quoted in full.

"Mr. Brady, you write just like the p---k you are. Then a p---k is part of a man, something you are not. I've been reading your column for some time and the more I read the more you sound like the M.I.6. bastard that you are."

Whooah! Hold on a minute there, mate. I wish I WAS working for M.I.6; they have to pay better than these guys.

"I am no backer of De Valera or Cosgrave. They should both be hung [a bit late I would have thought]. The Brits were not going to hang a man that was working for them. There is a book out on De Valera called England's Great-



est Spy, but you probably read it already, but you wouldn't say anything about a prince of England."

Dear, oh dear, where does this guy get the impression that I'm English? Or later on, that I'm a Protestant? Wrong on both counts. And if I were, so bloody what?

"I notice that you have said nothing about the Mayor of New York. I also notice that you don't say anything about that faggot loving Mayor of Chicago. Why?"

"Are you afraid that some big faggot might reem you a new ass hole?"

Now that hurts. I don't write about these two mayors since I live in Ireland and truth to tell, don't know that much about them. I'm not sure what "reem" means but since you seem to have a fondness for homophobia, I'm pretty sure that you know what the hell you are talking about.

"The Germans never done anything to the Irish, and even if they did come to Ireland they could not do anything the Savage Brit didn't do. The Germans may not like your prod buddies but the Germans lost by one vote to be the national language of the United States. Germany did not rob the country of her wealth like the English did. I'd like to see what your answer is or will you just cut and run."

Well, never having been a man to cut and run here's your answer, James Aud.

You can always contact me at the email address below and if that is too much hassle for you, please feel free to contact me at 13, Riverdale, Oranmore, County Galway. You see? That's how simple it is to put an address on your letter. It's no big deal. Only a coward hides behind anonymity.

Who knows, once we get over your homophobia, rampant Nazism, and general ignorance, we might actually learn something from each other. We're both human (although I think that the jury might still be out on you) so we have at least one thing in common.

So much for James. I love a guy in touch with his emotions and you have to admit, like him or not, at least he is definitely in touch with his emotions. It takes guts to spend the time on writing a letter like that. I know how hard it is for me to write every damned article I do, and this is my living, so all sarcasm aside,

I thank him for that.

One guy I don't find admirable in the slightest is Father Tom Mulcrone who had a go, through the letters pages, at Tom Boyle in general and the Irish American News in particular.

Whereas the letter from James is honest and to the point, Tom Mulcrone's is civil on the outside and subversive as hell on the inside.

"You continue to publish the ramblings of one Tom Boyle. Never have I read more vitriolic, anti-Catholic sentiments as in your newspaper. Honestly, I do not care to read such garbage."

Get away with you! I don't know Tom Boyle from Adam, but what I read of him is generally balanced, well thought out and, while I don't always agree with him, I always find him thought provoking. And trust me, I surely don't always agree with him.

You go on: "As I travel from firehouse to firehouse in this city I will let my Irish American sisters and brothers know of my displeasure, what they choose to do will be their own decision. But be assured. I will do my utmost to discourage anyone from reading your publication."

Yeah, well I'm really impressed by the fact that you are the Chaplain for the Chicago Fire Department. What do you do when you visit? Make sure the collar is on show? Do you think that men like these can't think for themselves?

How arrogant and pompous. Even your opening lines of the letter: "I am not sure how to communicate with the hierarchy of the Irish American News..." Oh, give me a break, you're getting confused with your own hierarchy. Or should that be patriarchy?

I have written for this paper for seven years and have never met the editor/publisher Cliff Carlson in all that time; I just send in the stuff and hope that he'll print it. I'll tell you what, though, "Father," he went up quite a few notches in my estimation when he printed your "ramblings" as you so sneeringly described Mr. Boyle's far more considered piece. It wasn't to the betterment of his paper, I'm sure, but I'm guessing that he thinks that one view should be balanced by another. I'm just a humble hack, but isn't that what they call "diametrically opposed?"

But, "Father," to attempt to put people out of work in these times by the power of your little collar... that is just despicable. I'm willing to bet good money that you will still be

rattling the begging bowl under their noses of a Sunday mass.

Thank God I'm an atheist.

If you don't want to read this, fine. But to try to bend others to your will just because you're throwing a hissy fit?

You're a disgrace.

Email: chasbrady7@eircom.net.

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Tradition
In Review

Bill Margeson



Lane. In his hands, a button box moves to an entire "other" level. A god! As we grovel, let's tell you it is 12 cuts. He is joined on guitar by John McGann, a multiple-award winning, multiple instrumentalist. His accompaniment is perfect. Perfect. Try to pick a best cut. Go on. Try. The hunt for Male Musician of the Year is over. Joe is 80. He is, truly truly truly better than ever. This is indescribable. We'll stop trying, but it is a mathematical reduction. If Derrane is the best button box player in the history of Irish music (he is), and if this album is his best work ever (it is), this is—according to something heavenly Newtonian, the best button box

album ever (it is). This is Joe Derrane's best, and that means it is the best there is. Simple. Genius. Oh, yes. Let's not be afraid of the word. Genius.

Speaking of the best, Shannon Heaton is out with her newest, an all-instrumental treat called, *The Blue Dress*. Indisputably, Shannon is the best female flute player in Irish music in America. Let's not be sexist, Shannon is probably the best flute player in America in Irish music. Period. Who is better? There are 12 cuts, and they range from classics like "Wheels of the World" to several tunes the Boston-based, brand new Mom wrote. (All welcome Nigel Heaton!) Guest musicians of real talent in brill support. Shannon is the current, reigning Female Musician of the Year. Well, this album presents next year's winner, also. Yup. Two years in a row. It will be Shannon. Stunning. Get Derrane's. And Shannon's, *Blue Dress*. Alpha and omega. Go to mattandshannonheaton.com/ Now. Christmas is coming, boys and girls.

What an achievement from the Ward Irish Music Archives in Milwaukee. Good Lord! The album is *The Francis O'Neill Cylinders*. We can't conceivably cover it all here, but may in a future article. Let's say this much. Chicago's legendary Francis O'Neill caused to be made a number of wax cylinder recordings in 1904. They were thought lost until 2002 when the Dunn Family in Milwaukee found them in their attic, as they prepared to sell their home. The story of how they got there is all in these riveting, full liner notes and booklet with the album. There are 32 recordings on two CD's. Barry Stapleton, Jeff Ksiazek and Ed and Chuck Ward of the Archives have been



best piper. (See, we told you this was a great month for the music.) Just out with *O'Sullivan Meets O'Farrell VOL-UME II (2)*. The uilleann pipes meet the cello and harpsichord. There is a quiet little boom among this country's best musicians to add some classical in their playing, and here we have it. Oh, some are trad tunes, such as "Miller's Maggot"—we feel pretty certain Sallieri did NOT write that! But, there are also a lot of gorgeous pieces well fitted to this classical approach. Trad music presented in a creative way, by brilliant musicians. This is great stuff. Google Ossian USA, and get this. You will also become familiar, if not already, with Ossian USA. You will be thrilled with

this album and thrilled with Ossian USA. An invaluable resource.

Also in from Ossian USA is *The Living Stream*. This is starring Matt Cranitch on fiddle and Jackie Daly on button box. This is pure trad for the pure trad lover. No Irish "rock" nonsense here. This is the real deal

What treats this month! The joy modified only by our Nazi editor's demand of sticking to deadlines. All right. No whining. On to the music, and a fab batch it is, to be sure!

First up—and we may be in for a record here. Boston's Joe Derrane has a new album JUST out. On Compass. Entitled, *Grove*

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up to their elbows in this project for years. Add the incomparable Harry Bradshaw in Dublin, and you have the genesis of a major restoration/digitalization process carried out perfectly. Even the Library of Congress was involved. The result is nothing less than a record of Irish music in America recorded at its earliest possible stages. It lives. Patsy Touhy is joined by others like Edward Cronin in playing the tunes, still with us. Indeed, the two musicians are the progenitors of some of the tunes originally played for Francis O'Neill and notated by him for the first time. The sound quality is not new age digital. No matter. The playing is. These musicians do things on the uilleann pipes and fiddles in these recordings that are stunning to this day. Rest assured musicians around the world have their ears pressed to their modern gramophones, trying to figure out what and how. The best advice is to go to: irishfest.com/archives/ or just call 414-476-8999 and order it. It will go from history in your hands to history in your heart. We all owe the Archives and everyone connected a massive thanks. This is what it is all about.

Ossian USA is a terrific distributor/provider of music and all good things Irish, based out of Loudon, New Hampshire. They are, really, the American answer to London's unexcelled Copperplate when it comes to providing the tops in Irish music, and so they have this month. Jerry O'Sullivan is America's

played by two of the tradition's finest. But, you have to love trad. Lots of classics here, played perfectly. Lovely stuff, altogether.

Don't forget that you can hear all this on MaryAnn Keifer's and my Monday Public Radio program, *Ireland Tonight*. 8-9pm Chicago time, for an hour of real Irish music, also available at wccb.org. WDCB is at 90.9fm. and is also available in HD!

Ta!



Daly Investor

By John P. Daly



on estates larger than \$10mm. The most likely scenario is that Congress will pass a new bill that will revert the tax back to the 2009 level

investor, you need to be aware of the potential changes that are on the horizon and understand how they might affect your personal situation. I would strongly recommend speaking to your investment or tax professional to make sure you are in the proper position to maximize the money you keep and/or pass to your beneficiaries.

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.

Tax Changes for 2011

We are a few months away from the expiration of President Bush's 2001 & 2003 tax cuts. While a complete tax overhaul is unlikely to happen this year, Congress is suspected to make some changes that will go into effect this January. For this month's article, I thought it would be beneficial to talk about some of the most likely changes and how those will affect you in the future.

The first major change that will likely happen is an increase of the top two tax brackets, 33% and 35%. Those rates will most likely go back to their year 2000 level of 36% and 39.6%. This will affect single tax payers who earn \$200k+ per year and joint filers who earn \$250k+ per year. If this pertains to you, one thing you should be sure to do in 2011 is to max out your 401k or qualified retirement plan contributions. This will lower your adjusted gross income. For investors in this tax bracket who did a Roth IRA conversion this year, you might want to skip the option of spreading the tax liability on your conversion over years 2011 and 2012 and pay the entire amount this year.

The second change that is expected is an increased capital gains rate. Currently, investors are required to pay a maximum of 15% on long term capital gains and qualified dividends. If a new tax law isn't reached before January, that rate will go up to 20% for capital gains and dividends will be taxed at ordinary income levels. What does that mean for investors? Well in the simplest terms, less real return from your investments. While I wouldn't recommend selling all of your stocks to qualify for a lower tax rate this year, it might make sense to review your portfolio and do any necessary rebalancing before 2011. Also, dividend income could be reduced dramatically depending on your tax bracket. Investors can look towards tax free municipal bonds as another investment alternative.

Another major change that is expected to take place next year is the reinstatement of the Estate tax or "death tax." Thanks to the 2001 tax bill, the estate tax was 0% in 2010. That rate is set to expire at the end of this year and if nothing is done the rates will revert back to the 2000 levels of 55% on estates of \$1mm to \$10mm and 60%

of 45%. So after this year, larger estates (over \$3.5 million) will once again have to pay some estate tax. This would be a good opportunity to meet with your estate attorney to make sure your estate is set up properly.

As we all know, taxes are here to stay and they will most likely continue to change over time just like they have in the past. As a tax payer and

Mike Houlihan's Newest Film to Premiere at IAHC

The Irish American Heritage Center will host the world premiere of Mike Houlihan's new documentary Her Majesty, 'da Queen on Saturday night, November 13th at 7:30pm.

The film is a sneak peek backstage at the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen Contest and captures all the humor, heartbreak, and excitement shared by over 100 young women each year as they vie for the crown. Many of Chicago's most endearing Irish-American personalities are also featured in the film in intimate interviews during the pageant.

Her Majesty, 'da Queen was edited from

video shot at both the 2009 and 2010 queen contests. This one-hour program is a prologue to Mike Houlihan's epic documentary Our Irish Cousins, which is currently in post-production. Cousins was shot all over the US and in Ireland and reveals the Irish American experience in all it's glory, humor, and spirit.

The screening of Her Majesty, 'da Queen will begin at 7:30pm with introductory remarks by filmmaker Mike Houlihan and finish up with a Q&A with the audience and a post-screening party in the Fifth Province Pub.

For more information call 773-282-7035.



Mike Houlihan, (lower right) with family and friends, at the St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen Contest, held each February at Plumber's Hall in Chicago.

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For The Republic



Chris Fogarty



THE GATHERING STORM. My intention here, unlike the demagogues of hate-radio and Fox TV, is to assess the nature and magnitude of impending threats to us and our nation, so as to secure ourselves. America, due to its earlier policies, faces an era of suffering, partly unavoidable. American’s richest 2% and their corporations have bought our government and are running it for their exclusive benefit. Let’s review how it happened:

FIRST: The immediate cause of the 2008 collapse was the criminal take-over of our financial system. To achieve their purposes they, led by Phil Gramm, abolished Glass-Steagall which was enacted in 1933 to outlaw 1929-Crash-engendering practices, new variations of which they were planning to perpetrate. These were Collateralized Debt Obligations (CDOs) and, soon after, Credit Default Swaps (CDSs) The CDOs are bundles of many tiny portions of mostly residential

mortgages. Sold as “sound” investments (AAA, no less), pension funds across the world bought them. Buyers didn’t know that the issuers had 1) got crooked appraisers to overvalue the underlying properties, 2) extracted unconscionable fees at the closings, piling them onto the buyers’ mortgages, 3) bribed ratings agencies to rate this trash AAA, and, to make blindingly clear their criminal intent, they, 4) bet that the CDOs would fail, in that the CDSs would pay off only upon the failure of their (bound to fail) CDOs. They were called “Swaps” to evade federal watchdogs though no swapping was involved. The 2008 bank collapse occurred only because they hadn’t palmed off enough of their near-worthless CDOs and were stuck with many.

