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## From the Motherland

Sean Farrell



### Cyberspace and Certificates

Hurley, Dorsey, Zennstrom and Birch. The names may not have the resonance of Notre Dame's fabled backfield immortalised by Grantland Rice, but all four were in Dublin at the end of October. The founders of YouTube, Twitter, Skype and Bebo came for the Digital Web Summit. The presence of the heavy hitters of cyberspace, social networking and the Internet is a mark of Ireland's standing in this world, in many ways the cutting edge of social economic and cultural change. The event, characterised as a "Davos for geeks" was attended by around 100 of the leading founders and HEOs of technology companies worldwide.

Their presence did not just happen. It reflects the growing importance of the cyberspace sector in Ireland, the latest successful initiative of Ireland's Industrial Development Authority in attracting important and seminal investment into Ireland. Ireland already has 9 of the world's 10 top pharmaceutical companies, 15 of the top 25 medical technology companies included in her portfolio of Foreign Direct Investment Companies (currently 966, almost half from the USA).

The Internet and Cyberspace sector is a roll call of the world's major players. Facebook has recently established its European hub in Dublin, following in the footsteps of Google which now employs 1600 people in Ireland; LinkedIn, E-bay and PayPal have major operations here. And, in another area of growing importance—On Line Gaming—Ireland is also fast attracting international leaders in the field including Gala (of Japan), Popcap, Riot, Electronic Arts and Blizzard (of World of Warcraft fame).

Such has been the preoccupation with our current economic woes that it can be difficult to achieve some perspective on developments in the economy as a whole. At the moment Ireland is in a fiscal bind, with the bank bailout compounding the problem of a major budgetary shortfall after the worst recession in the OECD. There is currently a crisis of public confidence, with general acceptance of what needs to be done, but dismay at the harsh measures required. The short term will be very tough on people's pockets with substantial hikes in taxes for several years to come already announced. There are dire warnings of the IMF coming in should there be any backtracking from

the programme of austerity. A general election seems likely sooner rather than later, in particular should the December budget not pass.

Yet, as the Digital Web Summit demonstrates, there is a parallel economic world out there, where most people have jobs, albeit in many cases with less money. Unemployment appears to have peaked at below 14%; though emigration is clearly a factor, any fall in numbers is welcome. Our exports, which held up well in the face of a global downturn in 2009, have surged ahead in 2010, with the figures for the third quarter showing a 12.8% year on year increase. And we are continuing to attract very significant top-end foreign direct investment.

The last two years, moreover, have seen a significant shift in the economy's cost base. Wage cuts and increased productivity have done much to restore competitiveness, though the albatross of the high minimum wage still has to be tackled, together with the bloated public sector. There have been notable cost reductions in hotel prices, which should stimulate growth in tourism, where recent innovations have included free train travel for tourists over 66 (announced, appropriately, on St. Patrick's Day). Provided we can successfully navigate the next six months or so economically politically and socially, the medium term holds promise, with most economic experts forecasting an early return to (modest) economic growth.

The recession has also stimulated domestic interest in the potential of one of Ireland's most valuable but least utilised assets—the Irish Diaspora. The strengthening of links between Ireland and the Irish family worldwide was given added impetus over the last decade with the establishing of a dedicated section within the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in 2004 and the provision of greatly increased funding for emigrant support in succeeding years. An important step in this process was the holding of the Global Irish Economic Forum in September 2009 which sought to explore the potential for a more strategic partnership between Ireland and the Irish overseas, inter alia to contribute to the efforts at economic recovery. It brought together many of the great and the good among the Irish worldwide and explored a wide range of issues and potential initiatives.

One year on a progress report has

issued setting out what has been done. It can be read at the DFA website and makes interesting reading. A first step has been the establishment of a permanent Global Irish Network with 300 participants from 37 countries. Initial regional meetings have taken place. The potential value of institutionalised direct access to and interaction with and between key successful business figures of Irish extraction throughout the world is self-evident. It should surely have been done before. Other steps have included the establishment of an Irish Technology Leadership Group in Silicon Valley, chaired by Craig Barrett (ex-CEO of Intel), an Overseas Graduate Programme, and a Young Leaders Programme in Ireland.

Initiatives have been taken also in the Cultural area, beginning with the appointment of actor Gabriel Byrne as Ireland's first Cultural Ambassador. Next year Culture Ireland is to develop a special programme showcasing Irish arts and culture in the US in partnership with leading US festivals, and there will be an enhanced emphasis by Tourism Ireland on Diaspora Tourism in coming years (the 1901 Census website—an invaluable heritage source—was launched in London and New York). Plans are now at an advanced stage for a permanent Irish Arts Centre in New York, jointly funded with the City of New York.

Most interestingly are the proposals for the launching of a Certificate of Irish Heritage. While not conferring citizenship or any legal rights or entitlements, the certificate would "give official recognition to the many people worldwide who are conscious of their Irish heritage and feel a strong affinity for Ireland, but who are not eligible for Irish citizenship". The modalities are still being worked on (what proof of Irish ancestry is required, etc.). Nevertheless, even as it stands, the proposal is a major advance in giving recognition to our kith and kin worldwide.

The problem with positive developments such as the above is that they are rarely headline making. It is easy to focus in on bad news, like factory closures or the monthly unemployment figures. It is far more difficult to generate interest in a conference, or the report of an expert or study group, or on a process which may take years to achieve results. The achievements of the Irish economy after 1987 were built on the foundations of strategic decisions taken over previous decades on taxation policy and the targeting of specific industries for inward investment. Now that the tsunami of the collapse of the building boom of the last years of the Celtic Tiger has ebbed, the durable elements of previous policy, amended, updated and re-focussed, are seen to be still in place, and still delivering. It is important, always, to see the whole picture.

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## Gerry Adams Opens *The Act of Enclosure* Exhibition by Eve Parnell

Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams MP MLA officially opened a new exhibition of work by Eve Parnell in November. *The Act of Enclosure* is an exhibition of pencil drawings of trees on paper. Eve Parnell has held previous exhibitions, including *Grasshopper* which was an exhibition of large high quality photographs of the natural world. Last year she had exhibitions in the Birr Theatre; the Pearse

Museum and The Lab in Dublin and earlier this year she was showing in a group show called *Tondo* in Pearse Street Library. Mr. Adams said: "I have a great fondness for trees. I am therefore very pleased to have been asked by Eve Parnell to officially open her exhibition of pencil drawings. These offer another view of the natural world and recognise and celebrate the beauty, strength and presence of trees."



Eve Parnell presents Gerry Adams with a gift of a framed drawing at the official opening of her exhibition in November. Photo by Eoin MacL.

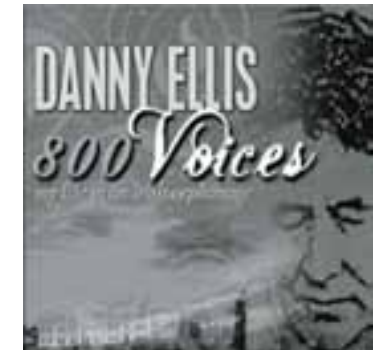
## Gavin Coyle's *A Celtic Christmas* to Benefit the People's Resource Center

People's Resource Center (PRC), in partnership with the McAninch Arts Center (MAC) at College of DuPage, will present award-winning singer and recording artist, Gavin Coyle, Friday, December 10th at 8pm for *A Celtic Christmas*. This annual concert will take place at the MAC, at Park and Fawell Boulevards in Glen Ellyn, and benefits PRC. Gavin will be accompanied by Paul Burgess on the keyboards

and Karen Banaszewski playing flute, harp and violin, and together they will perform holiday favorites guaranteed to put the audience in the Christmas spirit. The concert is sponsored by Community Bank Wheaton/Glen Ellyn. Tickets are on sale at the MAC box office at Park and Fawell Boulevards in Glen Ellyn, by calling 630-942-4000, or online at [www.atthemac.org](http://www.atthemac.org). Tickets are \$25; \$20 for groups of 15 or more.

## 800 Voices by Danny Ellis

Music has been the driving force in Danny Ellis's life since he was eight years of age, when he played trombone in an Irish orphanage band. His songs paint a graphic, emotional landscape, finding meaning in the most mundane events. Danny's songs elegantly straddle the borders of music from his Irish roots and the pop and rock that buoyed him as he grew up. With a voice that goes from "almost unbearably poignant," to "so full of rage," He worked for years as a session singer in London's Abbey Road and toured as a trombonist with Graham Parker and the Rumor, The Foundations, and The Miami Showband. His latest CD *800 Voices* depicting his life in the orphanage has been hailed by many—including David



Wilcox, Beth Nielsen Chapman and Mary Gauthier—as a "masterpiece." The press reviews of this album have, without exception, been phenomenally positive; receiving a rare 4-1/2 stars from Ireland's premier music magazine, *Hot Press*. [www.dannyellismusic.com](http://www.dannyellismusic.com). [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

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**Blarney Benefit**  
 The Irish folk band, Blarney, will bring a bit O' Irish holiday cheer to the Irish Fest Center with a Christmas concert on Saturday, December 18, 2010. The concert will benefit the Wauwatosa Community Food Pantry and Blarney encourages all attendees to bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the food pantry as well. Tickets are \$10 at the door. Doors open at 7pm; show starts at 8pm. The Irish Fest Center is located at 1532 Wauwatosa Ave. in Wauwatosa, WI. To purchase tickets visit [IrishFest.com](http://IrishFest.com) or call 414-476-3378.

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## Fundraiser for Josephine

Chicago Irish Immigrant Support, the midwest's only Irish direct services agency is planning a fundraiser on Saturday, December 4th at the Irish American Heritage Center's Fifth Province Room at 7pm. Voluntary cash donations at the door will be accepted and a 'split the pot' will be up for grabs. As an immigration and social services provider CIIS comes across many complex and often painful cases but none more so that of Josephine Collins, an Irish woman who has suffered great hardship in her fraught 88 years.

At six months old, she immigrated to Chicago from Co. Clare, but her childhood was far from rosy as she endured the agony of an abusive father. She has outlived all of her siblings, her husband, and each of her three children. One of her children died from cancer, the other two were brutally murdered. Her daughter, stabbed to death in a 1992 mugging, left behind six small children ranging in age from six months to eight years old.

Josephine raised all of her grandchildren on little more than her husband's war pension and her strong Catholic faith. Then twelve years ago, after everything else that she had gone through, Josephine was shocked to find herself cut off from social security when it was discovered that she had never been naturalized as a baby. With no income to pay her rent, she was evicted from her home of 50 years and has since relied on food donations and assistance from Catholic Charities to get by. The housing and utilities funds that Catholic Charities have provided will soon run out, leaving Josephine with no support. Her case highlights the stark problems created by a broken immigration system and gives us yet another sad statistic.

She has turned to Chicago Irish Immigrant Support (CIIS) in her time of need this holiday season and along with Catholic Charities, CIIS is working to resolve her immigration status. They are hopeful that this will happen in the coming weeks but CIIS is calling on the great Irish community of Chicago to pull together and to help one of its own this Saturday, December 4th.