SECOND: To head off an immediate shut down of our entire economy (and a possible war of the entire world vs. U.S.) the Bush

administration bailed out most of the banks starting with some \$700 billion (much of which flowed through to the defrauded buyers of the “AAA” paper thus easing the international threat against us).

THIRD: Some main perpetrators of this greatest-ever financial crime are now Obama apparatchiks “rescuing” us from the catastrophe they created. None has been prosecuted, and

Glass-Steagall remains reinstated. (In my opinion Obama was correct in following Bush’s lead in keeping the banks liquid, though he should have prosecuted the banksters.)

FOURTH: While Bush deserves prosecution for letting those frauds make \$billions by destroying Strillions and our economy (and for his Iraq war, torture, domestic surveillance, etc), and Obama deserves prosecution for failing to restore the US Constitution by prosecuting the Bush gang. Absent those crimes, our financial system was good for decades more, though ailing since long before Bush’s era. America became addicted to inflation as memory of the Depression faded. The mini-crash of 1957-58 panicked lke into reflating. May 28, 1962 forced Kennedy to reflate. The 1966 credit squeeze forced Johnson to reflate, and so it has been and would have continued absent the 2008 collapse due to the CDO/CDS crimes. Landmarks of America’s decline were Pres. Johnson’s 1964 removal of the dollar’s silver backing, and Nixon’s 1970 closing of the “gold-window,” creating a paper-money-only economy.

FIFTH, how it was: Upon returning from Ireland in 1954 I joined Local 13 of the carpenters at the relatively-high journeyman’s wage of \$2.98, soon \$3.05. Unions were strong—the National Labor Relations Board supported them. Americans proudly claimed the industrial world’s smallest pay-differential between CEOs and workers, some 8-to-1. The world admired and envied America. We were confronting racism. Though

dead since 1945, FDR’s policies still benefitted America; pro-union, well-regulated banks, and war-profiteering outlawed. Social Security benefitted retirees, but incomes above \$200,000/ year were taxed at 90%. The economy was generally good. Many Irish immigrants became construction entrepreneurs. Like many others, I sold my houses for \$17,500 and \$18,000, full-basement, 3br, on a 30’x 125’ lot. Fraudsters were small-time and sent to prison. Bankers were decent dullards who paid interest on savings they lent at higher rates to people like me as construction loans that converted into mortgages within a few months. Banks kept their own mortgage paper, thus any default constituted a loss to the bank. At that time America was all about production, the creation of wealth, not the predation unleashed by the 1998 abolition of Glass-Steagall.

SIXTH: Much has changed. The first betrayer of America’s workers was Reagan (air-traffic-controllers). It continues. America’s admired 8-to-1 income differential between CEOs and workers gradually widened to some 400-to-one, an obscene chasm that Americans once considered despotic and foreign. Houses I sold for \$18,000 new in 1956-58 were recently, with some twenty percent of their useful lives remaining, selling for \$180,000. Were the currency kept honest those houses would be worth about \$3,600. Bursting asset-bubbles tend to revert to their pre-bubble price. What is pre-bubble? It took 42 years, from 1957 to 1999, to grow the first half of the price-bubble; but only eight years, 1999 to 2007, for its second half. America’s average new house price has dropped 20% from its 2007 peak of \$314,000 to \$250,000 in 2010. Will they revert to the 1999 average of \$195,000 – a further \$55,000 drop? If so, millions more face destitution. That is why I, a conservative, favored the Bush/Obama stimuli. FDR’s CCC and WPA, and Relief, saved millions

who would have otherwise perished, and whose death struggles would have wrought chaos and dictatorship. However —

SEVENTH Hoover’s failed nostrums are again promoted as if FDR had never saved America. The richest 2%’s greed has crashed us as in 1929, 1907 and 1893. They have again purchased our congress and our news media. Their stand-ins on hate-radio and FOX/Repub TV insist that if Bush’s tax-break for them is not renewed that the restoration of 39% (from the current 36%) will “kill the economy” - ignoring the 90% top rate in effect during Eisenhower’s era of prosperity and full employment. The hypocrisy becomes blatant when Repubs/Tea-Partiers attack Social Security, Aid to Dependent Children, health care, schools, pensions, police departments, etc., as unaffordable, while further enriching the richest 2%, blowing some \$2 trillion on criminal wars, and \$8.2 million on Israel each day, 365 days/year, the total (\$3billion) paid in advance on January 2, all while Israel wipes out Palestinians.

America’s middle class is sinking. From WW2 to 1975 middle-class incomes kept pace with its productivity gains. As late as 1980 the richest 1% received 9% of America’s total income, but in 2007 they grabbed a nation-wrecking 23.5% of it.

EIGHTH: WE FACE policies that William Cobbett, British M.P., denounced by letters from 1834 Ireland. The Crown government, abetted by their equivalents of our Ayn Rand, Friedman, Greenspan, Arney, Gingrich, Summers, Bernanke, Geithner, on behalf of England’s richest 2%, its landlords, was robbing the Irish of their output; squeezing them to bare survival on oatmeal and potatoes. Cobbett opposed Britain’s murderous Irish policies, partly to save England’s producers. He denounced calls to force English farm-workers to live on “coarser (cheaper) food” ala Ireland. To wrest the food from 1834 pre-Holocaust Ireland England deployed 30,000 soldiers, 50,000 militia-men, 11,000 carbine-toting constables, an army of tithe-proctors, drivers/bailiffs, and a large “justice”/penal system. Many thousands more soldiers were added to achieve Ireland’s Holocaust in 1845-1850. Its commemoration day is November 3.

BRITISH-PERSECUTED Gerry McGeough has suffered another heart attack. See www.freegerry.com. Contact fogartyc@att.net or 312-664-7651.

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A Word With Monsignor Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

Monsignor Michael M. Boland

Administrator, President and CEO



Creating Homes and Hope

Homelessness is a major fear—and an awful reality—that hundreds of families across Cook and Lake County are experiencing right now.

Catholic Charities works daily to end homelessness with a comprehensive continuum of care. We specialize in responding quickly and efficiently to people who have the most basic and profound human needs: food, clothing, and especially housing, in their own areas of residence. Six regional offices coordinate Catholic Charities services in every major area of Cook and Lake counties: Waukegan, Des Plaines, Worth, Cicero, South Holland and the city of Chicago. Our 156 service sites include food pantries, congregate meal locations, counseling centers, and senior residences.

In every region and service site, Catholic Charities has but one mission: to assist our neighbors in need, especially those who are in danger of losing their housing.

It is important to remember that

“homelessness” is all about ordinary people who once had a home. They may have lost their jobs due to the economy, or suffered an accident or debilitating illness; their benefits may have run out. These families or individuals may be living in precarious situations: in their car, camping out, sleeping at a friend’s house temporarily, or staying in a motel.

Homelessness is not just an economic problem. It is a major crisis for families and individuals. In each situation and geographic region, Catholic Charities works with homeless families to find immediate and long-term solutions. We try to prevent homelessness in the first place, but if a family or individual is already homeless, we move the family into a subsidized apartment, or into a family “interim housing” situation. Our goal remains to move the family or individual quickly into an apartment of their own.

Today, housing costs often outweigh wages; or perhaps the family

experienced a crisis: a period of unemployment, divorce, illness, or the death of a spouse. These homeless families, and hundreds of families in imminent danger of losing their housing, come to our doors not knowing where else to turn.

Fortunately, Catholic Charities can respond to these families in crisis in several ways to prevent homelessness: with immediate, short-term emergency help, or with a comprehensive “continuum of care,” providing services that will strike at the root cause of their homelessness and assure stability in the future.

For low-income families who have mortgages or leases, we focus on preventing foreclosure and eviction: strengthening the family in their current location and networks of support, and providing financial assistance and benefits screening to increase household income. Last year, 111,727 calls were received through Catholic Charities’ Information and Referral Center and through the Homelessness Prevention Call Center for the city of Chicago and Cook County suburbs (housed and operated at Catholic Charities), requesting short-term financial assistance, mainly for rent and utilities, by people experiencing a one-time crisis that threatened their housing.

Catholic Charities also prepares formerly homeless people in many situations for permanent housing. For women who come to us having lost custody of their children due to addiction, or who have regained custody of their children, we provide longer-term support in our Forever Free residential recovery program: a safe, healthy place for them and their children to grow as a family into independence.

For veterans who have been chronically homeless, or are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, diabetes, or addiction problems, Catholic Charities offers the St. Leo Residence for Veterans, a 141-unit apartment building; where they can regain their dignity and independence.

In addition to the preventive and positive measures already mentioned, Catholic Charities’ continuum of care in the City of Chicago includes the Homelessness Prevention Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) for families facing possible eviction or those in shelters. Focused on preventing homelessness by keeping people housed, this two-pronged program: 1) provides temporary help with rent so people can maintain their housing; 2) rapidly re-houses families and individuals who have already lost their housing—while providing

the comprehensive wrap-around social services they need to maintain housing stability. It’s a “Housing First” model, based on the belief that people who are housed first will recover and thrive more quickly.

A formerly homeless mother who completed our New Hope Apartments program, and is now a case coordinator for Catholic Charities stated: “Catholic Charities supported me as a whole person.... Catholic Charities left me with hope, and that’s what I want to give to my participants each and every day. Hope.”

To all those who partner with Catholic Charities and our dedicated staff to strike at the roots of homelessness, I offer my gratitude. Let us pray that our efforts continue to create true hope, and “homes” of peace, security and human dignity for our brothers and sisters in need.

To learn more about Catholic Charities, visit www.catholiccharities.net.

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Hooliganism
Mike Houlihan



They say politics ain't beanbag. But suddenly it's not supposed to be fun anymore either.

Back in the early seventies my brother Danny was the state rep out of the 19th Ward and old man Daley was mayor. Political rallies were raucous and wild with placard waving and guys like Mel Loftus putting together torchlight parades for candidates.

As a kid handing out literature and ringing doorbells for Alderman Tommie Fitzpatrick I was greeted with cookies and smiles from my neighbors.

These days they'd have my parents locked up for soiling my hands with politics.

Many of our better political leaders of the last fifty years were sent to prison for clinging to "old school" values like patronage and loyalty. And God forbid that any of today's public servants should ever utter a salty joke or give out an appreciative whistle at a hot babe. Today those are electric chair offenses, if we still had a death penalty.

The old Democratic Party was hijacked over the last thirty years by eugenics, philosophers, and advocates of what Clarence Thomas called "social engineering."

Yeah, the good old days are over, but if you know where to look you can still uncover some of the vintage Southside political mojo; some Bridgeport mixed in with some 19th Ward and a dash of Chinatown.

In spite of their differences, the Democratic Party got together last month at Bourbon Street on 115th Street and it was a wingding. I was there to see newly elected Worth Township Committeeman and my pal, John O'Sullivan. I had beers in both hands and a plate full of chicken legs as we listened to the speeches and I felt like I was in a sequel of the great Preston Sturges classic film *The Great McGinty*.

Bourbon Street was packed with cops, firemen, teachers, and union workers who were there to fly the flag for recently elected Worth Township Committeeman Johnny O'Sullivan. The big news was that State Representative Kevin Joyce recently retired, and Johnny O will fill his seat for the rest of his term in Springfield. Johnny O pledged to take no pay for the gig.

Kevin Joyce and his wife just welcomed their eighth child to the world, and Kevin insisted that whoever replaced him be pro-life. Johnny O'Sullivan is staunchly pro-life and God help us, there is still room in the Democratic Party for pro-lifers.

McGaffer extraordinaire, Water Reclamation President Terry O'Brien, gave the first speech and showed a lot of class when he saluted Alderman Toni Preckwinkle in the audience. She defeated O'Brien in the election for Cook County Board President to the shock of every Irish American in the crowd.

But Terry was there for Johnny O and he preached unity.

I stood with Cook County Assessor Jim Houlihan as we listened to the stem-winders. "Houli" grew up a few blocks from me and we still have a blast sharing laughs and beers when we meet. Since announcing his own retirement, Jim's been mentioned as the next Mayor of Chicago and even more so since Daley announced he's bagging it.

That was the big topic of conversation all night of course as the line of malcontent mayoral candidates stretches around the block. It's funny watching all these mopes stepping up, now that they won't have to run against Richard M. They jump around announcing their plans with all the zeal of a guy whose wife has just given him back the keys to the "testicular fortitude" drawer.

My favorite mayor, Jimmy Sexton of Evergreen Park, was standing against the back wall and gave me the Chicago nod, and told me he had just come from Ken's on Western Avenue and brought regards from our pal Jackie Casto. Sexton grew up in Little Flower parish and would make a great Chicago mayor if he still lived there.

Tommy Zbikowski's sister Kristen took the stage to introduce Governor Pat Quinn, and her beauty momentarily stunned the crowd. Her brother Tommy was the Notre Dame football captain who went on to a pro-boxing career, managed by Pickle Joyce. Kristen is a knockout, a Slavic blonde beauty, with an attitude like Natasha from the old *Rocky & Bullwinkle* show. Many of the politicians in the audience remarked on her beauty and how they were ready to sign up for Polish lessons. Easy boys, her brother is in the NFL and could clean your clocks, collectively.

Gov. Pat Quinn joined the other pols on stage to sing the praises of Johnny O, hoping to tap into some of the magic and votes they saw in the huge crowd. Even independent candidate for Assessor Forrest Claypool showed up for a blessing from the bunch of Johnny O enthusiasts.

So "who is this guy?" as the negative ads ask of another candidate. Well. Johnny O'Sullivan was a 19th Ward St. Cajetan's kid, and 1986 graduate of my alma mater, Mt. Carmel, where he was a champion wrestler. That's good enough for me, but he's also a long time member of Local 2 Laborers Union and a strong supporter of all our veterans and military and their families, lives in Oak Lawn with his wife Trish and three sons Johnny, Joey, and Tommy; and he can pack Bourbon Street with like-minded voters who believe in him.

You might think, like me, that the goo-goo's have taken over, but on an early fall evening in 2010—it was like going back in time at Bourbon Street. It was the old Democratic Party back in all its glory.



Piping It In

Jack Baker



Lots of good news and good music to talk about, but first one sad bit of news. Bill Millin has passed away at the age of 88. Bill was a piper with the First Special Service Brigade who landed at Sword Beach on D-Day and piped the troops ashore. He was portrayed in the 1962 movie *The Longest Day*. He played himself in the movie and later

iBAM! comes to the Irish American Heritage Center again next month and I, for one, can't wait. Last year was the first for this new and unique celebration of Irish books, art and music. A heavy emphasis is placed on the Irish literary tradition, and Irish authors showed up in droves to sell their books. This year promises to be even bigger and bet-

both well. He mentioned a new solo CD and later sent me a copy which I have enjoyed tremendously. The *Lover's Quarrel* is Mike's current solo CD and it is one fine piece of work. A traditional musician of undisputed talent, Mike plays music of such complexity that it really takes several listenings before you can appreciate the piece of art that you're listening to. Backed by a slew of local musicians that prove the fact that there is a hotbed of traditional Irish music being created and performed in the midst of the heartland, Mike's CD is pure delight from beginning to end. He ends this fascinating festival of trad Irish with a distinctly non-trad tune that is fast becoming my theme song. "I'm Getting Old Baby" ends the recording with a chuckle and I love it. This is one of the finest pieces of work I've seen this year but, I must admit, I expected no less from Mike Dugger.

Working the Milwaukee Irish Fest this year, I got to meet Shari Sarazin. Shari is a very accomplished harper and singer who has released a lovely CD titled *Arrival*. It has a very traditional lineup of tunes performed by Shari but the centerpiece of this puppy is the Wisconsin Official State Ballad, "Oh Wisconsin, Land Of My Dreams." Naturally there's a story here and it is that Shari's grandmother wrote the words years ago in a journal which came to Shari after her grandmother's passing. Shari set the words to music and the State of Wisconsin made it the official ballad of the state. Pretty neat, huh?

Got four new CDs to talk about this month, three of which are independent productions by the artists. I usually find independents to be most interesting but there have been exceptions. These three all have some really wonderful stuff on them. So let's get to it.

We were set up at the Dublin Ohio Irish Fest next to the pub stage, my favorite spot. It tends to be quiet enough to talk but still loud enough to enjoy the music. Dublin has had some great acts on the pub stage and this year was no exception. A great surprise was to see Mike Dugger playing there. Mike's from out in Kansas and currently plays with two bands "Glen Road" and "Kelly." I knew Mike from years back when he played with the great band "Scartaglen" and played as wicked a fiddle as I'd seen. These days he plays button box and sings and does

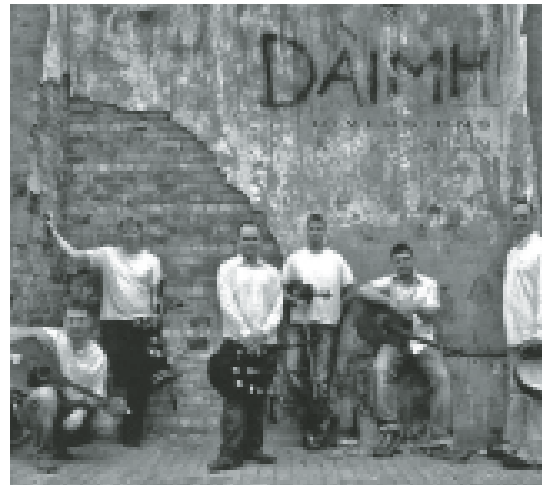
American Civil War, detailing the way Irish immigrants were preyed upon by military recruiters as they fled famine in Ireland for war in the US. She also ripped tears from me with her version of Jerry Holland's "Lonesome Eyes." It wasn't all sadness on this CD though, because with her selection of reels and polkas she's had our feet restless since we

sions is the third CD by the Scottish folk band Dàimh and definitely their best yet. Featuring pipe duets, great bodhran, fiddle, banjo, mandolin and vocals by Calum Alex Mac-Millan, *Diversions* certainly sings to my Caledonian soul. Vocals are in Scots Gaelic and remind me of the late, great Calum Kennedy. Pipe harmonies are tight and not overpowering. This is a band I'd love to see tour in the US but, unfortunately, nothing yet. Come on you Highland Games organizers, give these Scottish boys some work! Till they do you can hear Dàimh tearing it up on *Diversions* and their two previous CDs.

Finally, a word about Compass Records, you know there had to be one, right? Their latest CD release is by Luka Bloom but, unfortunately, I haven't had time to give it a full listen but I can tell

you, what I did hear is great. See you all at iBAM! at the Irish American Heritage Center next month or in the 5th Province most any weekend.

You can email me at pipingitin@comcast.net or give me a call at the store, 630-834-8108. *Slainte*.



Bill Millin

complained about the soundtrack that replaced his playing with "crap." I was honored to meet Bill several years ago, and found him to be an excellent piper who was surprised at his notoriety, stating that he was just doing his job. Deanna Smith Scotland, who wrote and recorded the song "The Man Who Dug The Well" memorializing Tommy Makem, has started work on a memorial song for Bill Millin. She sang the chorus for me recently and it was beautiful. I can't wait to hear her new CD.

On a brighter note, rumor has it that the City of Chicago Pipe Band will be raised to Grade 1 next year, joining that most elite level of pipe band competition that all bands desire but few accomplish. I must say that this band deserves the honor. Now we can only hope that the money will be found to sponsor a Grade 1 piping competition at the Illinois Saint Andrew Highland Games next June. It would be lovely if the games could have that level of competition as they move to their new home in Itasca. If you've got a couple of bucks to put toward the comp, get in touch with Gus Noble at the Illinois Saint Andrews Society and let him know you're willing to help.

opened the CD. A lovely selection that deserves a listen and a read of the liner notes to truly appreciate the beauty of it all.

Last CD to talk about this month is a beauty put out by that venerable Scottish label, Greentrax. *Diver-*

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An Immigrant’s Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



What Will the Border Security Bill Mean for Comprehensive Immigration Reform?

I have been asked this question numerous times since the passage of this massive bill costing \$600 million happened on August 7th.

There is as always no simple answer to a question, which is driven mostly by political considerations. The leadership of the Democratic Party is still calling for comprehensive Immigration reform. The leadership of the Republican Party continues to insist that the border issue needs to be fixed first.

Mary Giovagnoli, director of Immigration Policy Center was quoted as saying: “You can make the argument that it can reinforce the Obama administration efforts to disentangle the border issues from the immigration issues, but that’s probably not how it’s going to play out, When you see actions like this at the end of a session, you can bet it’s more politics than policy that’s driving their decisions.”

On this point I think Giovagnoli is very correct, and this is one of the

points which immigrant rights activists find most frustrating. Our political leaders on both sides of the isle are both guilty of allowing politics to trump policy, and meanwhile the problems for people awaiting a solution to our broken system go from bad to worse.

History, supported by study after study, has proved that enforcement alone will not fix the problem of illegal immigration. Moderates on both sides on the debate have admitted to me in meetings on Capitol Hill that the only solution likely to work will be a comprehensive one. This approach, as I am tired of pointing out, is supported by the vast majority of American votes and yet here we are three years after the last effort, and we are actually in a worse position than we were then. Here is an interesting fact: ICE removed 387,790 in illegal immigrants in the year ending Sept. 30, 2009, compared with 369,221 in 2008—a 5 percent increase from George Bush’s

last year in office. Nearly two months before the end of the 2010 federal fiscal year, the deportation rate is down slightly from 2009, but the number of removals is still likely to be more than triple what it was in 2001.

These figures come from a recently published study by Syracuse University in New York. Among the significant findings therein, we see: An increasing share of deportees are immigrants who have been convicted of a crime, reflecting the Obama administration’s effort to reorder the deportation process toward the removal of criminal aliens.

While no sensible person can argue against the policy of getting rid of a criminal element from our society, that effort is not sufficient to deal with the overall problem of overstays in the US.

Even the fact that more than one million people have returned to their countries of origin, (the majority have gone south of the border) because of the lack of jobs brought about by the recession does not mean that enforcement is working. It is as simple as the old law of supply and demand that has and will always continue to drive the labor market.

Right now it is looking increasing likely that the Republican Party will have control of the House after the November election. Most commentators still say that the Senate will still

have a Democratic majority and that means the only way to achieve success is in the end the best way. The best way is usually a compromise that is both practical and fair. The fact is: whichever party is in control, the issue of immigration reform is not going away, and sooner or later Congress is going to have “to grasp the nettle” and deal with C.I.R.

To the Choctaw People

I am sometimes asked to promote events and highlight occasions in this space and I don’t always do so, often because of a lack of space. Here is one endeavor that I am very happy to support and encourage others to do so. The people of Ireland need to remember and always be grateful for the support and practical assistance, which came from the Choctaw people during the suffering our ancestors endured during the Great Famine.

I received the following from Mary Coleman who lives in Ireland, and I am passing it on to our readers for your kind consideration.

A dheartháireacha is a dheirfiúracha, gabhaimíd míle buíochas libhse agus le bhúr muintir a chuaigh romhaibh as bhúr gcarthanacht.

We, the descendants of those who survived the Great Hunger in Ireland (1845-1852), wish to convey our sincere thanks to you, the Choctaw people, and to your ancestors, for their thoughtfulness, generosity and kindness in assisting our people during the greatest disaster Ireland has known. Your own people had experienced the anguish and suffering of the Trail of Tears just sixteen years previously, and yet, in spite of the trauma they must have still been dealing with, they reached out the hand of brotherhood and support to our people. Without this help, many of us may not be alive today. It is difficult to find words that adequately show our deep appreciation.

We survived!

Your support in signing this letter is greatly appreciated.

<http://www.PetitionOnline.com/Choctaws/petition.html>

Pebble, A

Drop a pebble in the water: just a splash, and it is gone;
But there’s half-a-hundred ripples circling on and on and on,
Spreading, spreading from the center, flowing on out to the sea.
And there is no way of telling where the end is going to be.

Drop a pebble in the water: in a minute you forget,
But there’s little waves a-flowing, and there’s ripples circling yet,
And those little waves a-flowing to a great big wave have grown;
You’ve disturbed a mighty river just by dropping in a stone.

Drop an unkind word, or careless: in a minute it is gone;
But there’s half-a-hundred ripples circling on and on and on.
They keep spreading, spreading, spreading from the center as they go,
And there is no way to stop them, once you’ve started them to flow.

Drop an unkind word, or careless: in a minute you forget;
But there’s little waves a-flowing, and there’s ripples circling yet,
And perhaps in some sad heart a mighty wave of tears you’ve stirred,
And disturbed a life was happy ere you dropped that unkind word.

Drop a word of cheer and kindness: just a flash and it is gone;
But there’s half-a-hundred ripples circling on and on and on,
Bearing hope and joy and comfort on each splashing, dashing wave
Till you wouldn’t believe the volume of the one kind word you gave.

Drop a word of cheer and kindness: in a minute you forget;
But there’s gladness still a-swelling, and there’s joy circling yet,
And you’ve rolled a wave of comfort whose sweet music can be heard
Over miles and miles of water just by dropping one kind word.

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

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Pat Hennessy



U.S. Gaels Make Chicago Gaelic Park Their Croke Park

In a thrilling scene, close to that of All-Ireland Day at Croke Park, 88 teams with managers and followers made Chicago Gaelic Park their Croke Park over Labor Day weekend. They came from California, Wisconsin and even Canada, to contest for American GAA titles under the auspices of the North American GAA Board.

From Friday to Sunday, over 40 games were played on adjacent fields in spacious Gaelic Park with the encouragement of record crowds all along the way. On Sunday the semi-finals and finals were decided before a full house. This surely must have been a record for the Gaelic Athletic Association, the largest amateur sporting event in the world. Even one for the renowned Guinness Book of World Records.

Even the President of the GAA, Nicky Brennan, here at Gaelic Park for a similar schedule a few years ago, said this. "Unbelievable." Wonder what he might say if he witnessed this one?