Paul Dowling MSW, a social worker from Wexford and Director of CIIS's Social Services commented, "Despite the awful circumstances facing Josephine, she has a great outlook on life. Never one



to give up or shirk her duties, she's getting on with it; her strong faith has clearly seen her through the bad times, but we really need the community to band together to help her through the coming months."

Join Chicago Irish Immigrant Support in helping to raise funds to provide Josephine Collins with decent housing and her basic necessities. Why not kick off the holiday season by creating a bit of joy for

an Irish senior in need and have a great Christmas night out with Irish friends while you're at it? If you are unable to make it to the event you can still make a donation online at [www.ci-is.com](http://www.ci-is.com) or you can mail a check to Chicago Irish Immigrant Support, 3525 S. Lake Park Avenue, Chicago, IL 60653. Checks should be made payable to CIIS, mentioning Josephine Fundraiser in the memo.

## Nuns in Charge at St. Patrick's High School

Saint Patrick High School will host a special production of *Put the Nuns in Charge* by Vicki Quade (*Late Night Catechism*) starring Elaine Carlson at the Stahl Family Theatre on Fri., Dec. 10 at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$15 and can be reserved at [www.stpatrick.org](http://www.stpatrick.org) or by calling (773) 286-8470.

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# An Immigrant’s Musings

Fr. Michael Leonard



like the kind of leadership that this country is crying out for as we face into another winter with families struggling to keep their homes and meet their ordinary financial commitments.

So what should the Republicans do with their new majority in the House and their increased numbers in the Senate? (Here, I acknowledge reference to a recent piece from *NPR’s All Things Considered*.) Perhaps they would do best to take the advise of one of their own members. I am

## Post Mid-Term Elections Thoughts

I have had a few interesting comments from different sides of the political divide on last month’s article, some of them accusing me of wasting my vote. Actually, as a law abiding Lawful Permanent Resident, I do not have a vote and therefore I did not have the opportunity to “waste my vote.”

I would however count myself among a growing number of people who can be classified as independents when it comes to party affiliation. An interesting point to note is the result of some exit polls from the November elections from all groups.

There was equal dissatisfaction between both parties on the performance of Democrats and Republicans. The group, which had the biggest influence of the outcome of the elections, was, guess which? It was those who call themselves independent voters. That coupled with the fact that the Latino vote was the deciding factor in a number of key races both in the house and the Senate, not to mention their influence in deciding who occupies the Governor’s mansion in not a few states.

With Congress having such low numbers in the approval department, it is very clear that the party in power had better pay attention to acting in a responsible manner. People across the spectrum are fed up with partisan politics, name-calling and finger pointing. It is time to roll up the sleeves and start a new bi-partisan effort that will pay attention to real issues.

Number one on the list of voters concerns is THE ECONOMY and JOBS. Interestingly, when asked who is to blame for the economic downturn those polled responded, Wall Street 35%, Gorge W. Bush 29% and Barack Obama 23%. So the American people are once again willing to give the other side (this time round The Republicans) a shot at making Congress work.

Negative campaigning is easy, demonizing the opposition is easy. If I can paraphrase a saying from ‘across the pond,’ “The best pitchers/batters are always in the bleachers.” Now is the time to deliver on the campaign promises, because in less than two years folks are going to be asking, where are the jobs?

In a recent interview, Mitch McConnell, the leader of the GOP in the Senate stated that the Republican Party’s first objective is to defeat Obama in 2012. Now that hardly sounds

referring to what former Wyoming Sen. Alan K. Simpson told *NPR’s Guy Raz* in a recent interview, Reagan “knew that it was not right for people to be abused,” Simpson says. “Anybody who’s here illegally is going to be abused in some way, either financially [or] physically. They have no rights.”

Peter Robinson, a former Reagan speechwriter, agrees. “It was in Ronald Reagan’s bones—it was part of his understanding of America—that the country was fundamentally open to those who wanted to join us here.” So what we are hearing from the Republican side is “seal the border.” This is an approach that Simpson dose not agree with. Simpson, a fellow Republican who served in the Senate with McConnell from 1986 to 1997, says calling for tighter borders is a tried-and-true tactic of politicians unwilling to confront the realities of a growing illegal population.

“That’s always the palliative that makes people feel good,” he says. “You just say, ‘Well, we’re still dinking’ around with immigration, so since we can’t seem to get anything done and our constituents are raising hell—how do we get re-elected? Well, you just put some more money into the border.”

Now, here’s the problem, when is the border deemed to be fixed? The 111th Congress passed a border security allocation of \$600 Million and still we see a party, which is calling for a reduction in the national debt, calling for more measures including a bigger wall.

Do I see any hope for a solution in the new Congress? Not unless our political leaders are willing to acknowledge that a comprehensive approach such as Regan took will be seriously worked at in a bi-partisan manner. The economy has to be the first priority, but it is not the only priority. Our elected officials need to move beyond the either/or approach and learn how to “walk and chew gum at the same time.” If our elected officials are serious about listening to the voters then they had better pay attention to the swing voters. Half of the independents in a recent poll said that it is more important to compromise than to stick to hard-core principles. Members of Congress had better take note, they were not sent to D.C. to enable gridlock to continue, now is the time for common sense solutions to the great challenges that need action.

One thing is sure, that the party who wish to have control of the White House after the 2012 elections will not do so

without the majority of the Latino vote.

Charter For Compassion

On February 28, 2008 Karen Armstrong won the TED Prize and made a wish: for help creating, launching and propagating a Charter for Compassion. Since that day, thousands of people have contributed to the process so that on November 12, 2009 the Charter was unveiled to the world.

The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there, and to honour the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.

It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others—even our enemies—is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.

We therefore call upon all men and women ~ to restore compassion to the centre of morality and religion ~ to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate ~ to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures ~ to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity ~ to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings ~ even those regarded as enemies.

We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.

To learn more visit: [charterforcompassion.org](http://charterforcompassion.org).

Please help to spread the Charter for Compassion, as I believe that only by practicing this quality, which is one of the most important virtues in a mature human being, can we continue to break the barriers that divide us and law the foundations for true and lasting peace. The peace, which, as Jesus said: “the world cannot give or take away from us.” A Blessed Christmas to all.

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

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# Celtic Kitchen -Pure and Simple



By Julianna Leber

## Gifts of Christmas Present

I love this time of year. Though the weather may not be optimal and the crowds are everywhere, the feelings of excitement and anticipation build as the days pass. There may be a few unhappy shoppers or a speed driver trying to cut you out of a driving lane.

It happens when people feel they have to be everywhere at once. As the huge holiday lists begin to get shorter and the parties begin, a sense of accomplishment calms even the savage shopper. A few days before Christmas, people are even seen smiling and wishing "Merry Christmas!" to all, even the arrant driver.

What causes this serene scene? For me, it truly is the religious experience of the season. I love the growing anticipation for the celebration of the birth of Christ. I love it.

From the early practicing of Christmas hymns to Christmas mass itself, when St. Nicholas/Santa Claus take the offertory gifts. Amazing, humbling, joyful. A close second is the parties.

I say that with a warm happiness, because it is about gathering friends around and talking about the past year, the successes and challenges and the great promise for the coming year. For my parties, I get to dig into my favorite cookbooks and find recipes that I think will compliment the evening and also show a bit of love to my friends. The time and effort in planning food, regardless of level of casual or elegant, demonstrates care for friends and family.

Starting with beverages, I like to design a seasonal beverage such as a Bailey's cheese-cake martini. Some vanilla vodka, crème de cacao, Bailey's, and rim the glass with crushed graham crackers. Then know the other guests preferences and ask before the party if they like gin, scotch, or a glass of wine or seasonal beer.

And then to the food. I open a casual hot appetizer buffet, for the ease of serving and mingling. I usually serve a pastry-wrapped



brie, and then an Asian beef or chicken, a couple hot veggie sides like artichoke-blue cheese bundles and prosciutto wrapped figs. For the finale, it's the dessert tray that I want to

make simple but thoughtful and elegant.

It's the dessert table where the old is new, traditional is updated and it's always met with excitement. A friend of mine once was known for her great standby recipe of chocolate chip cookies. Each year, she would make a platter of her cookies, but change them enough that they were special. One year she made them small and bite size, serving them with shots of ice cold milk on the side. Another year, she used dark Ghirardelli chocolate chopped from a bar. She updated it again the following party when she made her cookies with Heath bar bits. Her cookies were simple but unforgettable, year after year. And she would only alter them at Christmas to make that change special.

These types of changes are easy steps and can be applied to anything served for the holidays. Serve drinks with an extra garnish, main courses with a special sauce or side dish and the desserts made extraordinary with simple, cre-

ative alterations. So while making your favorite chocolate chip cookies into 'gourmet minis' might not make the shopping traffic easier, sampling the finished product after battling said traffic just might.

## Spiced Mexican Dark Chocolate Fudge

1 lb. semi sweet chocolate (Baker's chocolate worked great)

1 square unsweetened chocolate (also Baker's)

1 can sweetened condensed milk

1 t. vanilla

1 t. cinnamon

1/8 t. salt



Melt all ingredients together over double boiler and stir until smooth. Put tin foil into

8 x 8 square pan and line with tin foil. Pour chocolate into pan and let firm at least 4 hours or overnight. For sharp edges, cut with warmed knife. Garnish with pieces of cinnamon sticks.

## Easy Salted Caramels

1 lb. caramels (Brach's or similar)

1/2 c. heavy cream

Gourmet salt or kosher salt

Pour cream into pan on stove and heat. Add unwrapped caramels and stir until smooth. Pour into 9 x 9 foil lined pan. Let cool. Cut with buttered knife. Cut 2 inch squares of wax paper or parchment. Place square of caramel on paper and top with a light sprinkle of salt. The salt will add texture and cut the sweetness of the caramel.

When shopping for my recipe ingredients I experienced holiday generosity just when I needed it. I forgot an item and the clerk was very patient to wait for me. Then as I got the total, I found I was \$1.20 short. A wonderful lady behind me said "No problem!" and paid the remainder of my bill. Thank you ladies and Merry Christmas to one and all!

Julianna Leber is a graduate of the professional food and wine courses at Ballymaloe Cookery School in County Cork, Ireland. She occasionally serves as a personal chef while also continuing her studies toward a dietetics/nutrition degree at The University of Akron, Ohio. Julianna can be contacted at [julileber@hotmail.com](mailto:julileber@hotmail.com) and will respond to your questions and comments as soon as possible.

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**An Irish Country Courtship: A Novel**  
By Patrick Taylor



Welcome back to Balibucklebo. Young Barry Laverty is looking forward to becoming a fixture, but an unexpected romantic reversal gives him second thoughts. Will he truly be happy dealing with coughs and colds when he must refer more challenging cases to specialists?

*An Irish Country Courtship: A Novel* by Patrick Taylor, Forge Books; First Edition, 2010. Hardcover; 464 pages; \$25.99; ISBN-13: 978-0765321749.