Our humble congratulations are extended to Gaelic Park, and such great workers as Harry Costello (Man for all Seasons), hardworking Eamon Kelly, Tommy Dolan, and the North American GAA Board. Our humble congratulations also to all concerned in Chicago gaeldom, for making those huge schedules so successful. The record crowd showed their appreciation when Chicago Gaelic Park was mentioned. I would be remiss if I did not mention President John Griffin, and his fine Board of Directors, with Marion Ryan, General Manager, and Melody and the beautiful colleens at the front office. Also, of course, the three wonderful people who control Gaelic Park Radio, Harry Costello, Mary Riordan, and Mary Hackett, three fine Gaels who do a great job on their popular Sunday night program. Beannact De ar an oibre, a cairde Gael.

Congratulations Tipperary - All-Ireland Champions

Facing heavy favorites Kilkenny, {winners of four All-Ireland championships in a row, and going for their fifth and a record.} Tipperary, playing with the wind and the rain, lead at the half by one point. During

that half, Kilkenny took out two of their star hurlers, Harry Sheflin and Tommy Walsh, both played injured in previous games. Many felt that those played should not have been on at the start, but maybe introduced during the second half. Nevertheless, Tipperary looked the better team in this half.

In the second, now playing against the wind and rain, Tipperary played even better than in the first half, and were obvious winners if they could keep the pace up. This they did, and finished as very deserving winners.

In the minor game, a gallant Clare team almost made a black out for Kilkenny, but the young lads from the Nore came through in typical fashion. This young Clare team showed all the style of former great teams from the Banner County and will be heard of in years to come. Congratulations all round!

Mayor Daley Will Not Seek Re-election

"Chicago's dynamic Mayor will not seek re-election," the announcer said, and most Chicagoans were stunned. They look upon him with love and admiration. He and his legendary father, each in their own way and style, had changed the city to make it even better than they had found it. Today, Chicago is one of the best organized and cleanest cities in the country, attracting millions of tourists every year, who honor the downtown shopping area, which is second to none in the country.

The Daley legacy started in 1955, when Richard J. Daley inherited a downtown that needed to be cleaned up if we were to attract business and tourists. That was accomplished in short order, even to the extent that Chicago was named "Cleanest Big City in the U.S." Conditions changed, and for the better of the City. The first St. Patrick's Day Parade was held on State Street in 1956. It was a wonderful success, and that parade was headed by a proud Mayor Richard J. Daley, Fr. Tom Byrne of St. Patrick's Church, and retired U.S. Navy Admiral Gallery, whose brave men captured a German submarine and towed it to a neutral port during World War II.

As great as the achievements had been under Richard J., it was the son, Richard M., that really changed Chicago for the betterment of all our citizens. One of the biggest achievements made by Richard M. is Millen-

nium Park, a tremendous attraction for tourists, after demolishing ugly Meigs Field, which had been used for private planes only. No doubt it assists the businesses with all the locals and millions of tourists who visit our city. And with the beautiful Lake Michigan within walking distance of the Loop (shopping area) it is ideal.

Our departing Mayor is a gifted leader. He is gifted at joining together life improvements with people's needs. The perfect vision he possesses is that of a great leader. A leader that our city and our country can not afford to lose at this time. Like a true Irish-American, he was never afraid to swing and miss.

The Daley's family link to Ireland is Dungarvan, County Waterford, where their ancestral home is located. If you think he is a brilliant leader here, he is all that and more when he and his family go home on vacation. The folks at the village always provides a public reception and the Daley name is indeed very popular. Mai O'Higgins, Ireland's famed poet and songwriter, wrote a lovely poem on the first visit, and is a friend of the Daley family.

The famous Pan American Games were held in Soldier Field in Chicago in 1959, with over 60,000 spectators from all 21 republics, including the United States. Mayor Richard J. Daley arranged to have a hurling exhibition open the Games. Two Chicago teams, led by Jim McCormack and Frank Davis, carried with great pride our own U.S. flag and the tricolor of Ireland at the start of the Games. It was a proud moment for all of us. The huge crowd, most of them seeing hurling for the first time, gave the players a standing ovation. After the ovation and game, spectators flocked to the field to shake hands with the players. It was a great honor for the old caman game.

Had Chicago been chosen as the host city for the 2016 Olympic Games, hurling would be recognized as a field game and a challenge game would have been arranged at spacious Gaelic Park. Mayor Richard M. approved and had forwarded it to his committee. A big honor indeed for all Irish.

We are all going to miss the strong leadership of our great leader. But after 20 years of brilliant leadership and hard work for our city, he deserves our best wishes for a long and happy retirement with his beloved wife Maggie and his family. We join with our Editor, Mr. Cliff Carlson, and his fine staff and writers, in wishing Mayor Daley a long and happy life together with them. From all of us at the Irish American News, the GAA, and Gaelic Park... Beannact De Agus Slainte. (God Bless you and best wishes.)

One in Six: Concern Leading the Fight against World Hunger

Join Concern Worldwide for the film screening

Concern Worldwide will present One in Six: Concern Leading the Fight against World Hunger, a documentary about the treatment of severe malnutrition in developing countries. The event will be held on Wednesday, November 3, 2010 at Chase Auditorium, Chase Tower – Plaza Level, 10 South Dearborn Street: Reception 5:30 p.m. Program and Documentary 6:15 p.m. Dominic MacSorley, Director of Operations for Concern Worldwide, and Steve Dolinsky, Food Reporter for ABC 7 Chicago, will be the guest speakers. Tickets are \$10. Please visit www.concernusa.org/emptyplate to register or call 312.431.8400.

Every night one in six people in the world go to bed hungry - almost a billion people - and more than 153 million of those people are children under the age of 5. In the face of the disturbing statistic, One in Six is a story of hope and success. The documentary tells the story of Community-based Therapeutic Care (CTC), an innovative approach to dealing with severe hunger and malnutrition in developing countries.

The documentary, filmed in Africa, Switzerland, and Ireland, features

leading international experts, including Dr. Steve Collins – who is based in West Cork – whose drive to discover a more efficient system for the detection and treatment of malnutrition and hunger led him to the doorstep of Concern Worldwide, who recognized the potential benefits of this new approach. More lives are being saved with the roll-out of the new approach into malnourished regions in Africa. In 2007, the World Health Organization agreed to use CTC as international protocol because of its significant breakthrough in combating severe malnutrition.

This event will benefit Concern's hunger relief program, Empty Plate Campaign.

Concern works in 28 countries around the world, including 17 sub-Saharan African nations, and benefits some 12 million people. The organization's goal is the ultimate elimination of extreme poverty and the reduction of suffering in the world's poorest countries. The organization's programs focus on emergency relief and long-term development work in the areas of health, HIV and AIDS, education and livelihood.

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Mick

Mike Morley



A Visit With...

Ruan O’Donnell is this year’s Patrick B. O’Donnell Visiting Chair at Notre Dame’s Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies. Professor O’Donnell visited Milwaukee’s Irish Fest for the first time this year, and while up in Milwaukee, we asked him



Ruan O’Donnell

about his impressions of the venue.

M2: Ruan, Welcome to Milwaukee Irish Fest. I would like to get some of your impressions, since this is your first visit to this event.

RO’D: Well the obvious first impression is the scale of the event. It’s absolutely huge. Obviously a great deal of organization has gone in to make it such a success; and I imagine that’s because it’s been going for over twenty years, something like that?

Thirty.

Thirty Years! Well you can tell. They’re highly experienced. There’s a logic to the format. There’s a great variety of events. I’m sure they’ve learned from past mistakes as all great events do as they evolve. They’ve a tremendous venue, right down on the lakeshore which lends a wonderful ambiance to the whole event. It’s efficient, it’s clean, it’s child-friendly. So basically my first impressions are highly positive.

What did you think of the music and entertainment as opposed to what you might see in Ireland?

Well, the first thing to say is, the Milwaukee Irish Fest is bigger than any festival in Ireland. And, I suppose that gives them some latitude to have a roster of acts which you wouldn’t get—and a typical Irish Fleadh would be a rough approximate in the

Irish traditional system. I was very struck by the presence of people like Len Graham alongside Tommy Sands and other performers. These are quite serious Irish performers from different strands of the Irish traditions, incorporating the Presbyterian Irish strand, the Northern Catholic nationalist background—There’s not just one tradition in Ireland, there are several—one country but several traditions. So, all of that was there, on top of the more, I suppose, popular ballad type bands and more instrumental type things people would be expecting at any Irish event.

Speaking of “Different Drums of Ireland”, so to speak, did you get to see that act and some of the other Northern Ireland exhibits?

I did attend some of those events, certainly, and the highlight for me would be seeing Tommy Sands. Tommy’s a terrific raconteur. He’s a serious folk musician as well as a man who does some humorous ballads, narrative ballads. He’s a very versatile performer. He’s from the North of Ireland, as you probably know, from South Down, near Newry, which was a center of considerable activity during the recent long war in Ireland. So I thought for me, that was a highlight. But in general I should say that the entire emphasis on culture is another thing that sets the Irish Fest apart from some other Irish events. You have the Gaelthacht area where Irish could be spoken; you have the genealogical section which is very important for American Irish people. You had a whole variety of cultural and, I suppose, “polite” political input.

“Polite political input,” meaning nothing that would scare anybody? No, it was very user friendly, and it’s not a criticism, because you wouldn’t expect to have any serious historical debate or serious political intrigue at an Irish fest. I personally would like to see that at any Irish event, but that’s my personal bias. So, all in all do you have a good impression of the entire event? I’m extremely impressed. I’ve heard good things about it in the past, and some of my colleagues in Ireland have come to it. I was very keen to grasp the opportunity to go down there, and I’m very glad I did so.

Ruan, tell us about your stint at Notre Dame. What is planned there?

I’m at Notre Dame for the full semester and I’m going to teach a course on “Revolutionary Ireland”, a survey course from the 1916 period where, as many of your viewers will be aware we had an uprising in Ireland against British rule and British imperialism in Ireland, up to 1998. And 1998 is currently, conventionally viewed as the end point of the Irish “troubles”, because that’s the year that the Good Friday Agreement, partially brokered by the US government, came into effect. And that certainly did lead to a massive diminution in the level violence and political fever in Ireland. So, I’m going to do a course that touches on these major themes. It will include the Irish War of Independence, the Irish Civil War, the origin of the modern Irish Troubles, and, I suppose, the onset of the Peace Process.

It’s an undergraduate course?

Yes, it is.

And do you have a full roster of students signed up already?

I do, I do, from a variety of backgrounds in Irish Studies and the History Department. So they’re rarin’ to go; and I’m looking forward to commencing the course.

Well, we’ll have to touch base with you on that and see how it goes, in another interview.

Very good. I’ll look forward to that.

~ ~ ~

Professor O’Donnell is a Senior Lecturer in the History Department at the University of Limerick. He is a graduate of University College Dublin and the Australian National University, and has published and commented extensively on the history of Irish republicanism worldwide.

Recent titles include *The Impact of 1916 and The Wexford IRA and the Border Campaign*. He is working on a major history of Irish political prisoners in English jails during the ‘Long War’ of 1969-98, due for publication in 2011.

E-mail: IrishTV@ameritech.net

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Comcast-(Elmhurst system) 41 West suburbs-Channel 19: Tuesday 7:30 pm

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“Craic is Mighty” at New Chieftain Pub

John Staunton, the owner of The Chieftain, hails from Westport Co. Mayo, where he owns another bar called John’s Bar. John has been visiting Chicago since 1995 and with a growing affection for the area, kept his eyes open for something that might help him make his visits a bit more permanent.

The Chieftain is definitely thriving, thanks to the loyal customers that have found their comfortable stool at the bar.

Over the summer the patio has hosted many games of bean bags, and outdoor get togethers, with music being piped outside. As the weather changes, the patio is covered and will have heaters.

Inside, the lovely stone fireplace is a warm welcome on those cold evenings, as you sit and enjoy some good music over a quality pint of Guinness and a hearty stew, or one of the other items from the menu consisting of appetizers, corned beef sandwiches, chicken paninis, and some traditional Irish dishes such as, shepherds pie, bacon and cabbage, and bangers and mash.

As well as having some great pub grub, the Chieftain can also cater your holiday parties.

To date, they have hosted retirement, birthday and farewell parties, and christenings and weddings, with great compliments from the hosts on the at-

mosphere, food and service.

With his musical background, music is obviously an important factor at the Chieftain. The crowd loves when John takes the stage, with songs from the best Country artists such as Willie Nelson, Toby Keith and Merle Haggard, to mention a few.

Every Wednesday, they host a night of great entertainment with Jerry Eadie, Mark Lynott and Bruce Foster, three individual musicians who come together forming a great combo, to please everyone, young and old.

Kara, John’s manager, also an entertainer, enjoys taking the microphone around the floor and involving the audience.

The weekends are filled with entertainment. Friday and Saturday nights, The Chieftain has a 3am license to sell alcohol.

October has some great events coming up, apart from having great drink specials for all the games.

Oct. 2nd, The Screaming End... a great rockabilly band, will perform.

On Oct. 15th Bernie Glim will perform, as U.S. 99 will be there for some great fun and music and giveaways.

The Halloween Party should be a scream with staff and customers in costume. Prizes will be awarded for the best costumes.

Stop in and see for yourself... The Chieftain Irish Pub is located just east of Harlem, a short walk from the Worth Metra stop, at 908 West 111th St., in Worth, IL. 708-827-5739.

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Irish Books and Plays in Review

Frank West



Canada and then to the United States.

This novel can be read for the pleasure of the

beautiful, graceful writing, and to understand Moore’s uplifting and compassionate view of humanity.

The *Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne*, by Brian Moore. New York Review Books, 1212-293-1641: New York, 2010. 230 pages, \$14.95.

Resistance and Triumphalism

The historical and social background of Ulster’s Blood and Thunder bands is described here.

Those bands bloomed in the 1970’s and quickly became an expression of Ulster Loyalist identity.

Young people who could not, or chose not to,

join the Orange Order or one of the Apprentice Boys bands, clamored to join the Blood and Thunder bands. They were perceived to be more modern, with their stirring music and colorful uniforms.

Those bands members marched in hundreds of parades in Northern Ireland, but mainly to commemorate the 1689 Siege of Derry and the 1690 Battle of the Boyne.

In 1689, Derry was a Protestant stronghold in Northern Ireland. King James II, a Catholic, claimed the thrones of England, Scotland, and Ireland.

The 1600’s were brutal and vicious religious warfare throughout Europe. There were no prisoner of war camps, no Geneva Convention to protect non-combatants, and usually no pity. Cities were regularly sacked and the inhabitants raped and killed.

When the army of Catholic King James approached the city of Derry, the people were understandably terrified. However, 13 boys had the courage to shut the cities’ gates. The siege was on.

The annual parade in 1969 to commemorate that event touched off the rioting that began the civil war, or The Troubles.

The Blood and Thunder bands of today are the cultural descendants of that siege.

The drum and flute bands, with their ‘wall of sound’ rendition of martial airs, are the raw underbelly of a culture that has always felt itself under threat of being overwhelmed.

In the peace that the Good Friday Agreement has brought to Northern Ireland, the Loyalist and Nationalist communities have tried to show more understanding of each other’s cultural traditions. The marches today are less confrontational and more mutual respect and tolerance have resulted.

Blood and Thunder: Inside an Ulster Protestant Band, by Darach MacDonald. Mercier Press and Dufour editions. 610-458-5005: Dublin and Chester Springs, PA, 2010. 352 pages, \$21.95.

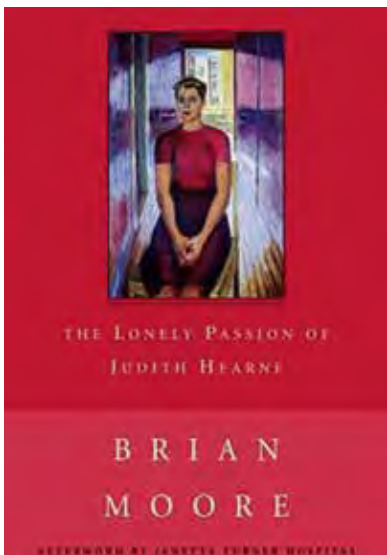
Ireland’s history is replete with proud examples of resistance to English rule: rebellions

Continued to page 31

Where Do Expectations for Ourselves Come From?

By Frank West

Brian Moore, the author of *The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne*, uses her fictional example to answer that question. She has inner



goals that are impossible to fulfill. This brings grief and suffering to her. This is her passion.

Somewhere in life, most of us ask ourselves: What am I doing with my life? Is my life worthwhile? Am I living up to my expectations?

Judith Hearne is a middle-aged Belfast woman who asks herself those questions. We know the answers will not be pleasant because Judith was raised by her aunt, and she would never feel she could live up to her aunt’s absurdly high expectations. To make matters worse, she keeps in her room a picture of her aunt alongside a picture of the Sacred Heart. These “stern and questioning” pictures only make her feel of a failure.

The long dead aunt found fault with everyone, and considered most people to be “common.” The worst thing she could say about someone. However, like her aunt, Judith is judgemental of people, and as a result has no real friends and is very lonely.

Brian Moore, (1921 – 1999) wrote this novel in 1955. I have read it at several times in my life.

Now it has been republished by New York Review Books. This bright and colorful edition includes an afterward by the well known novelist, Mary Gordon.

Thomas Flanagan, himself a powerful writer, (*Year of the French*) praises Moore as, “A wonderful writer, one of the few genuine masters of the contemporary novel.”

Moore wrote 20 other novels. I have read many of them. Several have been made into movies, including a film of *The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne*.

Moore was born and raised in Belfast. He served in WWII, and after the war he moved to

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Books and Plays in Review

Continued from page 29

with feats of super human bravery.

The Young Ireland Rebellion and Limerick, and With the IRA in the Fight For Freedom – 1919 to the Truce.

Those two books are about the low point and the high point in the Irish determination to fight for independence.

The rebellion of 1848 shows that the vision of a free Ireland was strong, even during the Great Famine.

The devastation of the Great Famine occurred between 1845 and 1850. Over a million people died, and more than a million fled to other lands: many to the United States.

The Famine was at its worst in 1847. That year is still called Black 47.

The country was prostrate.

English government officials felt the Famine was punishment sent by God for idolatrous and religious beliefs.

They felt the "free market" would feed the Irish people, but this was just a hard-hearted excuse to do nothing.

(The Punch cartoon, shown here, is particularly crude and vicious).

Who were the Young Irishmen?

They were Irish patriots who believed that despite the horrors of the Famine, the dream and ideal of Irish freedom must be maintained.

The Young Irishmen strongly believed in the Irish saying, "A patriot's ink lasts longer than a martyr's blood." They wrote books, published a newspaper, and wrote nationalistic poems.

Famous names in Ireland history were Young Irishmen. Some of those persons were Thomas Davs, John Mitchel, William Smith O'Brien, and Thomas Meagher. Not only did they write of Irish nationalism, but, despite the extreme conditions in Ireland, they planned a revolt for 1848.

Despite death all around them they felt they had to make this hopeless fight against English rule.

Heavily armed English police quickly put down the revolt, and the leaders were "transported" to Van Deiman's Land. This was the desolate god forsaken penal island near Australia.

The Young Irishmen won the battle for the minds of idealistic Irishmen. (I have read John Mitchel's jail journal from this period. It's powerful and moving still).

Despite the military defeat the ideals of the Young Irishmen motivated the heroic acts of future generations.

This struggle culminated in the

Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



Does the Name Robert Collier Speak to You?

As I have mentioned in other columns, I am convinced that we are surrounded by words of good counsel. The real question is, will we seize them? Of course, there is always the possibility that the counsel we are exposed to is not worthwhile. In my experience, common sense frequently helps us recognize the good from the bad. The old adage that says if something seems too good to be true is a cornerstone to consider.

A client of mine publishes a weekly quote that is intended to be considered a little more fully during the pertinent week. The first such quote that grabbed my attention was a wonderful quote by Robert Collier, which follow:

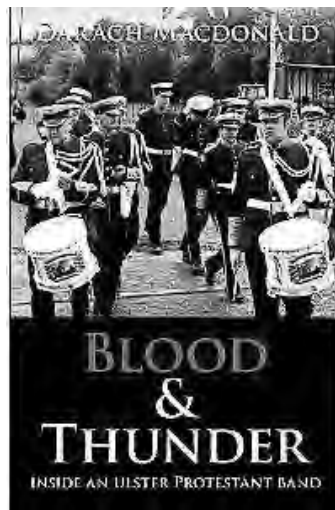
We can do only what we think we can do.

We can be only what we think we can be.

We can have only what we think

1916-1921 War of Independence.

Read the wonderfully detailed accounts of that war. They are writ-



ten in fluent soldierly style. They are told in: With the IRA in the Fight for Freedom: 1919 to the Truce, edited by Gabriel Doherty. Mercier Press and DuFour editions, info@dufour editions.com: Dublin and Chester Springs, PA, 2010. 448 pages, \$29.95. The Young Irishmen Rebellion and Limerick, by Laurence Fenton. Mercier Press and DuFour editions, info@dufour editions.com. Dublin and Chester Springs, PA, 2010. 224 pages, \$21.95.

we can have.

What we do, what we are, what we have

All depend on what we think.

Robert Collier wrote well regarded, inspirational books in the early 1900s. He was a prolific writer who believed strongly that happiness and abundance are achievable by all of us. He sold over 300,000 sets of his books entitled the Secret of the Ages. As I learned more about him, I found a long list of quotes attributed to him. So after all these years (he died in 1950) he continues to inspire. I decided to share a handful of his quotes with some of my own commentary. Hope you enjoy reading them. But to really enjoy the quotes, you have to "fess up that maybe Mr. Collier was either smarter or more insightful than we are. But that's okay.

• **The first essentials, of course, is to know what you want.** Probably everyone has been asked time and again, what do you want? What do you want to do? Where do you want to be? It sounds like such a fundamental question. Then why do we struggle so much with it? I am convinced that many of us are uncomfortable making decisions, so we avoid them. One of the most common questions even for people of my age is what am I going to do when I grow up? We try to make light of it, but there is a great deal of wisdom to our reluctance. We are afraid to make a decision; somehow we see it as a long time decision. Here's my suggestion: look at the problem carefully and thoroughly; make a decision; work like heck to implement the decision; if the decision turns out to be wrong, drop it like a hot potato and move on. Life is so short, what a waste to spend months or years at a job you don't like.

• **The first principle of success is desire—knowing what you want. Desire is the planting of your seed.** Do you have the desire and the fire to plant the seed for the future? You can hear a lot of people talking about what they really want to do. However, they clearly haven't done anything to implement that desire. It simply becomes an unfulfilled dream.

• **Take the first step, and your mind will mobilize all its forces to your aid. But the first essential is that you begin. Once the battle**

is started, all that is within and without you will come to your assistance. I spend a lot of time with people in career transition. Perhaps their biggest hurdle is taking that first step; overcoming the inertia. A lot of folks live in that world of **gunna**. They are **gunna** stop in and learn more about that conveniently located company. They are **gunna** call that nice friend of theirs who offered to make some introductions for them. They are **gunna** prepare that resume one day soon; but they don't. They are **gunna** organize their job search soon.

• **There is little difference in people, but that little difference makes a big difference. That little difference is attitude. The big difference is whether it is positive or negative.** Haven't you seen that difference manifested in people's attitude about a challenge? Some people thrive on challenges; it may mean that they are quicker to take a risk than the rest of us or their belief (aka attitude) allows them to focus on a positive outcome. Have you encountered people like this?

• **Your chances of success in any undertaking can always be measured by your belief in yourself.** I will let some scholar decide whether attitude is belief in one's self or belief in something else. One's attitude is a lot like the concept of leadership; when we see it we know if it's genuine. A phony attitude is often

easily spotted and recognized.

• **You can do anything you think you can. This knowledge is literally the gift of the gods, for through it can solve every human problem. It should make of you an incurable optimist. It is the open door.** I have a dear friend who once told one of my children that he had never met anyone more optimistic than I am. I considered that to be a great compliment then and now.

• **Visualize this thing that you want, see it, feel it, believe in it. Make your mental blueprint, and being to build.** Many big name athletes will tell you the same story: they don't focus on their mistakes, but rather they focus on the things they did correctly. They don't consider the possibility of future mistakes. They direct their attention at doing the right thing and don't worry about the possibility of mistakes

Do you think that Mr. Collier's quotes reflect great insight and wisdom? I hope you can apply one or more of these quotes to your life and career.

Carpe Diem. If you don't seize the day, perhaps one of your colleagues will.

James F. Fitzgerald is the president of James F. Fitzgerald & Associates, an Oak Brook, IL-based senior executive coaching and senior executive career transition firm. Phone # 630-684-2204. NEW email: jamesffitz37@hotmail.com.

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When Ireland Fell Silent takes the reader back to 1845-1849 in a gripping story that reveals the startling causes of the worst human tragedy of the 19th century—the Great Irish Famine. The public events and the voices of historical figures are true to the documented record and reveal the political and economic forces at work as Ireland falls silent.



Eighteen-year-old Liam Reilly has strong ties to his beloved County Mayo. He cherishes its culture and his loving family. But life is hard and like other tenant farmers, the Reillys pay high rent to an English landlord.

Trapped in a desperate struggle, the Reilly family pulls together with great courage. Intense conflict and engaging characters propel the story forward until at the end Liam alone must overcome great obstacles if he is to save his mother and sisters. At 10 Downing Street, 1849, government leaders meet and argue while Ireland falls silent.

When Ireland Fell Silent by Harolyn Enis. Rose Rock Publishers, LLC, Oklahoma City, OK, 2010. Hardcover; 370 pp; \$14.99. Available at amazon.com.

New York Correspondent Wanted

The Irish American News is looking for a correspondent in New York who would like to cover Irish events for the paper.

While there is no "pay" involved, covering the events themselves can be interesting, exciting, and exclusive. And if you fancy yourself a writer, this can be a great opportunity to get published. Call Cliff at 708-445-0700 for more information.



Confusion the Sign of the Times

Driving on the highways and byways of Chicagoland is always something of a chancy endeavor.

Commuting from suburb to city and back again one sees a wavering makeup applier here, a weaving cell phone talker there. Meanwhile, amidst the classic behaviors of map reading, face shaving, and tie knotting comes the new wave of devil-may-care texting.

And although the City of Chicago was among the visionary first to ban cell phone talking sans headsets, and truckers were among the first regulated with a ban on in-transit TV viewing, the latest prelude to near-certain demolition derby on the Dan Ryan and elsewhere is the suddenly omnipresent mobile satellite positioning device. You see them everywhere now beaming in full color on dashboards, robotically calling out "Turn left at LaSalle and Wacker," "Vote early and vote often," "Don't make no waves, don't back no losers!"