**In the Company of Others**

By Jan Karon



With *Home to Holly Springs*, *New York Times*-bestselling author Jan Karon launched a new series, *The Father Tim Novels*, featuring the retired Episcopal priest that her readers have come to love. This second novel in the series will surely delight avid fans, earn new ones, and send them running for the first book in the series.

*In the Company of Others: A Father Tim Novel* by Jan Karon. Viking Adult, 2010. Hardcover; 416 pages; \$27.95; ISBN-13: 978-0670022120.

**The Chronicles of Cork**  
Edited by Jane O'Keeffe



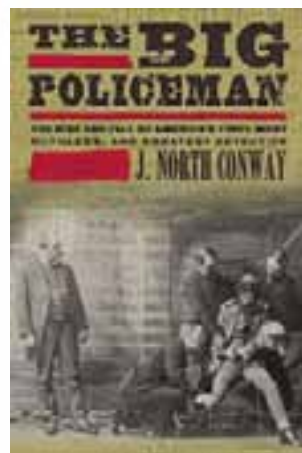
*The Chronicles of Cork - An Oral Record* features ten of the people recorded for the three Cork Collections.

Personal geographies, combined with unique histories, form the building blocks of the people we become. In these *Chronicles*, Cork is the keystone.

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**The Big Policeman**

By J. North Conway

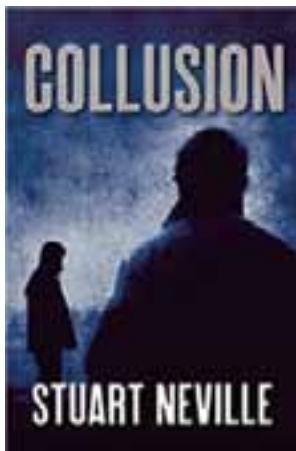


Philip Marlowe, Dirty Harry, and even *Law & Order*—none of these would exist as they do today were it not for the legendary career of 19th-century New York City cop Thomas Byrnes. From 1854 to 1895, Byrnes rose through the ranks to become a larger-than-life figure who paved the way for modern-day police methods.

J. North Conway narrates in thrilling, vivid detail the gritty police work associated with the father of the American detective.

*The Big Policeman: The Rise and Fall of America's First, Most Ruthless, and Greatest Detective* by J. North Conway. The Lyons Press, 2010. Hardcover; 336 pages, \$24.95; ISBN-13: 9781599219653.

**Collusion**  
By Stuart Neville



The author's sequel to the award-winning novel *The Ghosts of Belfast*. When Detective Inspector Jack Lennon tries to track down his former lover, Marie McKenna, and their daughter, his superiors tell him to back off. But now an assassin stalks Belfast, tying up loose ends for a vengeance-driven old man. As Lennon unravels a conspiracy that links his daughter to a killer named Fegan, the line between friend and enemy blurs.

*Collusion* by Stuart Neville. Soho Press, NY, 2010. Hardcover; 384 pages; \$25.00; ISBN-13: 978-1569478554.

**Jan Karon's Mitford Cookbook and Kitchen Reader**

By Jan Karon



*Jan Karon's Mitford Cookbook & Kitchen Reader* is a charming companion to the Mitford series that will have readers clamoring to bring into their own kitchens the aromas and flavors that swirl within the little town with the big heart.

*Jan Karon's Mitford Cookbook and Kitchen Reader* by Jan Karon. Viking Adult, Illustrated, 2004. Hardcover; 384 pages; \$29.95; ISBN-13: 978-0670032396.

**The Devil**  
By Ken Bruen



America—the land of opportunity: but not for PI Jack Taylor, who's just been refused entry. Disappointed and bitter, an encounter with an overly friendly stranger in an airport bar is the least of his problems. Except this stranger seems to know much more than he should about Jack.

But when he's called to investigate a student murder—he remembers the man from the airport. Is the stranger really who he says he is? Jack struggles to make sense of it all. After several more murders and too many coincidental encounters, Jack believes he may have met his nemesis.

Suspenseful, haunting, and totally unique, *The Devil* is Bruen at his very best.

*The Devil* by Ken Bruen. Minotaur Books, 2010. Hardcover; 288 pages; \$24.99; ISBN-13: 978-0312646967.

**The Irish Country House**

By The Knight of Glin & James Peill; Photographs by James Fennell



*The Irish Country House* chronicles a remarkable group of houses and castles that have survived the vicissitudes of Ireland's history and are still in the hands of their original families. From breakfront cab-

inets filled with generations of monogrammed heirloom china to canopy beds keeping the chill of an Irish winter at bay to cabbage-rose slip-covered sofas nestled under tall Gothic windows, this book takes the reader on a tour of these residences, many never published before, providing an intimate look at “a marvelous hotchpotch of rooms and decoration.”

*The Irish Country House* by The Knight of Glin & James Peill; Photographs by James Fennell. The Vendome Press, 2010. Hardcover with jacket; 220 full-color illustrations; 192 pages; \$45.00. ISBN: 978-0-86565-261-3.

**Bleed a River Deep**

By Brian McGilloway



*Bleed a River Deep* is the third book in the *Inspector Devlin* series.

When a U. S. diplomat is attacked during the opening of a Donegal gold mine, Inspector Benedict Devlin is disciplined for the lapse in security. The gunman turns out to be an environmentalist who is the brother of an old friend of Devlin's. Then the shooter is found dead near the mine and Devlin begins to suspect that the business is a front for something far more sinister.

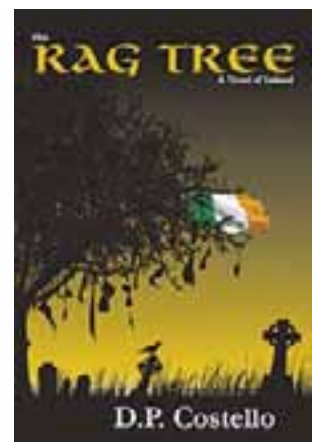
*Bleed a River Deep* by Brian McGilloway. Minotaur Books, First Edition, 2010. Hardcover; 304 pages; \$24.99; ISBN-13: 978-0312599478.

**The Rag Tree: A Novel of Ireland**

By D.P. Costello

D.P. Costello's spellbinding novel, *The Rag Tree*, breathes dark, vivid life into Ireland's passionate legends.

Mattie Joe Treacy is the desperate quest to find his missing

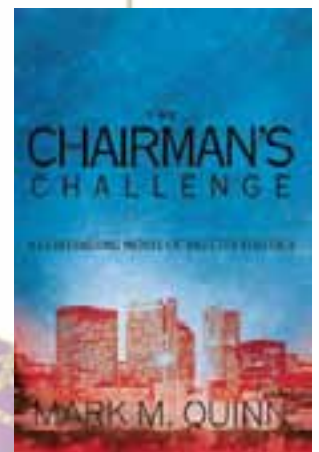


father, Mattie Joe is cursed by a family curse hurled at his clan generations ago. The Curse of the O'Neills, invoked by an angry cleric against Mattie Joe's great-grandfather, declares that, “the eldest son will not survive the father.” No Treacy son has since outlived his father, and Mattie Joe is next in line to die. Or is he?

*The Rag Tree: A Novel of Ireland* by D.P. Costello. BookSurge Publishing, 2009. Paperback; 392 pages; \$17.99; ISBN-13: 978-1439228319.

**The Chairman's Challenge**

By Mark M. Quinn



In *The Chairman's Challenge*, the author continues the examination of the mind and soul of big city ward boss Eamon DeValera Collins with which he tantalized the reader in *The Chairman, A Novel of Big City Politics*. In this sequel, Quinn continues molding compelling, often dark, sometimes humorous, and always entertaining tales derived from the annals of Chicago politics into the captivating story of a man who is fighting for his very way of life against a challenger who wants nothing more than to assume his mantle of absolute power.

*The Chairman's Challenge, A Continuing Novel of Big City Politics* is available at Amazon.com and other online outlets.





## The Celtic Traveller

By Maureen Callahan



hosts a special opening and candlelit tour in early December each year, which includes a behind-the-scenes tour of the library and treasures of the museum's collection, including

### Irish Roots in Prominent English Literature

Situated in the Pennine moors in West Yorkshire is the hilltop village of Haworth, internationally famous for being the home of a prominent family of English literature.

Haworth is dubbed Brontë country. Once a small, crowded village sustained by the working poor of textile mills, this small Dickens-esque locale is quite proud of its association to the literary family. Today it is a picture-perfect daytrip from the city of York. Patrick Brontë was originally from County Down, Ireland. The origin of the family name is traced to the Irish clan mac Aedh ó Proinntigh. In 1820, Patrick moved his family to a sizeable Georgian home here. Although his daughters Charlotte, Emily and Anne are the most respected of this clan, literary talent was not limited to these three. The token son, Branwell, was also a writer, although his work tends to be overshadowed by his famous sisters. The four were very close as children, collaborating on complex stories and themes. The early deaths of their mother and two older sisters, Maria and Elizabeth in the same year, are thought to have influenced their somewhat somber storytelling.

Literary buffs will enjoy exploring the family home, the Brontë Parsonage Museum. The rooms are filled with their actual furniture and belongings. The dining room holds the table of which the sisters were known to walk around together in the evenings, discussing their stories aloud. The kitchen feels as if servant Tabby Ackroyd still bakes here, telling dark tales of the surrounding haunted moors, the influence of which crept its way into the works of the

original manuscripts. ([www.bronte.org.uk](http://www.bronte.org.uk))

Next to the church, pass the village school as you walk into town. Notice the plaque com-



High Street, Haworth

memorating Charlotte Brontë as a teacher here. No doubt her experience here helped to paint the scene of her well-respected classic, *Jane Eyre*.

For a jaunt through the countryside, follow one of the several footpaths leading out of town. It's an easy, albeit unspectacular walk through waterfalls and footbridges eventually winding through the moors. Take a look around at Top Withens, a desolate ruin thought

to be the inspiration of Heathcliff's farmstead in Emily's novel, *Wuthering Heights*. This path forms part of the Brontë Way, a 69 km (43 mile) road. Strolling this route, much of it crossing wild and somewhat desolate moorland, is a great way to feel the English countryside up close. Be aware, however, that walking the entire path can take up to a week if done at a leisurely pace.



Brontë Family Home and Museum

children. Outside, walk across the property through the parish cemetery of St. Michael and All Angels, next door. It is within this church where the family worshipped and Patrick Brontë was curate, that the family rests.

The Museum is open every day, approximately 10am-5pm, except during Christmas holidays and most of January. The Museum

For a complete guidebook with suggestions of places to stay and stop off along the way, consult *The Brontë Way* by Paul Hannon.

You'll shiver a bit this time of year from the wind withering across the moors. On your way back into town, stop in by the fire for a Guinness along with your traditional English repast of steak and ale pie or fish and chips at

The Black Bull Pub. You'll also see the chair in which Branwell Brontë sat during his many hours spent here brooding over ales, usually under the influence of opium purchased from the apothecary across from the pub. If you're lucky, you might catch a glimpse of the ghost who has been lurking here since the 1800s. (The Black Bull, 19 Main St.)