The new mapping technology also makes it possible (or at least indicates it is) to drive down the wrong way on a one-way street, head for Iowa even though you could have sworn the family reunion was in Michigan, and even discover a hidden Atlantis-like highway under Lake Michigan off Rogers Park (and you thought you wanted to go to Jarvis and Sheridan). As my Irish grandfather Tom Corley used to say of his apartment at 1033 Loyola Ave. on the lakefront, "Just head East and if your hat starts to float, you've driven too far."

Any real Chicagoan knows if you want the utmost in baffling confusion and hopeless misdirection, simply look skyward or to the side of the road. Yes, the simple road sign is where things get very complex indeed.

Go West, young man. By going North on Interstate-94 West? Certainly not I-94 East to go South. May I suggest driving toward the setting sun on Ohio Street to steer your way?

All a driver needs to do leaving the Loop heading West is make a decision if you want to go to the south suburbs or north suburbs. It's as crystal clear as taking the ramp southward to

the left to go northward to the right. This personal Hell not your entree to the Edens? Simply reverse direction and take the ramp northward to the right to go southward to the left.

Is it any wonder that so many travelers end up in Holland, Michigan on the Gerald Ford Expressway when they had every intention of following the Bishop Ford to South Holland, Illinois?

At least you have the relative sanity of Southside street names making sense. It's a safe bet that 107th and Wood is south of 55th and the Midway Plaisance. Up north lies a confusing maze of Wilsons and Belmonts that start, stop, dead end and veer off on an angle more or less incongruously ending up on a roughly parallel route in the suburbs.

The suburbs have their own blend of suicidal signage. Heaven help the salesman, executive or truck driver who finds himself wandering Naperville Road between Wheaton and Naperville. Because the befuddled driver will have no clue he is even ON Naperville Road. For whatever reason, a new frugality of the 1980's dictated that money be saved by only having signs for the cross streets, with nothing letting you know just which road you were on in the first place. Should you somehow stumble onto the East-West Tollway you find newfound confusion in that it's been renamed the Ronald Reagan.

Northwest? No dice. Jane Addams. And if you don't know Addison from Adam, better take a spin soon on the North-South turnpike before it's re-named non-directionally. Sorry... too late for that as well.

Ah, but don't let the federal, state and city signs have all the fun. Now comes Chicago-class confusion served up at the county level (no surprise there). I give you the new blue with yellow trim county road markers popping up throughout the city and suburbs. 1300 such signs have been raised among the driving diaspora with clear as mud tiny lettering.

Take for example "Cook County W-37 Begins." You'd think the W stands for West, wouldn't you? Unfortunately the answer is the W stands for nothing much at all. On county signs 'W' and 'V' (followed by a number) apply to north-south routes. East-west routes begin with "A", "B", or "C".

The original price tag for the confusing county signs was \$120,000 over two years. Fortunately, the overseas company that billed was directed to not spend more than half the original allotment. That's the official story any way.

I think the right official left the City-County Building sometime last year bound for the sign contractor with the second installment.

He was last seen heading west down Ohio, nervously deciding whether to go left to go right or right to go left.

And hasn't been heard from since.

Jim McClure is a freelance print and broadcast journalist living in the northern suburbs of Chicago. IrishRoverJim@aol.com

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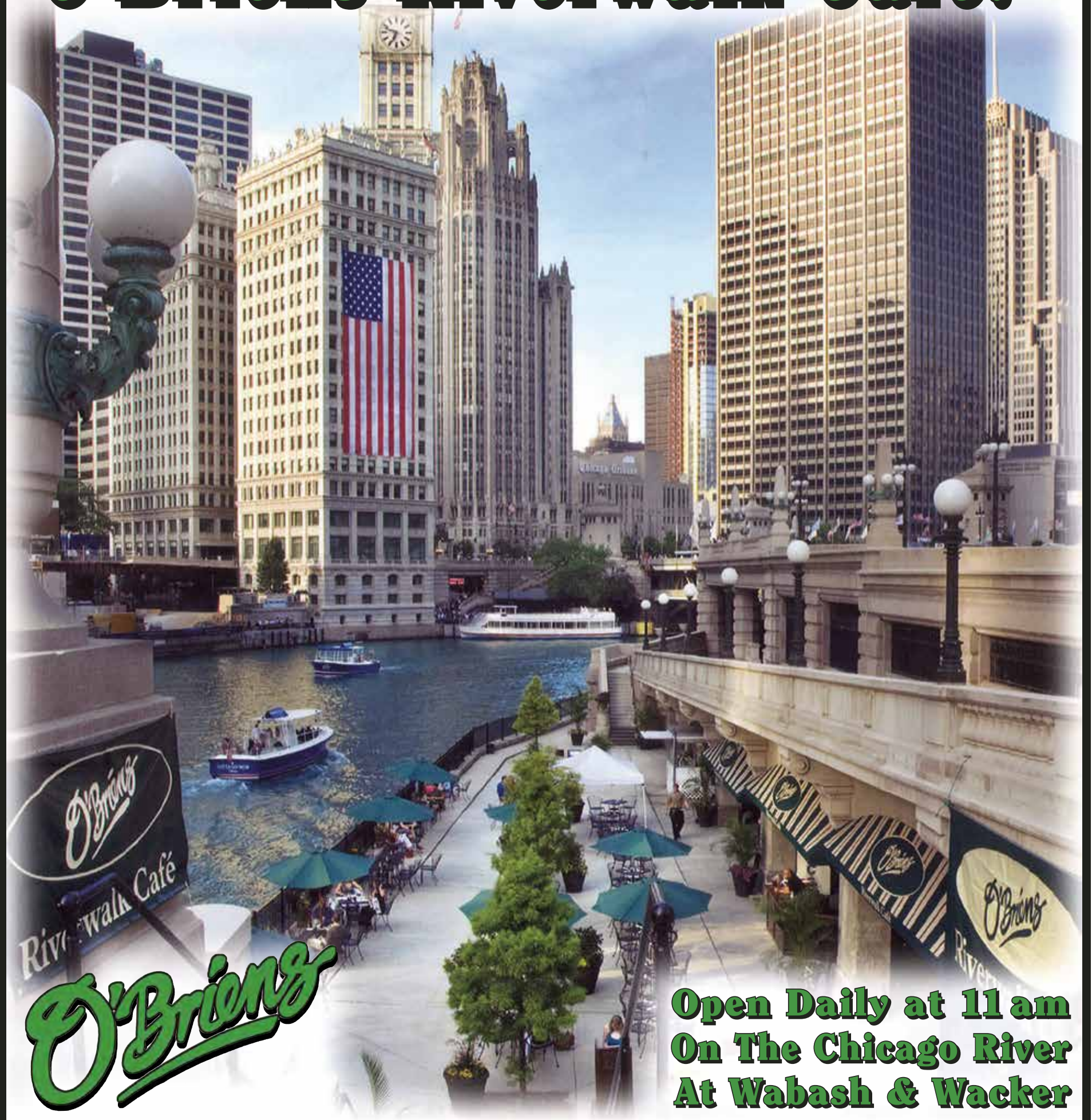
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2010 NACB Playoff Summary

By Eamonn Kelly - PRO NACB

Several thousand hurling, football and camogie fans thronged to Chicago Gaelic Park over the Labor Day weekend for the 2010 North American County Board national playoffs. It was the biggest NACB playoffs in the history of the county with 87 games played over the 3-day weekend. Sixty eight teams representing 27 cities across the U.S. as well as a team from Vancouver, Canada, played in this year's championship playoffs. Played in perfect weather conditions, the huge tournament was a tremendous success thanks to an excellently coordinated program organized by the Chicago Central Divisional Board under the chairmanship of Gareth Fitzsimons, the playoff committee headed by Tom Dolan and Val McMahan, and the NACB under the chairmanship of Joe Lydon. With the participation of Vancouver in the junior A championship, it was the first time in 36 years that a Canadian team was part of the NACB championship. In addition to the regular championships, 4 shield competitions were runoff in junior men's football, ladies football, junior hurling and camogie. The staging of these shield competitions has proven to be a most popular venture among clubs and players, given that it provides a minimum of two games to teams knocked out in their first round championship games. The only disappointment of the weekend was

the failure of several Boston teams to participate in this years playoffs. Of seven qualifying teams only two, Connemara Gaels men's footballers and Shamrock ladies footballers, made the trip to Chicago.

On the field of play, a major achievement was the winning of two of the four senior NACB championships by San Francisco teams, Sean Treacy's in men's football and Naomh Padraig in hurling. Three additional titles went to San Francisco, intermediate men's football, junior B hurling, and all-American men's football. History was created with the following clubs capturing their first national title: San Francisco Tracey's, Chicago Cusack's, Baltimore Hibernians, Detroit St. Anne's and Philadelphia Mairead Farrell's.

In addition to San Francisco, six other cities shared the winning circle. Chicago teams had a very successful weekend, taking titles in junior C hurling, junior B men's football, junior A ladies football and camogie A. Two championships were captured by Philadelphia teams in, senior ladies football and Intermediate ladies football. The following cities captured one title: Austin – junior D men's football; Milwaukee – camogie B; Detroit – junior B ladies football; Vancouver – junior A hurling; Washington DC – camogie C.

For more go to www.irishamerican-news.com.

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Cuchulainn Hurling Club, 2010 at Chicago Gaelic Park



iBAM! Chicago 2010 Back for an Encore November 6,7, 2010

Save November 6th and 7th for iBAM! Chicago, 2010 at the Irish American Heritage Center as some of the best Irish authors, artists, and musicians gather to celebrate our Irish culture.

Friday, November 5th, the Four Courts, Maurice Lennon, Jimmy Keane, Paddy Homan, and Jimmy Moore (for Dennis Cahill) kick-off iBAM! at the Heritage Center with a show in the Erin Room. We call it "Beauty and the Beasts," with the Erin Room being the beauty! All kidding aside, these boys deliver strong vibrant melodies, and musicianship that is second to none! Get the celebration started!

Saturday, November 6th, attend the Gala Awards Dinner, and, new this year, iBAM! Cocktail Party. The night begins at 5:30pm in a movable cocktail party throughout the second floor, showcasing the library, art gallery, museum, and Shamrock American Room. For those who can't attend the dinner, you may buy tickets for the cocktail party only, and mingle with many of our artists, authors, musicians and honored guests.

The iBAM! Awards Dinner is hosted by Fox 12's political reporter, and Heritage Center member, Mike Flannery. Among our Award recipients this year are: Person of the Year: Nobel Prize winner, John Hume. Outstanding Contributions in Performing Arts: Gabriel Byrne; Outstanding Contributions in Visual Arts: Thomas O'Shaughnessy, Outstanding Contributions in Music: Liz Carroll, and Outstanding Contributions in Literature: Mary Dempsey.

For tickets and information go to www.ibamchicago.com or call 773-282-7035 ext 10.

'A' Stands for Arts

There will be no shortage of art as the world-renowned Bogside Artists of Derry, Northern Ireland, Tom and William Kelly, and Kevin Hasson, will be on hand painting a historic "Peace Mural" live. Instead of painting the mural on a wall, this mural will be painted on a movable canvas that can be shared with others throughout the years.

Artist Cynthia Matyi was influenced at an early age by her Appalachian grandmother's stories which she says "really fired my imagination." She developed a love of history, legend, and the supernatural, rooted in the Scots-Irish tradition.

After a lengthy career in health care, she returned to school and earned a BFA in painting at Mt. St. Joseph College. She now gives

workshops in Celtic art and is one of the organizers of the touring art show "American Celtic."

The Chicago Calligraphy Collective will be on hand to demonstrate the art of calligraphy, paint on temporary tattoos, and create personalized bookmarks.

We are honored to present these films at iBAM! this year.

The 2010 Academy Award nominated film, *Secret of Kells*.

Mary Pat Kelly's award winning documentary on legendary Nobel Peace Prize winner, John Hume, *To Live for Ireland*. Mr. Hume has currently been nominated as one Ireland's Five Greatest People.

The Bogside Artists will present two exceptional documentaries. The *Last Mural* was screened by RTE, and is about the last mural the artists painted in the Bogside, Derry. The mural is called *The Runner*. It's a mural that calls on young men to be careful where they go, who they're with and what they join, as all the young men in the mural are dead. One died with his own bomb in Tom and Williams back garden, and the other was shot dead by the British army. What is different about the mural is that it has a portrait of Charles Love, a young man who was killed by an IRA bomb.

The artists are bringing a historic documentary done by the BBC which shows the artists in their early days, and also shows their contribution to the Bloody Sunday campaign.

Mary McDonagh Murphy is bringing her documentary on the 50th anniversary of *To Kill a Mockingbird*: *Hey, Boo*: Harper Lee & *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

'B' Stands for Books

Headlining our authors this year will be Frank Delaney, author of *Shannon*, *The Venetia Kelly Traveling Show*, and 19 other books. Renowned for his gift of language, Frank Delaney's work has scrutinized the very nature of the spoken word (in broadcasts such as *Word of Mouth*, *Say the Word*, *Omnibus* and others.) As well as being a best-selling author himself, he has interviewed more than 3,000 writers for his BBC and international television and radio shows (*Bookshelf*, *The Book Show*, *The Frank Delaney Show*) including the great literary names of our time.

A judge of many literary prizes

including the famous Booker Prize, Literary Director of the Edinburgh Festival, Delaney has also made documentaries for the BBC on characters as diverse as Joyce, Shaw, and Wilde. His *One-Man-Show* on James Joyce, *ReJoyce*, played to an extended run on London's West End, and his screenplay for *Goodbye Mr. Chips* was shown on ITV in the UK and Masterpiece Theater in the USA. Delaney's lecture subjects have included Joyce, Yeats, Beckett and Robert Frost and the influence of vernacular storytelling on literature.

In the current phase of his own work, Delaney is writing a series of novels exploring his native Ireland's history in the twentieth century, one

and international awards, including multiple Emmys and an Academy Award nomination for the Holocaust documentary *Eyewitness*.

Reading To Kill a Mockingbird is something millions of us have in common. In a documentary and accompanying book, Mary McDonagh Murphy explores the novel's power, influence and popularity. With reflections from Anna Quindlen, Tom Brokaw, James McBride, James Patterson, Wally Lamb, Oprah Winfrey and more, the documentary and the book chronicle the many ways the novel has shaped lives and careers.

Murphy's reporting, research and rare interviews with the author's sister and friends add new details and

country for their children's sake. His family struggled against grinding poverty but they never gave up and never lost their faith that God had a plan for them.

Former Chicagoan, Mary Pat Kelly, is an author and award winning filmmaker. Her PBS documentaries and accompanying books include *To Live for Ireland*, a portrait of Nobel Peace Prize winner John Hume and the political party he led; *Home Away from Home: The Yanks in Ireland*, a history of U.S. forces in Northern Ireland during World War II; and *Proudly We Served: The Men of the USS Mason*, a portrayal of the only African-American sailors to take a World War II warship into combat,

whose first foreign port was Belfast. She wrote and directed the dramatic feature film *Proud*, starring Ossie Davis and Stephen Rea, based on the USS Mason story.

She's written Martin Scorsese: *The First Decade* and *Martin Scorsese: A Journey*; *Good to Go: The Rescue of Scott O'Grady from Bosnia*; and a novel, *Special Intentions*. She is a frequent contributor to *Irish America Magazine*.

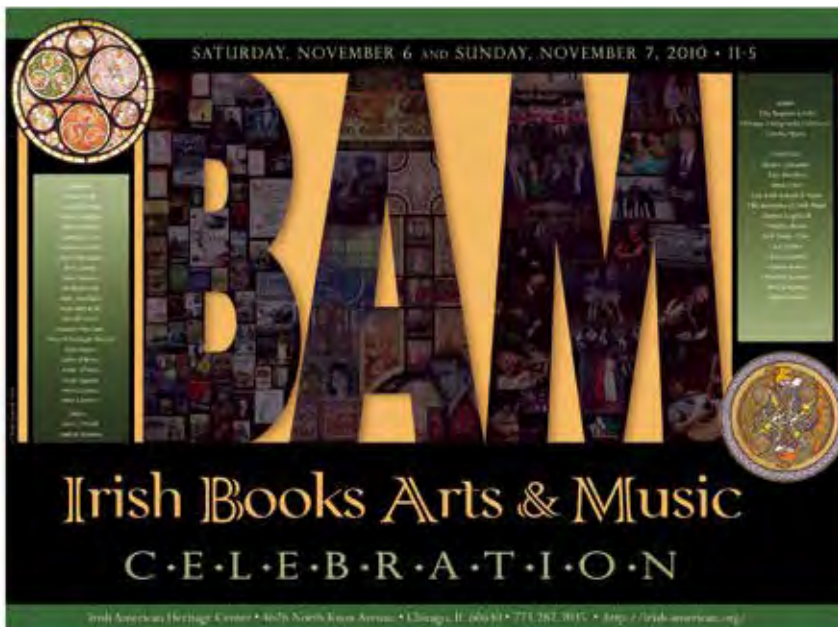
Mary Pat worked in Hollywood as a screenwriter for Paramount and Columbia Pictures and in New York City as an associate producer with *Good Morning America* and *Saturday Night Live*, and wrote the book and lyrics for the musical *Abby's Song*. She lives on Manhattan's Upper West Side with her husband, Web designer Martin Sheerin, from County Tyrone.

Harolynn Enis is the author of *When Ireland Fell Silent*. A stirring novel about the potato famine in Ireland during the 1800s. The book, her first, will be released at Amazon in October, and will be available at iBAM!.

Nicole Dickson whose latest novel, *Casting Off*, is a top ten finalist in the Amazon breakthrough novel of the year category. This novel, a romance, is written with a knitting theme, and there are many Aran stitches in the book as well as many good characters.

Kelly Griner has compiled and published a songbook of Irish and Scottish pub songs arranged and tabbed for frailing banjo called *Irish Pub Songs for 5-String Banjo Volume 1*. Kelly is the leader of the Irish band, *Another Pint*, and supplies banjo and harmonica to the group. He has been

Continued to next page



decade at a time. Like all his books, they are multi-layered and aim to be read (say those who teach them) on a number of levels.

The Irish Book Club (www.theirishbookclub.com) will hold their first book club meeting during iBAM!, discussing Frank Delaney's latest book, *The Venetia Kelly Traveling Show*. Advanced copies are available at Paddy's On The Square in Long Grove, Murray's Irish Outfitters in Oak Brook, Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble, Barbara's Bookstores, Borders, and at iBAM!

Other authors making their first appearance at iBAM! include Mike Harvey, the co-creator and executive producer of the Prime Time Emmy-nominated television series, *Cold Case Files*. He is also a documentary producer, and he is the author of three books, *The Chicago Way*, *The Fifth Floor*, and his latest, *The Third Rail*. He is a former investigative producer for CBS in Chicago. Michael's work as a documentary producer and journalist has won numerous national

photos to the remarkable story of an astonishing phenomenon.

Kathleen Hill teaches in the M.F.A. program at Sarah Lawrence College. Her novel *Still Waters in Niger* was named a notable book by the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, and was nominated for the Dublin IMPAC Award. Her stories have appeared in *Best American Short Stories*, *Pushcart Prize XXV*, and *The Pushcart Book of Short Stories*. *Who Occupies This House*, her latest novel, will appear with TriQuarterly Books, Northwestern University Press, in October 2010.

Kevin O'Hara: His first book, *Last of the Donkey Pilgrims*, *A Man's Journey Through Ireland* has been called, "One of the Finest books about contemporary Ireland ever written" —*Library Journal*

In his latest book, *A Lucky Irish Lad*, Kevin O'Hara recreates his boyhood with wonderful stories of growing up in Massachusetts in the 1950s and 60s as one of eight children. His parents, born in Ireland, came to this

performing as a professional entertainer since 1995 and has performed throughout the United States. Griner is a veteran of Desert Storm.

Mark Quinn is an award-winning short story writer and journalist, and is the author of the novel *The Chairman: A Novel of Big City Politics*.

From Ireland

David Lynch penned *When The Luck Of The Irish Ran Out: The World's Most Resilient Country and its Struggle to Rise Again*. Few countries have been as dramatically transformed in recent years as Ireland. Once an economically stagnant, culturally repressed land shadowed by terrorism, Ireland emerged in the late 1990s as the fastest-growing country in Europe, with a vibrant culture and a historic peace to boot. But today, the Irish boom has gone bust. Just a few years after celebrating their newly-won status among the world's richest societies, the Irish are saddled with a wounded, shrinking economy, soaring unemployment, and ruined public finances. After so many centuries of impoverishment, how did the Irish finally get rich, and how did they then fritter away so much so quickly? Here, veteran journalist David J. Lynch offers a tight, character-driven narrative that opens our eyes to a nation's downfall through the lived experience of individual citizens: the people responsible for the current crisis as well as the ordinary men and women enduring it.

Malachy McCourt has called the book "an amazing story of rampaging greed, dirty doings and even adulterous sex... Old Mother Ireland doffs her peasant's garb and emerges as a provocative siren."

David covers global business issues for USA Today. He became the first journalist from USA Today to be selected for the prestigious Nieman fellowship at Harvard University. He has made numerous television appearances on BBC and Sky News in London and C-SPAN and PBS in the United States. His writing has also appeared in *The New Republic*, *Time*, and *The New York Times*. He lives in Washington, D.C.

John Toomey is the author of two novels, *Sleepwalker* and *Gypsy Soul*. He grew up in Dublin but went to university in London. He now teaches English at Clonkeen College in Dublin.

His first novel, *Sleepwalker*, was published in Ireland by Somerville Press in July 2008. The Dalkey Archive Press have since acquired the world rights to *Sleepwalker* and their edition will be published in the UK and the USA this month. His second novel, *Gypsy Soul*, is also with Dalkey Archive Press and is forthcoming.

iBAM! veterans Author Cola, Rita Emmett, Patricia Falvey, Kate Flanagan, Mike Houlihan, Sandra McCone, Joan Naper, John O'Brien, and Vicki Quade will all make repeat appearances. If you missed them last year, don't miss them this year!

Arthur Cola is best known for his novels: *Papa and the Gingerbread Man*, *Papa and the Leprechaun King*, *Stone Cutter Genius*, and his latest novel *The Shamrock Crown*. He also arranges tours throughout Europe based on the locations in his novels.

Rita Emmett is the author of *The Procrastinator's Handbook*, *The Procrastinating Child*, and *The Clutter-Busting Handbook*. She has appeared on the *Today Show*, and is a sought after speaker.

Patricia Falvey from Newry, Northern Ireland, arrived in the U.S. at 20 with hopes of a career as a writer. For years she chose a more financially reliable profession, but participated in numerous writing seminars, including attendance at Wesleyan University Writers' Conferences in Connecticut, The Fine Arts Workshops in writing at Provincetown, Mass., and the International Women's Writers Guild conferences at Skidmore College in New York. She left her position with PriceWaterhouseCoopers, LLP, and produced her first novel, *The Yellow House*.

Kate Flanagan is an author and illustrator of children's books. Some of her credits include, *My Two Book (My First Steps to Math)*, *My Five Book (My First Steps to Math)*, *A Dogs Tale*, and *The Rhyme Bible*.



(l to r) Kevin and Pauline Henry with Mike Flannery.

Mike Houlihan writes a monthly column for this paper, has written for the *Sun-Times*, produced plays, a movie, and documentaries. His book, *Hooliganism*, is a compilation of his best columns over the years.

Sandra McCone is an Irish children's author best known for her series of *Magical Tea Party* books and presentations.

Chicagoan, Joan Naper, spent years working as a speech writer and editor, and earned two graduate degrees before she wrote her book, *Beautiful Dreamer*.

John O'Brien is co-publisher of our sister publication, *IAN Ohio*. His book, *Festival Legends: Songs & Stories*, was gleaned through his 28 years as Assistant Director of Cleveland's Irish Cultural Festival, and the friendship, trust, and respect he earned from many of the musicians attending.

Vicki Quade is a Chicagoan who in 1993, worked with Chicago actress Maripat Donovan to create a one-woman theater piece they called *Late Nite Catechism*. The show became an instant hit and went on to national and international fame. Vicki's books include a biography of the WGN-Radio legend, Bob Collins, and her tribute book, *I Remember Bob Collins*, which has received rave reviews.

Celtic Force Publishing, the publisher of recently deceased Scotsman, David R. Ross, will have his highly acclaimed books on hand, most of them mixing elements of Scottish history and travel literature.

'M' Stands for Music

iBAM! will be your chance to see and hear singer, Mickey Coleman, making his way from Northern Ireland to Chicago for the first time. Folk singer/songwriter Coleman is the latest sensation to hit the Irish music folk scene. Mickey's talent for penning songs, which in some way or another have shaped his life and which have captured the hearts of many in his live performances, has been well documented in songs such as 'The Brantry Boy', 'My Coalisland Girl', 'The Holylands Belfast' and 'Kilkeel Fishermen.' His fine voice reaches every one who listens. Mickey has shared the stage with some of the world and Ireland's top folk artists such as The Chieftains, Cara Dillon, Francis Black, Liam Reilly and Bagatelle, Steve Cooney and many more.

Back for an encore, last year's hit act, The

Kreellers, are a high energy Celtic Rock group hailing from Detroit, Michigan. This five-piece powerhouse has been unstoppable, performing over 100 shows in 2009, recording the music for Fuji's Enviromax Battery ad campaign, and writing and recording new tunes for their upcoming CD. Still steeped in traditional Irish sound, the band's mix of rock, funk, and even punk elements has created a sound that has won over fans, critics, and even skeptics throughout the North and Midwest and has made them one of the most sought after Celtic acts in the region.

The Cannadys, The Larkin and Moran Brothers, Jimmy Keane,

Paddy Homan, Maurice Lennon, Joe Cullen, Seamus O'Kane, Jimmy Moore, Baal Tinne, The Academy of Irish Music, harpist, Aislinn Gagliardi, The Irish School of Music, Reilly, The Murphy-Roche Irish Music Club, and the harmonizing Dooley Brothers are just some of the music you can enjoy.

On Loan to iBAM!

A portrait of Patrick Finucane, a human rights lawyer in Northern Ireland who was murdered in 1989. The painting was commissioned by Máirtín Ó Muilleoir, publisher of *The Irish Echo*, and Managing Director of the Belfast Media Group. For more on the painting go online to <http://irishecho.com/?p=1841>

From the archives of St. Patrick's High School, Chicago, we have an original invitation to the unveiling of the Thomas O'Shaughnessy stained glass windows at Old St. Patrick's Church, circa early 1900's.

Relatives of the O'Shaughnessy family will be present at the Gala Awards Dinner on Saturday, November 6th to accept the iBAM! award for contributions to the Visual Arts.