For a quieter atmosphere, experience excellent food and a fine cup of hot English tea in one of the many tearooms in town. The Apothecary Tea Room, across from the church, is one of the best and offers outdoor seating on the patio in pleasant weather. (The Apothecary Tea Room, 90 Main St.)

Haworth is a great place to reflect on a triumphant time in Great Britain's history. Each spring, the village hosts a 1940s weekend, in which locals don war-time attire and period clothing and the town hosts an array of nostalgic events ranging from swing dances, and an RAF vintage plane flyby to a morale boosting from Winston Churchill and the Queen Mum.

Come in mid-November for Scroggling the Holly weekend. Processions of local children in traditional Victorian dress welcome Santa and officially usher in the Christmas season.

For a weekend in the English countryside, a literary journey or a daytrip from York, check out Haworth, England.

*The writer wishes to thank Maryann and the late Edward O'Neill for introducing her to Haworth, England.*

*Maureen Callahan is a freelance writer and seasoned traveler. [missmaureencallahan@gmail.com](mailto:missmaureencallahan@gmail.com)*

### Top 50 Irish Americans Honored

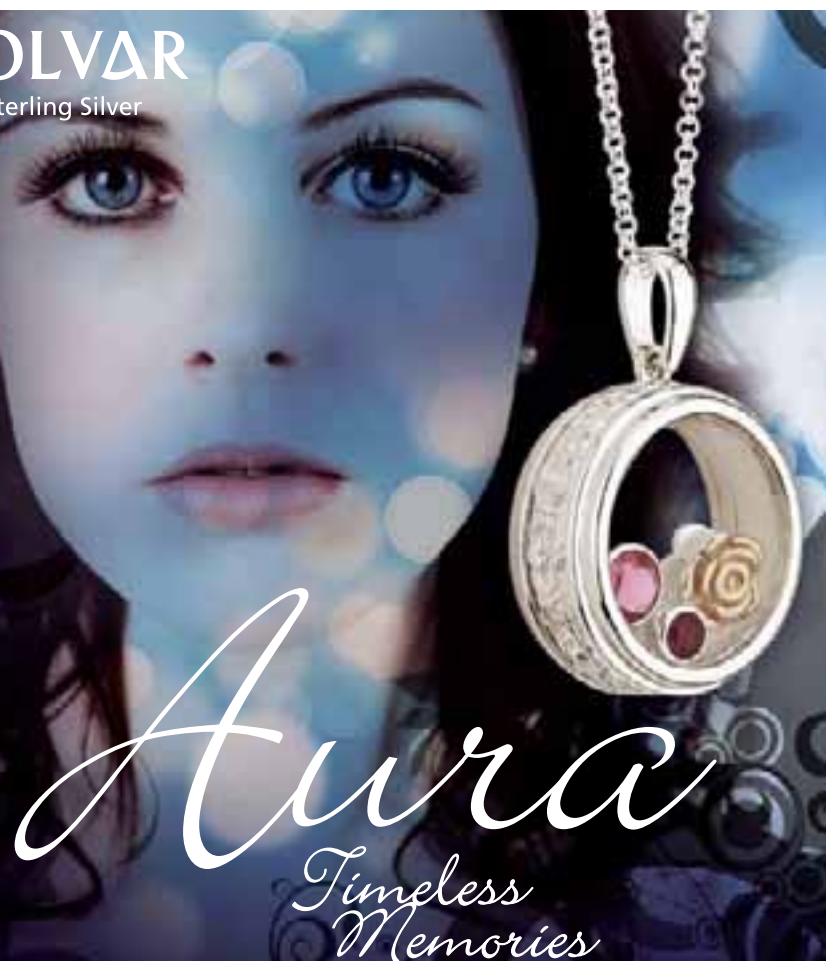
On October 20th, the *Irish Echo* honored the Top 50 Irish Americans in Law & Order. Thomas Byrne received one of the four special awards for his service to the citizens of Chicago. Byrne served as Deputy Superintendent of the CPD and was with the department for 35 years. He currently serves as the Commissioner for the Department of Streets and Sanitation.



Thomas Byrne

"I am honored to receive this award, and I also want to thank Mayor Daley who I have worked with for 21 years." Mairtin O Muilleoir, Managing Director of the Belfast Media Group, stated, "Tom Byrne served with distinction and we are glad to have him here with our other honored guests from around the United States." The top honoree was Dublin born John Timoney who served in the NYPD and finished his career at the Commissioner of the Philadelphia and Miami Police Departments.

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# Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



that as an insult. I think he was talking about the sad diluting of the Celtic spirit in recent times.

As to the second, let's look at Prince Charles through the

## Things are Rarely Black and White

"We were walking, and talking, across a grassy Brown County plain on a moonlit night during that last period of knowing each other well. I can recall his answer better than my words, which prompted it."

"But I think I remarked that this was a night when our Old Folk might have gathered for some festivity or some battle, and of how I felt permeated by some mood emanating from some far-off age of theirs."

"Bob stopped still. I knew by his face that he was sharing the mood."

"Yes" he said solemnly, "the last Celt should have died a thousand years ago"

—Harold Preece remembering Robert E. Howard.

"I felt I should lead from the front or at least be able to do some of the things that one expects others to do for the country."

—Prince Charles, Colonel in Chief of the Paras.

As to that fist quote, Howard was a Celtophile and certainly wouldn't have meant

eyes of Michael Flatley.

He's one of those guys that you are not allowed to say a bad word against. You can't comment on him unless you're going to mouth on about how much you love him.

To tell you the truth, I never liked the smugness of the guy. I never cared how many foot-taps he could do in a second. I never cared that he has a huge mansion in Ireland now. It never interested me all that much. Still, since I wrote this column last I have to admit that your fellow Chicagoan has given me a good laugh; and that's always nice.

When Michael Flatley—yes, he of the *Riverdance* fame—showed his true colours this month, I just listened to him with a weary sense of feeling that, as usual, the guy in the Big House now will always feel that he has to doff the cap to the Royal Family of England.

It seems like almost a disease with the Irish—and maybe Irish Americans by extension? I don't know.

He adores Prince Charles.

Fair enough, that is his business, except of course that he has chosen to make his fantasies public now.

So fair game: if I could reach into the past (and let's be honest, Prince Charles belongs most certainly to the past) I would choose to have the opportunity to have a talk with so many people.

The Colonel in Chief of the Parachute Regiment would not be one of them. Not by the most incredible stretch of the imagination. Do you remember this joker?

His bunch (and he's been in "charge" of them since what? -1977) were responsible for some of the worst atrocities ever committed on Irish soil.

Just off the top of my head I would like to have talked with H.P Lovecraft (New England) or Arthur Machen (Wales) or Robert E. Howard (Texas).

With Lovecraft you could drive yourself nuts by discussing mechanistic materialism with him; with Machen you could enjoy a bottle of his favourite port while he harangued you about Christian mysticism; my favourite of all would probably have been to have few beers with the great Texan writer Robert Ervin Howard, who could spin tales on anything from frontier life in Texas to the huge Aryan drifts throughout Europe.

I definitely wouldn't have chosen the pampered, spoiled, talk-to-your plants member of the Royal House of Windsor known as Charles, Prince of Wales.

Michael Flatley seems to be in awe of this guy. He tells us with breathtaking fervour that he wants his three-year old son to go to Hill House Preparatory School because—wait for it—they MAKE THEIR OWN BEDS THERE.

Not just that, but young men even learn BASIC COOKING SKILLS.

You're kidding me, right? What next? Do they learn how to sow a button onto their shirts?

According to the *Lord of the Dance*: "My wife has already contacted Hill House School in London. I want him to speak with the confidence that comes with the right education and I don't think that he would get that in America.

"I sat next to Prince Charles and Camilla at a dinner and you couldn't meet nicer people in the world. He spoke with charisma, understated and glamorous at the

same time.

"It is my dream for my son Michael to end up like him."

End up like what, for crying out loud? A man that needs his butler to put the toothpaste onto his brush?

End up like a guy whose hardest decision every morning is what suit he is told to wear?

End up like a guy who actually comes out and says that he wishes to be reincarnated as Camilla's tampon?

Yeah, I can really see why you would want your kid to end up as this sad guy. Being born with the Queen's silver in your mouth and raised by nannies rather than your distant mother is something that I wouldn't wish on my worst enemy, let alone my son.

Oh and by the way, didn't Bob Geldof send the awful Peaches to the same school? That turned out well then, did it?

As Dennis Leary once joked (I think it was a joke): "The only way that I would go and see *Riverdance* is if I had a sniper's rifle with me."

For some weird reason I was reminded of the ghastly Imelda Marcos who once said:

"Filipinos want beauty. I have to look beautiful so that poor Filipinos will have a star to look up to from their slums."

And yet... I will never forget that when I worked in Dublin, a friend of Flatley had a stroke. Up until then this fellow, who was very wealthy, was always surrounded by lackeys and hangers on.

After his stroke—and it was a bad one from which he never really recovered—all the toadies faded away. Embarrassing to be seen with, don't you know?

One guy that often flew in just to talk to him was Flatley. It had become difficult to even know what he was saying at that point, but Flatley was never anything but unostentatiously kind and decent with him.

He had been a friend when this man was out and about and able, so I admired Flatley for not forgetting him now that he wasn't, as so many had done.

Despite my dislike for Michael Flatley's comments on Prince Charles, I will never forget the care he gave to that man. At a time that he was alone and God knows needed someone to talk to.

People are rarely just black and white, are they?

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## Massive Austerity Measures & EU/IMF Bailout Spell Doom For The Current Irish Government

A crowd of over 100,000 union members and other workers took to the streets of Dublin Saturday, November 28 to protest the government's austerity plans and the EU/IMF bailout. The enormous turnout was in spite of freezing weather conditions and overnight snow storms. People came from every county in Ireland to register their anger at the government's handling of the financial crisis that has rocked the country. The march was planned by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions.

The demonstration finished up outside the historic General Post Office building in O'Connell Street, headquarters of the 1916 uprising. Jack O'Connor, ICTU President, told the protestors that Ireland had been brought "to its knees" by the government and the bankers. "Several generations of Irish men and women will have to foot the bill," he said.

Irish Times columnist Fintan O'Toole told them the Government is doing a deal with people who were never elected, that the Irish people were paying billions to bail out the banks and that the Government had declared war on the poor.

The austerity measures to be included in a December budget were unveiled just three days earlier in the National Recovery Plan. The plan aims to reduce Ireland's runaway deficit (currently 32 percent of GDP and a European record) by 15 billion euro over the next 4 years. The measures include 10 billion of spending cuts and 5 billion of tax hikes/new taxes. The cuts will fall across

the board but social welfare payments have been hit hard and there are plans to reduce the number of civil servants by over 20,000.