Do you have a real Irish story to tell? The Irish Storytellers Project would like to hear your story. Look for them on the second floor.

There are plenty of activities for the kids, too. Play the Trivia 4 Treasures game and get your treasure, attend a fairy tale party, leave your mark on our mini mural or listen to a story. There are lots of fun things in store!

Celtic Women International is hosting the Literary Salon on the third floor. Stop for a cuppa while you partake of music and non-stop interesting and short lectures.

We have panel discussions and theater specials running all weekend- watch the website for times.

Our limited edition iBAM! 2010 poster (pictured previous page) designed by artist Laura Coyle, will be on sale for \$10 to attendees while supply lasts. Plenty of food, beverages, and free parking, too!

For full details on iBAM! including schedule, programs etc will be in the November issue of *Irish American News*, and will be on our website at www.ibamchicago.com soon.

For tickets to the Gala Dinner, the Full Irish Breakfasts, or just to attend, go to www.ibamchicago.com and click on the TICKET tab.

Poster design by Laura Coyle.

iBAM! Panels

Get in on the discussion. All panels are open to iBAM attendees

The Progress of Peace in the 21st Century

Kevin Hasson, Tom Kelly, William Kelly Bogside Irish Artists, Terry Boyle, Mickey Coleman, Patricia Falvey

From the Book of Kells to the Kindle! - Centuries of Irish Literature

Frank Delaney, John Toomey, Jack Leahy, Kathleen Hill

Publishing your book -

The Tricks of the Trade

Rita Emmett, Mike Houlihan, Nicole Dickson, Arthur Cola, Sandra McCone, Mark Quinn

The Business Side of Music

Joe McShane, Paddy Homan, Mickey Coleman, Maurice Lennon, Kelly Griner

Irish in the Arts

Mike Thornton, Michael Harvey, Pat Byrnes, Vicki Quade, Cindy Mayti, Michael Carroll

The Art of the Documentary (film panel)

Mary McDonagh Murphy, Mary Pat Kelly, Bogside Artists, Mike Harvey

Green Around the World:

The Irish Diaspora

Bogside Artists, David Lynch, John Toomey, Mary McDonagh Murphy, John O'Brien

Brendan Houlihan’s Priority: Justice For Cook County Taxpayers

When it comes to the property tax system in Cook County, Brendan Houlihan has some very specific suggestions and goals.

“This election is about a county government that spends too much, wastes too much and taxes too much to pay for a culture of corruption, mismanagement and abuse that has had a strangle-hold on county government far too long,” Houlihan said.



“Homeowners and small business owners are flat out of patience and flat out of money with having to pick up the tab for a system designed to favor political cronies, corporations and pay-to-play politics at the expense

of people. My top priority is to help end that system by taking the property tax process out of the ‘back room’ and making it more transparent and fair.”

Houlihan, a resident of South Suburban Palos Heights, was first elected to the Cook County Board of Review four years ago. It was his first attempt at public office.

Since then, he has been a strong advocate for homeowners and small businesses—fighting to make the 7% cap on tax assessments permanent; putting the entire property tax system 100% on line to bring openness, transparency and fairness to the process and sponsoring legislation designed to save homeowners up to \$1,200 on their property taxes each year.

Houlihan has sponsored Fair Tax Workshops throughout the suburbs—teaching homeowners how to protest unfair tax assessments and how to get their property taxes lowered. He initiated a strong, zero-tolerance ethical code for office employees; cut his office staff and budget and now has the smallest office payroll of the any of the Board’s Commissioners.

“People all across Cook County have had to make changes and adjustments in their life styles because of this economy,” Houlihan continued. “Cook County government should do the same.”

Houlihan has a background in business that he believes makes him more likely to be successful in advocating for taxpayers.

“The lessons I’ve learned in the private sector—common sense, fiscal responsibility, real problem solving, getting results—are exactly what is needed in county government.”

“We have responsibility to taxpayers,” Houlihan concluded, “to tighten government’s belt; spend taxpayer dollars wisely based upon real priorities and work to change the way county government does business by ending the kind of ‘politics as usual’ that costs taxpayers millions. That’s why I initiated my Taxpayer Justice Plan.”

For more information on Brendan Houlihan’s plan log onto www.fairtaxesforcook-county.com.

O’BITUARIES

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Mary O’Reilly

The Irish community lost another great woman. Mary O’Reilly, Cultural Chair Emeritus and a founding member of the Irish American Heritage Center, passed away Sunday, September 12th. Mary hails from Ennistymon, Co. Clare. She was the champion of Irish culture in Chicago, and all of her dreams were fulfilled when the Irish American Heritage Center was born, and the theatre, museum, library, art gallery, and archives, all became a reality. The President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, dedicated the museum in 1991, and Irish President, Mary McAleese, dedicated the library in 2004. Mary O’Reilly left us her legacy of Irish culture. She was always looking for ways to improve the Irish American Heritage Center. She donated the carpeting for the museum and art gallery, and she did so anonymously, swearing me to secrecy until such time as that information could be divulged.

Mark Butler

Mark Butler fought a courageous battle with cancer for three years, and he finally succumbed to the disease. Mark and his father Mike have been dying the Chicago River green for the St. Patrick’s Day Parade for many, many years. He will be sorely missed. A benefit will be held for Mark to raise funds to offset his medical debt. The benefit will be held on Saturday, October 9th, 2010, at Hawthorne Race Course from 3-9pm. They are seeking

help with donations for the silent auction and raffle. You may visit their website at www.bet4butts.com.

Written by Tom Boyle.

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St/ Brigid’s Gaelic Football Club, 2010 at Chicago Gaelic Park

The Weir Extends – Must Close October 17

Due to popular demand, Seanachai Theatre Company’s Jeff Recommended and critically acclaimed production of *The Weir* by Conor McPherson, is extending through October 17th.

Performed in the 3rd Floor Theatre at The Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox in Chicago, *The Weir* is a tale of lonely characters, reveals how the human need to be heard connects souls through storytelling. An enigmatic young woman from Dublin finds herself the center of attention at a local pub. Pints in hand, the local barflies recount ghostly yarns of the supernatural to impress and entertain her, but it is the visitor herself who relates the most unsettling story of all.

www.seanachai.org or 866-811-4111.

Mary Ruth Coffey, American Theater Company New Executive Director

The ATC Board of Directors recently announced that Mary Ruth Coffey has been named Executive Director. Coffey, who most recently worked as the Director of Institutional Giving at The Old Town School of Folk Music, officially began her appointment with ATC in September 2010.

Mary Ruth Coffey comes to American Theater Company from the Old Town School of Folk Music in Chicago, where she served as the Director of Institutional Giving. She has served on several boards of directors, including as the Treasurer of Woman Made Gallery, and the fundraising chair of Illinois Women’s Funding Federation. She holds her Juris Doctor from The John Marshall Law School and her Master of Business Administration from Dominican University.

Pass Through the Fire Wins Best of Show

MFA Candidate Deirdre Lee wins "Best of Show" at Columbia College's 2010 Albert P. Weisman Award Exhibition

Deirdre Lee's MFA Thesis Documentary *Pass Through the Fire* was a recipient of the 2010 Albert P. Weisman award at Columbia College Chicago. At the Exhibition's Opening Reception last Thursday September 9, 2010, it was announced that Deirdre's documentary won "Best of Show" out of the 12 films that received the Weisman award. It was a complete honor for Deirdre. At the Exhibition, you can view a sample of *Pass Through the Fire* as well as the other films and projects that were awarded the 2010 Weisman Award. The Exhibition runs until October 15th. See Gallery hours and location below:

Albert P. Weisman Award Exhibition, Department of Exhibition and Performance Spaces (DEPS)

The new Arcade Gallery, Columbia College Chicago
618 S Michigan Ave., 2nd floor, Chicago, IL 60605

Gallery hours are 9 am - 5pm Monday- Friday; Exhibition dates are September 9 –October 15, 2010.

For more information about 2010 Albert P. Weisman Award Exhibition: http://www.colum.edu/Students/Career/Portfolio_Center/Weisman/index.php and http://www.colum.edu/Student_Life/DEPS

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Terminus Coming to Chicago

By Frank West

Mark O’Rowe’s play, *Terminus*, is coming to Chicago, and will be presented by the Museum of Contemporary Art’s Global Stage Series in cooperation with the Goodman Theatre, and Ireland’s Abbey Theatre.

This is an early heads up because it won’t be presented here until March 2 to 6, 2011.. However the play attracted sold out crowds in Dublin, Galway, and Melbourne.

O’Rowe grew up in a working class area south of Dublin. This grimy, gritty place developed his view of the urban world. He focuses on Ireland’s cities. This more accurately reflects the concerns of urban populations.



Terminus by Mark O’Rowe

This focus is shown in the title, *Terminus*. It is the Latin word for foundry stone.

Irish playwrights like Martin McDonagh, Conor Mac Pherson, and Tom Murphy, turned from rural settings to put their plays in urban settings.

O’Rowe loves words. An actor in *Terminus* says “O’Rowe’s urban world is filled with rhyme and rhythm. It just bubbles off the stage.”

O’Rowe wrote the script for the movie, *Intermission*. A review of this says it is the “highest grossing Irish funded film ever.”

As a young playwright he was inspired by Chicagoan David Mamet, who’s plays he says, used dialogue that, “seemed very immediate.”

The Museum of Contemporary Art is located at 220 E. Chicago Ave., and is already selling for *Terminus*. Tickets are \$20.00 to \$35.00, and the box office is 312-397-4010.



Deirdre, (Center) with family and cousins at Notre Dame football!

First Notre Dame Home Opener

I recently went to the Notre Dame home opening football game. It was very fun. I tried to say a prayer at the Grotto but the line was too long. As we walked back, we watched the Fighting Irish Bagpipe Band play in front of the Golden Dome. Then it was back to the parking lot to tailgate. We ate some good food, taught my cousin to cheer, and saw another bagpipe band. It was a great time, but the real fun didn’t start until I walked into the stadium. I haven’t been in there since last season and it was good to be back. I sat with my dad, brother, sister, and cousin and we had a great time. The best part was Notre Dame beat Purdue. It was icing on the cake of a perfect day. Earlier that week I had a sleepover with my aunt and my cousins at a hotel. We stayed up late and had Aurelios pizza. We also went swimming in a rooftop pool. I had a great time. I also started my dance classes this year and had my first solo class and team practice. It was really fun and I know my steps I’m supposed to do, so I’m all ready. I’ll keep practicing and let you know how I do in a few months.



Commissioner and President, Terrence J. O’Brien and General Superintendent, Richard Lanyon, both with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, recently welcomed a group of dignitaries and members of the media to the McCook Reservoir.

President O’Brien informed the guests that in 1999, the MWRDGC and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) executed a Project Cooperation Agreement to construct the McCook Reservoir, a 10 billion gallon reservoir that is a major component of the Tunnel and Reservoir Project (TARP).

The reservoir will serve portions of the City of Chicago and 36 surrounding suburban communities, and when completed, reduce basement flooding and the amount of untreated sewage back flow into Lake Michigan; and protect structures within its service area.

Pictured (L-R) are President O’Brien, Congressman Mike Quigley and Commissioner Debra Shore.

Is Notre Dame Football Dead?

By Coleman Clarke

Another loss. ND falls to Stanford in another humiliating defeat for the Irish. This marks the third straight loss for ND and almost eliminates the possibility of a respectable bowl bid—barring a miraculous turnaround.

Watching Notre Dame football is a painful experience these days. That is if you are actually old enough to remember when Notre Dame football was great—and it mattered. Sure you are constantly reminded of the glory days of yesteryear when Notre Dame competed for national championships and captured the imagination of millions of fans.

These days, Notre Dame football has become a punch line, a running joke. They recently extended their deal with NBC to broadcast all of their home games until 2015. The NBC executives may want to reconsider this move given the current state of the football program.

Notre Dame has not been a serious contender for a national championship since 1993, when Lou Holtz walked the sidelines. There has been conjecture over what is ailing the program and why they continue to get beaten by average opponents like Michigan State and Michigan for example.

Let's start with one of the tired excuses that has been put forth by the talking heads for years now, the academics. Let's examine this one. Stanford University has some of the most stringent academic standards in all of collegiate football. Yet under head coach Jim Harbaugh, they are competing at a high level and play with a ferocity seldom seen on the Notre Dame sidelines. Harbaugh has transformed a culture where football was once secondary to academics and instilled toughness in the minds of the Stanford players. They are not the most athletic team by any stretch, but match their opponents physically and mentally. Coach Harbaugh has been able to get his players to believe in his philosophy in a relatively short period of time.

Since the departure of Lou Holtz after the 1996 season, the program has endured three coaches who have failed to bring the Fighting Irish back to respectability, much less national prominence. The current administration has failed miserably and done considerable harm to the once proud legacy of Notre Dame football.

Which begs the question: Is the current administration truly interested in winning football games and hiring the right coach? Or are they merely interested in cashing in on their Notre Dame brand in the interest of creating more science labs and lining their own pockets?

Much has been made about the current and past administrations' jealousy over the threat posed by a successful Notre Dame football team. In "Talking Irish-The Oral History of Notre Dame Football",

written by Steve Delsohn, the clashes between the administration and football program are well documented. The book goes into detail about how administrators were more concerned about the football program overshadowing the academics at the school. They felt that the success of the football team would ultimately detract from the overall mission of the school. Well, guys that's why you have the record you have now.

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