The Fianna Fáil led coalition is hanging on to power by a thread. After a November 25 by-election in Donegal South, won by Sinn Féin's Pearse Doherty, it's majority in the Dáil Éireann was cut to just two, and even those two are independents who are signalling they won't support the budget when it comes up for a vote. Taoiseach Brian Cowen has urged the country's lawmakers to support the austerity package and it has been suggested that the bailout for Ireland, currently being negotiated, is dependent on the country accepting these measures. Either way, the current government is on it's last legs. Junior coalition partners the Greens caught Fianna Fáil off guard by saying they would pull out of the coalition in January. That started a rearguard action by Fianna Fáil which has now said it would go to the polls as soon as the current negotiations are complete and the budget has been passed.

The bailout itself has caused an enormous amount of anger among the people of Ireland. Events throughout the month of November unfolded quickly after the return on 10 year Irish bonds reached nearly the ten percent mark. This is effectively the cost of borrowing for Ireland and at that level the markets and just about everyone else realized that Ireland's financial position was dire. Cowen insisted right up till the death that Ireland had enough cash on hand (because of previous

borrowings) to sustain projected spending until mid way through 2011. But when officials from the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund arrived in Dublin to start sifting through the paperwork the game was already up. After a week of strenuously denying that Ireland would ask the EU/IMF for help, Cowen finally did just that on Sunday November 20.

Talks are ongoing about the exact details of the bailout. It is believed that the figure involved is at least 85 billion euro and not more than 100 billion euro. Half of that will go to stabilize Ireland's banks and the rest to bridge the gap between Irish government spending and tax revenues. Several analysts have already speculated that the banks will need even more than that. It was the banking crisis that got Ireland into the current fiscal mess.

Over the last several years, as interest rates remained low (Ireland can do nothing to affect interest rates because of its membership of the euro), and as investment money poured in to the country, property prices rose so steeply that Ireland became one of the most expensive places to buy a house in all of Europe. The banks made reckless lending decisions and handed over billions to property developers for projects on the basis that the uptick in prices would never stop. Of course it did stop and reversed itself. When that happened the country's banks were in big trouble, with huge liabilities and an ever growing list of loans that were going south. Cowen's solution

in the fall of 2008 was to implement a blanket guarantee for all depositors and bond holders in Irish banks. At the time the guarantee was described by Finance Minister Brian Lenihan as "the cheapest bailout in the world so far." Earlier this year the government renewed the guarantee. It is this policy which many economists are saying has ruined Ireland's finances. Bond holders made an investment in Ireland which did not work out and now the Irish tax payer is being forced to foot the bill for their losses. And the bill runs into tens of billions of dollars.

There is speculation at the time of writing that the interest rate on at least some portion of the bailout fund might be as high as 6.7 percent, far more than the rate expected. Earlier in the year when Greece was rescued, they were charged 5.2 percent on the loan. The Greek deal was for three years however and Ireland's is thought to be for nine.

The full implications for Ireland of accepting the EU/IMF deal are as yet unknown. There will be a loss of economic sovereignty but no-one knows yet exactly what that will mean. High on the list of objectives for the EU will be to force Ireland to raise its rate of corporate taxation from 12.5 percent to 30 percent or more (the norm in most other European countries). Ireland has steadfastly fought against any such move to affect its tax policy but most European leaders are indignant

*Continued on page 16...*



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M.S., P.T., M.B.A.

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## For The Republic



Chris Fogarty



**CASTLEREA, CO. ROSC.;** cont'd from last month. Some readers expressed shock that, in the 164 years since Castlerea's first holocaust victims were buried, none of those mass graves were ever marked honestly. Until a few months ago only one of its Holocaust mass graves was marked at all. That marker was installed some fifteen years ago at Castlerea's older, Kilkeevin, cemetery, but it was installed outside the cemetery wall because that is where the starvelings were buried—having been denied burial in consecrated ground. Because the gov't (then British) had deliberately starved them to death the Catholic Church deemed them non-persons, lacking souls. That explains the widespread practice of denying Christian burial to the starvelings. However, it must be noted that close to half of Ireland's Catholic population died in the Holocaust, and that by 1847 the sheer scale of deaths overwhelmed all parishes; and even if not complicit with the Brits, what priest could cope with dozens of deaths each day? One cannot blame Castlerea exclusively for 164 years of disrespect toward its Holocaust dead; as all of Ireland's other hundreds if not thousands of Holocaust mass graves are identically disrespected; all but two, one marking the murdered village of Lisnabinnia, Ballymoe, Co. Galway and the other marking its mass grave. Thanks to Tom Egan of Ballyglass, Ballymoe, and his supporters. Without Egan Ireland's two honest Holocaust memorials wouldn't exist. Honesty in this matter requires acknowledgement of the Food Removal. The Lisnabinnia village memorial identifies two of the British regiments that starved it. See photos at <[www.irishholocaust.org](http://www.irishholocaust.org)>.

**FOOD REJECTED.** Cecil Woodham-Smith's, *The Great Hunger*, states; "In late 1846 the English Quaker William Forster offered to provide a boiler and donation to get a soup kitchen started, and with the exception of Castlerea the offers were gratefully accepted. At Castlerea the Catholic priest refused, because the result would be to bring the poor from the surrounding country into the town, 'by which

they would be overwhelmed.'" Those "poor from the surrounding country" (we farmed three miles outside Castlerea) mostly lived on, and cultivated, a few boggy or stony acres where their ancestors had been driven toward Loughglynn, Ballinlough, or Williamstown. Our farm, like all for many miles around, had been bought from English landlords in about 1911, at above-market price by the-then British gov't and divided into 28-acre holdings; "new takes" including a few acres of bog for fuel a some four miles away. Rents and rates on those farms were due twice-yearly until the 1960s or 1970s. The rents reimbursed the fund that had paid off the landlords (whose land-titles were robbery-based), while the rates maintained county gov't, roads, etc. Those four payments per year constituted much of the farmers' profit, and their cessation, especially of the hated rents, must have contributed to the prosperity that began immediately thereafter. All in our district were "new takes" though our two nearest neighbors didn't have to move, having been herds for the local landlord, another had been his kennel-keeper, while the gatehouse family, Coll, were left in possession of the house, but kept landless. John and Eddie Coll would recount the extravagances of the coaches-and-four that once gathered at Balfe's Big House. Our area had been the relatively small Balfe estate of some 6,000 acres (bought earlier from the Wills-Sandford's via a loan from the Church of Ireland). The area's main landlord was Lord Wills-Sandford (the name "Wills" remains in the local townlands of Willsgrove and Willsbrook); Lord Wills-Sandford was evidently related to the Wills-Pakenham-Mahon estate centered in Strokestown. Landlord Worthington's name survives only in the name of a local bog; but when the landlords were reinforced by their militia and Britain's police and army they were merciless.

**BALLINTOBER PARISH** extends to within a quarter-mile of the end of our land in Carrowmore. In 1847 its Parish priest James Browne wrote to the Archbishop of Dublin: "Ballintubber is gone – alas! My fine, virtuous,

holy people have been starved to death." Today the parish of Ballintubber, like that of Castlerea and essentially the rest of Ireland, is free of its landlords (all repatriated to England) and is populated nearly entirely by people whose parents or grandparents were brought back from the bogs and rocks between 1910 and 1955 and granted viable "new takes."

**WHY THE COVER UP?** Why do forces exist in Ireland that, to this day, threaten truth-tellers; those who break the cover-up and show some respect for its Holocaust Dead? One can understand that today, the puppet Iraqi government and hangers-on would minimize or conceal the genocide inflicted by US/UK forces. But 160 years from now, will any Iraqis be covering up for the US/UK genocidists as so many in Ireland are now doing? Will some in Gaza be covering up for the Israeli gov't 164 years hence? It is exceedingly unlikely. Where are the Native Americans cover-up artists, or the Jewish Shoah deniers? None exist. So what name can be given to the national character defect that prevails in Ireland? That wonderful teacher, Marist Bro. Enda, that I featured here last month; why did he obey Ireland's Education Department and thus lie to his pupils for his entire career? Why did he teach "famine" while he knew it was a genocide (or extermination), or as Irish historical precedence has it, Holocaust? Why did the people of Castlerea recently install a cover-up "memorial" at one of its Holocaust mass graves? Of course, it was well known that I was seeking a few honest persons in Castlerea (am still!) to form a committee to receive a truth-telling memorial over any of Castlerea's Holocaust mass graves.

**OFFICIAL CORRUPTION** is rampant in Ireland. It eschews the blood-lust of Occupied Ireland's mostly British pols, but it is relentlessly venal, and its criminal officials almost never face prosecution. Instead a "tribunal" is

set up, and after a few years of massive cost which benefits only lawyers, the issue is buried. Ireland's news media are indispensable abettors of this corruption. While many priests in Ireland are exemplary and often inspirational, many of them and essentially all Irish bishops are active Holocaust-deniers. The people of Ireland deserve better. They should have cleaned house long ago.

**\$BILLIONS** of Ireland's petroleum wealth given to multinationals by crooked pols. See [www.shelltosea.com](http://www.shelltosea.com).

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

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

**GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT;** beneficial? See [www.michaelmckevitt.com](http://www.michaelmckevitt.com), [www.friendsofcolinduffy.com](http://www.friendsofcolinduffy.com), and [www.freegerry.com](http://www.freegerry.com). In Maghaberry prison the Brits have reimposed pre-Hunger Strike conditions.

**BRITISH-PERSECUTED**

Gerry McGeough is back on trial Honest Englishman Fred Holroyd will testify! See [www.freegerry.com](http://www.freegerry.com).

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**ISRAELI BLOCKADERS** of Gaza are starving millions as official policy. Documents whose existence were denied by Israel for over a year, have been released after a legal battle led by Israeli human rights group, Gisha. The documents reveal Israeli policy in which the dietary requirements of Gaza's population are chillingly calculated, and the amount of food Israel allows in is measured to keep the population alive at a near-starvation level. See <http://www.imemc.org/article/59843>. Our gov't makes us Israel's partner-in-genocide; our \$taxes fund it all.

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# Piping It In

**Jack Baker**



The 12th month, where has the year gone? Let’s not look backward though, there’s too much in the New Year to look forward to.

First thing I’m looking forward to is lots more great piping from the newest Grade 1 pipe band in the US, City of Chicago! Their grade 2 band was raised up to grade 1 and their grade 5 band went up to grade 4. Quite an accomplishment when you consider that there are only 3 grade 1 bands in all of the US, Oran Mhor in New York and LA Scots in California. City of Washington had been grade 1 but was lowered to grade 2.

Second thing I’m looking forward to is great things from the Midwest Pipe Band Association. Their new President, Jim Sim, aside from being one of the best drumming instructors in the world, is also one smart motivated fellow. I trust he will do well in his new position. He’s certainly got my backing.

I’m looking forward to the new

venue for the Illinois Saint Andrew’s Society Highland Games on the third weekend of June next year. The games have been moved to Itasca, and word has it that the field is much better, the parking area larger and we may even have a grade 1 piping competition. Now if they’d only bring in Old Blind Dogs to play (1st item on my wish list!).

I’m looking forward to the first ever tour of the US by the Danish band Kasir. Noah Smulkis has been working like a beaver to bring this band over for two years now, and it looks like it will happen in 2011. Can’t wait to see these guys. They play trad Irish sounds with a unique Danish twist. Their two CDs have been great fun to listen to, but I want to see the live item. If you’re looking to book some new talent for your festival, give Noah a call. They’ll only be here a short time and the dates are filling up fast.

St. Laurence O’Toole Pipe Band, the band that won the world pipe band

championships this year, has released a CD and DVD titled *Evolution*. I haven’t gotten it in stock as I write this, but I trust it will be in by the time this goes to print. If you saw the DVD of the worlds or heard the CD then you know that St. Laurence O’Toole, or “SLOT” as they’re affectionately known, sailed into the world’s this year and owned first place. First time a band from Ireland has had that distinction. Pipe Major Terry Tully is certainly at the top of his game. As a result, a bunch of us are eagerly



awaiting this new CD/DVD. Pick up a copy. Any band that can win the MSR and Medley sections of the world’s grade 1 comp deserves our support and a listen.

Since its December, I guess I should talk a bit about the new Christmas music available, and there’s some good stuff there, and mention my favorite Christmas CDs. First the new stuff. There’s always a raft of “Celtic Xmas this” and “Celtic Xmas that” and most of them are the same old stuff with a new wrapper, lots of airy flutes and fiddles, very new agey and booooring! Some stand out and here’s my three picks for the best of the new stuff in descending order. Daniel O’Donnell has released his second Christmas CD and it’s pretty good. I

know he has a following that would pay to hear him read the phone book but this is a nice Christmas recording with a mix of familiar songs and some not so familiar. Titled *Oh Holy Night*, this one will probably be featured in every place that sells CDs but, let’s keep the money in the family and buy it at your local Irish store, believe me, we need the business.

Next, Celtic Thunder has done their 5th CD called, simply, *Celtic Thunder Christmas*.

Known for their excellent productions, this CD, while not terribly Celtic, has 14 very nice renditions of popular Christmas songs. If you like to hear the distinctive voices of Celtic Thunder, you’ll like this new recording.

I saved the best new release for last. From New Folk Records, a label quickly making its mark in Celtic music circles, comes *A Winter’s Harp* by master harper Bruce Kurnow. A strong talented harper, Bruce plays his new own arrangements of traditional Christmas tunes in one of the better CDs I’ve heard. Nice solid lyrical harp, I enjoyed it.

Now for the old stuff. I picked my favorite Christmas CDs that I play every year and came up with 6 that I consider the best. I’ll save the absolute best ever Christmas CD for last and start with *Simple Gifts, A Small Town Christmas* by Billy McLaughlin. Great voices and music, playing the classics, it reminds me of Christmas past. Just a lovely CD.

I always loved the Christmas music in church and *Christmas Carols* by the Choir of Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin fills the bill. A nice fat quality recording of the stuff we used to long to hear in church, because we knew when we started to hear this stuff, Christmas wasn’t far off. It also brings back the magic of midnight service on

Christmas eve. This is a great CD. My favorite Christmas CD by a female singer is by Chicago native Catherine O’Connell, who has one of the loveliest voices this side of heaven. If you’ve been lucky enough to hear her, you know what I mean, and if you haven’t heard her, give yourself an early present and pick up her CD. You’ll thank me.

My favorite Christmas CD by a male singer? Need you ask, it’s *Tommy Makem’s*

*Christmas*. Wonderful stuff by the



man who dug the well, it’s full of Tommy at his best, giving you songs that he loved for this season. Many of these are uncommon but beautiful. This is a classic recording but bitter-sweet, in that it makes me remember how much we miss this guy.

Had to include a fiddle CD and no one does Christmas fiddle quite like Eileen Ivers in her recording *An Nollaig, an Irish Christmas*. Backed by her band, Immigrant Soul, Eileen gives us a happy CD full of traditional Irish Christmas music.

Not to take away anything from the previously mentioned CDs, I love them all, but my absolute favorite Christmas CD is Bohola’s *bo-Ho-Ho-hola*. No one works an accordion like Jimmy Keane, and I do love Pat Broaders voice. Their choices of music on this huge CD (58 minutes 40 seconds) are superb. Great instrumental pieces perfect for dancing, soulful ballads, hilarious comedy songs, it’s got it all. Their version of “Miss Fogerty’s Christmas Cake” and “Dear Nuala” will leave you weak from laughing. Just great stuff with not a jingle bell in sight. If you want real Irish Christmas, here it is. You will love it.

Finally, just a note on the passing of Chuck Ward. There are few people I consider heroes in this world, now there’s one less. We will miss you.

I wish everyone a happy holiday, whichever you celebrate. Have a happy, sane and safe Hogmaney, remember all the amateurs are out that night, so avoid them.

You can reach me at the store in Villa Park, 630-834-8108 or on-line at [pipingitin@comcast.net](mailto:pipingitin@comcast.net). Slainté.

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## Skinny & Houli Show Returns to Chicago Radio



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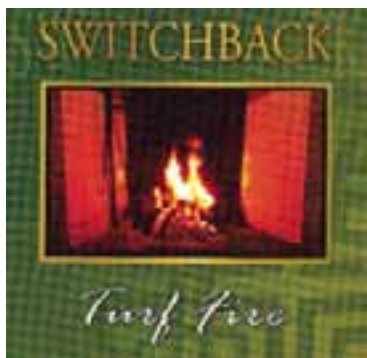
columnist for the *Irish American News* and former features columnist for the *Chicago Sun-Times*, introduce listeners to the quirky characters and stories that give our city its unique charm.

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*The Skinny & Houli Show* directly follows the popular *Good Morning Ireland* show with Sean Ginelly on WCEV 1450 AM.

## Switchback’s Turf Fire DVD Sure to Warm Memories



When Jim Sundberg of JS Interactive was hired to accompany Switchback on a tour of Ireland to film scenes for their PBS special, he had no idea that part of the evening would be spent filming a turf fire, but that is exactly what happened when his crew visited the home of Marty McCormack’s relatives near Claremorris, Co. Mayo. The result is a new DVD of a traditional turf fire that features the music of the award-winning duo.

“It was certainly one of my more unusual assignments,” said the film director, who has traveled as far as Brazil in making documentaries. “We were able to visit a truly authentic rural Irish cottage

that was more in keeping with the last century than the present. Here was a turf fire heating this centuries-old home. I suggested that I film the fire being made and burning, as I knew that this was obviously something that we don’t see in America. And I knew that it was soon to be a memory in Ireland too...”

It was a wonderful opportunity for Marty McCormack’s family as well. “My cousin Seamus got a kick out of us filming the fire,” said McCormack. “He definitely thought we were a bunch of ‘bloating Yanks’ and out of our minds. But we filmed it for a bit, and Seamus got in on the act and put the kettle on turf and brought in an old three-legged pot. Anyone who has memories of Ireland will enjoy the sight of the fire, and with some turf incense from their local Irish shop, they’re in business.”

Part of the evening, with McCormack and his musical partner, Brian FitzGerald, playing traditional Irish songs around the family fire, is also included on the DVD. Said Sundberg. “I think anyone who loves Ireland or who wishes to bring a bit of Ireland home will want to have this DVD. It truly will create some warm memories.”

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

## Mr. Holidays Presents The Roof Top Hop



For millions of people around the world, the love of reading was born with a Christmas story. Who can forget the first time we read—or had read to us—Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol* or *’Twas the Night Before Christmas* or one of the

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# Raised on Songs and Stories

Shay Clarke



## Christmastime in Ireland

The picture on the wall beside the fireplace was taken in 1956 and shows myself, my sister Miriam, Mum with my brother Don on her lap and my Dad, all around the Christmas tree. Three more come after that, Angela, Peter, Paula. The same picture is on the mantelpiece in my Mum's house in Dublin and can probably be found someplace in my siblings' homes too. I'm sporting a cowboy suit, Santa was good that year, and I remember that Christmas well. Mum and Dad look so young and it brings me back to Christmastime in Ireland.

Christmas time then was a huge family affair, as many of our Aunts and Uncles worked in England and only got home for "The Christmas." For us kids it was an exciting time as they always had a "few bob" for us. Ten shilling notes, half crowns, and even a few pounds were slipped into our hands with whispers of "Don't tell your Mammy, get something for yourself," but sure it was in the spirit of the season, and we used this good fortune to buy a few presents for our Mum and Dad and the rest of the family.

My Granda Clarke used to travel up to Dublin with a turkey for us, he raised turkeys in Carlanstown, Co. Meath, and I can still see "me Da" plucking the turkey out the back of our house, a smelly job which I avoided. I preferred to be in the kitchen with mum. Mum would make Christmas puddings at least six weeks in advance and then a Christmas cake, that would be layered with marzipan and Royal Icing before being decorated with miniature Christmas Trees and Santa in his sleigh. We kids got to lick the spoon, a rare pre-Christmas treat indeed.

Closer to Christmas, the Christmas tree would arrive and the whole house would be decorated in bunting and balloons with sprigs of red-berried holly adorning every picture on the walls. We always looked forward to the trip into the city for shopping, and to see the wonderful windows of Cleary's, Arnott's and the big department stores with their themed windows and moving displays. Of course Dublin had beautiful Christmas lights on all of its main streets—it was our winter wonderland.

The trip to the "Panto" or Pantomime was always a major treat for the family at Christmas. *Aladdin* or *Sleeping Beauty* at the Gaiety Theater with Jimmy O'Dea and Maureen Potter on stage. Pantomime is peculiar to Ireland and England, and I can't understand why it is not so popular over here, but I remember these occasions as one of the great treats of the Holidays. As I grew older, I made sure to take all of my children to the panto, and I hope to take my grandchildren too.

The few days before Christmas saw bottles of Guinness, Harp and Smithwicks arriving. Wine, Jameson and Sherry, Babysham and tins of biscuits or cookies as they are called here. Letters to Santa were written carefully and the excitement was fierce as we all tried to

stay awake awaiting his arrival, it never worked. Christmas morning we tumbled down the stairs to see what Santa had left for us. Shrieks of joy from us all, as we all seemed to find some of the things we had asked for. I remember particularly a bicycle, a watch and a Mecano set. New clothes were never on our list



(fashion for kids had not yet been invented) but they arrived anyway along with books and the *Dandy Annual*, a hardback book full of our favorite comic characters. Then we were scrubbed and off to Mass in our best clothes. Even Mass was better on Christmas Day, more candles and way more singing, but they were joyous songs to celebrate the birth of Jesus and they were sung in English, not Latin. Songs like "Silent Night" and "The First Noel" were the first songs I ever heard in English at Church. Then of course, we all lined up to see the Crib with Baby Jesus lying in the manger and Mary, Joseph and The Three Wise Men looking on.

For dinner, the enlarged dining room table, beautifully set on linen tablecloth, would be groaning with food. Turkey, ham, stuffing, gravy in a gravy boat (which back then was only seen on special occasions, the gravy boat I mean, not the gravy). Unusual vegetables like Brussels sprouts, which we all hated, and exotic condiments like apple, pear, and tomato chutneys. Christmas dinner was always served on the best china and only now do I realize the effort that Mum and Dad made in those tough days to pull it all off and make us feel so special. Desserts were our favorite though, mince pies, sherry trifle, jelly and custard, and Christmas pudding. The exotic fragrances of spices seemed to fill the whole house, mingling with the ever-present aroma of the freshly cut Christmas tree.

Visitors would begin to arrive for the party bringing more gifts for us children and the odd "bottle of Jameson" or something nice for Mum. Aunts and Uncles and family friends sat in the drawing room which was really only

used at Christmas back then, and the best crystal was produced as glasses were filled and bottles opened, and in those pre-TV days, out came the playing cards, pontoon, poker, and "come up" were played by children and adults alike.

Select boxes of our favorite candy and tins of biscuits (cookies) were raided for our favorites and eventually us kids were packed off to bed exhausted and thoroughly full as the party downstairs continued with songs and "party-pieces." I could hear my Dad singing and could recognize some of the other voices. Somebody always sang "Danny Boy" and "Kevin Barry" and "James Connolly" during the party, but us kids were upstairs playing with our new toys and reading our new books... "Happy as Larry."

St. Stephen's Day or Boxing Day, is December 26th and also celebrated with gusto. Mom would always cook a big Irish breakfast and then take it easy, as leftovers would sustain us for the next few days. She had done it again, provided us all with the perfect Christmas and without much help from us, as we were so young. Dad worked really hard to make it all come true, he always went to work at some stage on Christmas Day for the "overtime" and it's only now that I realize the sacrifices they made to make our Christmas dreams come true.

Thank you Mum for all those great memories and God Bless you Dad, you were a great father.

*Merry Christmas to all of you and be nice to each other. Remember to tune in to Blarney on the Air on Monday nights at 7pm Central or on the computer at wdeb.org.*

**Nollaig Shona Duit.**

## Massive Austerity...

*Continued from Page 11*

that they would be rescuing a country that is in turn undermining their ability to attract foreign business. Writing in the Guardian, a British center left broadsheet, Polly Toynbee described Ireland's corporate tax rate as "tax piracy."

The collapse of the property bubble in Ireland has left many of its citizens reeling. A huge amount of home-owners now have negative equity in a housing market which has slumped by more than 50 percent from its peak. Morgan Kelly, professor of economics at University College Dublin, has estimated that incredibly almost one in eight private mortgage holders in Ireland are more than 90 days in arrears with their mortgage. According to Ciarán Phelan, chief executive of the Irish Brokers Association, "at least 10,000 borrowers" are 12 months behind on their mortgage repayments. That is significant because those borrowers now face foreclosure. A government moratorium is in place that stops repossession until the borrower is delinquent by at least a year. This will clearly expose the banks to even more losses, and could cause even worse deflation in the housing market.

At the heart of the decision to rescue Ireland was the fear that the uncertainty shaking the bond markets, as a result of Ireland's difficulties, would spread like a contagion to other countries in the eurozone. Portugal, Spain and Italy all have big problems. European leaders fear that Portugal also going into default would damage the euro very seriously, and that if an economy the size of Spain's needed rescuing, that might collapse the euro entirely.

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## Larry Kirwan on *Celtic Crush*

*Celtic Crush* is the only Celtic rock and traditional radio show broadcast throughout all of North America. It can be heard every Saturday morning and Tuesday night on Sirius XM Satellite Radio.

"It really makes a difference," says its host, Larry Kirwan, leader of Black 47, "when you know you can be heard from Arizona up to the Canadian Arctic Circle or from Florida to Alaska. Even on the big New York AM channels you can rarely be heard fifty miles from the city."

But then *Celtic Crush* is a unique show no matter which way you look at it. A mixture of music and talk that sometimes harkens back to the glory days of FM radio but presented in a fast-paced and modern manner.

"Back in Ireland I grew up listening to John Peel on BBC Radio but I also loved the energy and excitement of the DJs on pirate radio. Then when I came to New York everyone listened to WNEW-FM and I came under the influence of people like Vin Scelsa, Alison Steele, Jonathan Schwartz and Meg Griffin. Yet by the time I came to do my own show I knew that the world had changed.

If you want to mix different types of music and do so in an informed manner, then you better really grab and hold the attention of your audience. Howard Stern is down the corridor ready to pick up anyone you're putting to sleep."

*Celtic Crush* pushes the envelope and delivers a vast array of music in the course of a three-hour show.

As Kirwan promises at the beginning of each show you will hear "a selection of the old, the very old, the new and the very new in music from the 8 Celtic nations and their related cultures."

"Celtic music is now so broad based that it's almost dizzying. It has infiltrated the whole rock genre, while traditional musicians are now collaborating with musicians of many other cultures. The trick is—how to combine

all of these explorations in an organic manner. I've found that you need two elements, great songs and a style of delivery that, while informative, always tells a story."

"I begin work on Saturday's show early in the week, plotting out thirteen or fourteen sets of three songs each, taking care to repeat no more than one or two songs from the previous week's show, and with special emphasis on the first set. The monologue that precedes that first set will set a theme for the

show that must capture the attention of the listeners. I rarely use notes, in that way there's always an element of danger, indeed some of the best pieces come when improvising. There's nothing quite like the fear of falling on your face in front of a large audience to keep you focused."

How does he choose the songs?

"I choose them by the song—not the singer. People who subscribe to



Larry with Roseanne Cash

SiriusXM are radio heads and they have a vast array of choices—over 150 channels of every type of music and talk—so you have to be able to hold your audience. Your show is only as strong as your weakest song and each one has to be a stand out. A great song always shines through. And when you're playing 40 of them in the course



Larry with Flogging Molly

of a show then you had better make sure that they're all top shelf.

A *Celtic Crush* listener may have their favorite genre, say the Celtic Punk of the Dropkick Murphys, or a more jazzy lyrical Van Morrison style, or a Paddy Reilly ballad, or modern trad Irish like Lunasa. I have to make sure that the song I choose will be the best in its class so that someone who doesn't care for that genre will know they're sampling the cream of the crop while waiting for their own favorites."

Where does he come up with the various facts and information that spice his voice breaks?

"Well, I've been around. Through Black 47, I personally know many of the bands I feature or else have seen them perform. I occasionally check a website to corroborate information but for the most part, once I plan out the sequence of songs early in the week, I'm thinking of them on some level. Then when I'm in front of the microphone I can improvise and verbally jam with some of those ideas."

Who are his favorite interviewees?

"Friends like Dave King and Bridget Reagan of Flogging Molly or Rosanne Cash are always great, as we just let our hair down and have a chat that can go really deep at times, dealing with fears and failures along with joys and triumphs. Richard Thompson was my first interview and, after he relaxed, he spoke very movingly about the late Sandy Denny, one of my favorite artists. But perhaps, Ray Davies of the Kinks was the standout."

What makes The Kinks Celtic?

"Well, Davies is a Welsh name but Ray considers himself very Celtic. He lives part of the year in Cork. And besides he's one of the great storytellers in rock—a real seanchai. He was utterly charming but in a sincere manner, had total recall of his experiences. He's also one of my songwriting heroes. He talked at length about the Kinks' classic, "Waterloo Sunset." He remembered every detail of its writing and recording and was thrilled to talk about it—that may have been the first time that he'd ever really expounded on the matter. It was like listening to an un-mined nugget of rock history. The response from the listeners bore that out."

Does Kirwan respond to every email? (He did within hours to mine when requesting this interview.)

"It's an important part of the show—that interaction between host and audience. I give out my email address a couple of times during each show—blk47@aol.com. People love to make suggestions and even send CDs and MP3s of their favorite songs. I listen to them all and occasionally play one. It's great to find a powerful song from an unknown band or artist and give them an outlet."

So what's next for *Celtic Crush*?

"Well, I have interviews scheduled with Horslips and Paul Brady. I see The Frames are coming to town, so may get Glen Hansard back up in the studios. But it's Monday morning and I have

Saturday's show to prepare. I always try to introduce a couple of great new songs every week and then mix them in with selections from a database of around 1,000 songs. Then find some interesting and, hopefully, thoughtful subjects to weave in amongst the music. I often look at it the way the old bards must have—you're going into the noble's house to entertain with

a mixture of song and story. You're singing for your supper—you better get it right."

*Celtic Crush* can be heard on Saturday mornings at 7-10am ET and Tuesday nights at 11pm ET on SiriusXM Satellite Radio (The Spectrum—Sirius Channel 18 and XM Channel 45) For a free 30 day trial of SiriusXM go to [www.siriusxm.com](http://www.siriusxm.com).

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# Hooliganism

Mike Houlihan



the potential political juggernaut that was about to be launched.

At approximately 0800 hours the next morning I was driving through beautiful Berwyn and my cell phone rang. It was Pickle Joyce calling and he said, “You gotta get Skinny to run for mayor!”

At that very moment on the other side of the world, dogs yapped outside The Taj Mahal in India where President Obama and the first lady slept. Barack stirred in his sleep and murmured, “No... no... not Skinny... oh for the love of Allah, no!”

Michelle stroked his temple and said, “What is it Mr. President? Who is Skinny?”

Obama gruffly turned over and snorted, “What... oh... nothing... I was dreaming... dreaming I was fat... like Oprah. I wish I wasn’t so skinny.” He pulled the covers over his head and prayed that Michelle would believe him.

Back in Chicago Pickle told me he could get the signatures for “Skinny Sheahan for Mayor” in 3 days. In three days I will destroy this temple and build it up again!

Skinny is co-host of the Skinny & Houli Show, which recently returned to the airwaves in the midst of these times of mayoral mayhem. Of course we are pals, but I doubt if he’s going to put much stock in my “wise counsel.”

Pickle implored me, “Skinny would make a great mayor, don’tcha think?”

Well sure he would... if this was Bizarro World!

And then I started thinking, wait a minute, this could be epic! I could move to Chicago, and upon election Skinny could appoint me Commissioner of Tomfoolery. Sure it sounds crazy but we’re talking about a parallel universe where Skinny Sheahan is mayor!

I could pick up health insurance and one of those pensions everybody is always talking about! Don’t worry I’ll keep my head down and my mouth shut.

I told Pickle I would immediately set to work and try to persuade Skinny to leap “once more into the breach.”

Skinny thought about it. I tried the same lines on him that he had tried on his brother. “Think how proud your father would be, a Chicago policeman who had come here from Limerick. Think of the legacy of the Sheahan family. Think... of a black helicopter touching down in the security area by the Taj Mahal’s garage. A half dozen Navy Seals jump from the chopper into the dark early morning and form a gauntlet for a man with a briefcase handcuffed to his wrist, wearing a black suit and moustache, David Axelrod.

He tells the Secret Service detail at the door, “I have to see the President immediately, it’s an issue of national security!”

Obama enters an anteroom, tying the sash on his silk robe with the Presidential Seal, and wipes the sleep from his eyes.

“What is it David? What’s the buzz?”

Axelrod looks around the room and nods for the Secret Service men to leave. He looks over his shoulder and unlocks the briefcase on his wrist, and hands a dossier to the POTUS. He shrugs, “We’ve got a problem back in Chicago.”

Barack runs his long lean fingers over the folder and doesn’t even look down at it. “It’s Skinny Sheahan... isn’t it?”

Axelrod stares at the floor and whimpers, “Yes, Mr. President, it is.”

Back in Chi-town Skinny tells me, “That would make it all worth it! But I’m not crazy. You could never help the people who helped you get in.”

Oh what a noble thought! If you can’t help the people who helped you, what’s the point? If you can’t dance with who brung ya’, why go to the dance?

And so we’ll never know. We’ll only have the hypothetical memory of President Barack Obama, his eyes filling with tears as he flings the folder into the fireplace and runs from the room gnashing his teeth, “Skinny... Noooooooooooooo.”

It could’ve happened. But you can still tune in to WCEV 1450 AM every Saturday afternoon from 3-4pm to hear “the man who should have been mayor” on *The Skinny & Houli Show*.

Or as some listeners like to call it, “Bizarro World.”

It was a simple remark in a Greek restaurant on Milwaukee Avenue that triggered an international incident.

Black Dave Cahill was hosting an early dinner at The Blue Angel and discussing the Chicago mayoral race with some pals. It was just a couple of days since Rahm Emmanuel and his White House entourage had performed some sort of weird Jedi mind trick on Sheriff Tom Dart and he had suddenly dropped out of the race. The Irish American community was scrambling to find a candidate who could win and keep the seat warm for all us Micks.

Sipping coffee at The Blue Angel, Cahill looked us dead in the eye and said, “Who else is there?”

George the Greek came by and we all threw out names. Finally we looked at the guy sitting across from us at the table and said, “What about your brother?”

Somebody said, “Yeah, the real Sheriff.”

A consensus was immediately reached and we all started telling Skinny, “You gotta go home tonight and talk him into running. He will obliterate the ballerina.”

48 hours later, Sheriff Sheahan decided that, as Shakespeare said, “The better part of valor is discretion... in the which better part I have sav’d my life.”

36 hours later former State’s Attorney and 2009 St. Patrick’s Day Parade Grand Marshall Dick Devine came to the same conclusion.

For the first time in epochs Chicago was without an Irish Catholic mayoral candidate.

The following 12 hours started a very brief season of enchantment for Chicagoans, although most of them were never aware of

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# THE IRISH FELLOWSHIP CLUB OF CHICAGO

## IFC History

In 1902, a group of Irishmen formed The Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago to preserve and promote their heritage. They dedicated themselves to continuing the celebration of St. Patrick's Day in Chicago and sharing their Irish Culture and values with the citizens of our beloved city, Chicago. While promoting friendship and fellowship among the members of the club, the ideals and traditions of their Irish ancestry became a part of the new traditions of Chicago.

The legacy and fellowship of the club has passed down through generations making the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago the city's oldest and most celebrated Irish organization, hosting presidents, prime ministers and many other Irish Government officials over the years.

Today the club continues, through its many programs and events to uphold and expand on the objectives of its founders including the funding of educational grants to needy Chicagoland high school students.

## Educational and Cultural Foundation

Through its affiliated organization the Irish Fellowship Club Educational & Cultural Foundation, the IFC has provided over \$1,600,000 in tuition assistance to 38 local Catholic high schools. This year the Foundation provided \$76,000 in educational grants to needy students, and the demand is only growing.

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## Christmas Luncheon

This luncheon always attracts a huge crowd, on the first Friday of December.

This year's luncheon is scheduled for Friday, December 3, 2010 in the magnificent Grand Ballroom at the stately Chicago Hilton and Towers. The festive celebration begins with a cocktail reception at 11:15 am followed by lunch at 12:15 pm. There will be plenty of Christmas carols, Irish music and dancing to enliven the event.

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For tickets or more information call Kathy Taylor at 312 676 4120 or visit [www.irishfellowshipclub.com](http://www.irishfellowshipclub.com).



## St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Each year in March the Irish Fellowship Club hosts a St. Patrick's Day dinner at the beautiful Chicago Hilton and Towers ballrooms and welcomes Irish leaders from all walks of life, local dignitaries, and proud Irish Fellowship members with their family and friends. This year's 109th St. Patrick's Day dinner was honored with the presence of An Taoiseach Brian Cowen and Michael Collins Irish Ambassador to the United States.

The guest list also included Francis Cardinal George, Governor Patrick Quinn, Mayor Richard Daley, Irish Consulate General Martin Rouine, and numerous other Irish leaders.

Each dinner's entertainment is always spectacular with local traditional Irish music including, Irish Harp, a full Orchestra after dinner for dancing, the Shannon Rovers, and Irish Dance Academies.

Mark your calendars for March 11th 2011 for next year's IFC St. Patrick's Day celebration.

All proceeds from the dinner are contributed to the work of the Foundation

## The Irish Open

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For more than 100 years, the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago has comprised the brightest Irish-American minds and the stoutest Irish-American hearts in Chicago. Our members have helped weave the political, economic and social fabric of this city, while honoring the Club founders' desire to "build up a spirit among the people of Irish descent here, of dignity, of cultural activities."

Any person who has demonstrated a knowledge of and sympathy for the ideals and aspirations of the Club is invited to join the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago. Annual dues are used to fund the Club's Educational and Cultural Foundation.

Join today and new members will be entered in a drawing to win place in the Front Line of the Irish Fellowship Club Contingent in the 2011 Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade!

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## Irish Steamroll the Cadets

By Coleman Clarke

Outlined against a beautiful New York City skyline on a clear autumn night, the Fighting Irish and Army Cadets met for the 50th time in this old rivalry at the new Yankee stadium in the Bronx. In a series filled with memorable plays and great players, this game offered no such drama. Thanks to another great effort by the Notre Dame defense, the outcome was already decided halfway through the third quarter.

Notre Dame elected to take the ball first on offense as freshman quarterback Tommy Rees methodically marched the Irish down field mixing in short passes and runs; coming within the ten yard line of the Cadets. However, he threw an errant pass that was intercepted by the Cadets. From the start, this game seemed eerily similar to the Navy game earlier this year when the Irish squandered an early scoring opportunity and yielded a 99 yard touchdown drive to the Midshipmen.

The Black Knights of Army gashed the Notre Dame defense on their first drive and drove the ball all the way inside the ten yard line of the Irish. Notre Dame's defense was able to tighten up and surrender only a field goal, which proved to be crucial early on.

Army's offense, much like Navy's, generally possesses the ball longer than their opponent, which means fewer chances to score for the opposition. Notre Dame's ability to hold the Cadets

to a field goal limited the damage and enabled Notre Dame to regroup. After Notre Dame countered with a field goal from David Ruffer to make the score 3-3, the Irish defense made tremendous adjustments and attacked the Army option like a swarm of killer bees.

The Army option attack, generally among one of the country's best rushing units, was limited to a paltry 135 yards, well below their season average. Notre Dame Defenders stayed disciplined in their lanes and closed down the gaps, forcing Army to the air. Notre Dame Safety Darrin Walls, ran back an interception for the Irish making the score 24-3. The Cadets were throttled by the Irish defense all night and had no answers to the jailbreak assault launched upon them by the Irish defense. The last time an Irish defense held their opponents to three points in consecutive games was in 1980.

In addition to the vast improvement on defense, The Irish seemed to be developing a swagger that comes with playing well and winning ball games. They appear to be buying into the philosophy of their coaches and executing on a higher level. Defensive coordinator Bob Diaco, who himself was under fire following the loss to Navy, deserves a lot of credit for the turnaround on defense. His defense was manhandled by the Midshipmen of Navy earlier this year. He made the necessary adjustment by going to a four man front and attacking the Army option, instead of simply reacting to it as they did against Navy. The Notre Dame defense, which earlier this year, was called a high school defense by ESPN analyst Kirk Herbstreit, was now playing fast and running from sideline to sideline, suffocating the Army attack.

The Notre Dame offense was efficient once again with quarterback Tommy Rees, leading the Irish. Rees was 13-20 passing for 213 yards. He found tight end Tyler Eifert on a beautiful 31 yard touchdown pass to make the score 17-3, Irish. For the second week in a row, the Irish were able to achieve offensive balance, taking the pressure off Rees to win the game by himself. The Irish offensive line was physical in the trenches once again as running back Cierre Wood, a star in the making, ran with for 88 yards on just 14 carries. Wood runs the ball with an attitude that looks to inflict pain on the defenders with every carry. Instead of shying away from contact, he elects to initiate the punishment leaving the defense battered and bruised. Rees, generally managed the game well and displays a maturity beyond his 18 years. His teammates appear to be confident in him and the offense as a whole is improving with each passing week.

Notre Dame has one more game remaining against archrival USC, which is coming off a humiliating loss to the Oregon State Beavers in Corvallis this past Saturday. The Irish would like nothing more than to send the Trojans into a season ending tailspin with a victory at the Coliseum. An Irish victory would validate the season and give Irish fans a reason to believe in Kelly and his staff. Notre Dame has not won at the Coliseum against USC since 2000, when they started a freshman quarterback named Matt Lovechio. I was in attendance at that game and recall how the Irish beat the Trojans to a pulp with a pulverizing ground game. It was a beautiful thing to witness, if you were an Irish fan. Oh by the way, the Irish will be starting a freshman quarterback against the Trojans this year...

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## Healy Law

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Senior Partner

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

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

### Christmas – A Time to Look at Toy Safety

A couple of years back, we wrote about toy safety. As Christmas approaches, it is again a good time to focus on the topic. Parents should always make sure that the gifts children receive around Christmas and throughout the year, are safe and appropriate for the child's age. Many toys and athletic devices such as bicycles, scooters and skateboards are popular gifts for children. They can also be dangerous.

### Consumer Product Safety Commission

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission ("CPSC") is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of serious injury or death from more than fifteen thousand types of consumer products under the agency jurisdiction. According to CPSC there are about 150,000 toy safety related accidents each year; many of these accidents are preventable.

Since 1970, toy safety has been regulated. Over 1,500 toys have been banned from the consumer market. However, often the standards required are the minimum and the individual toys which meet the legislative requirements may still not be safe for various reasons. In addition, many of the toys in our stores are manufactured over seas where less stringent manufacturing guidelines may apply.

Some of the things that parents should look out for in their children's toys include: sharp edges and points (especially if a toy gets broken), tiny parts that could be swallowed or end up in the ears, nose or eyes, toys that make so much loud noise they

damage ear drums, anything that can be propelled or create a projectile, and electric toys that can burn or shock a child if something goes wrong.

Accidents can be avoided with the careful selection of gifts by matching them to the child's age or abilities and by following proper safety procedures. If you are giving a gift such as a bicycle, a scooter or skateboard, we encourage you to include any appropriate safety gear as part of the child's present to make sure the risk of injury is minimized. Over the years, we as a law firm concerned about safety issues have been involved in the distribution of hundreds of bike helmets to children, through the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association. Properly worn and sized bike helmets have significantly reduced the risk of brain injury to bicycle riders.

### What to Look for When Buying Toys

The CPSC has a number of shopping tips you can use this coming year. Be a label reader, look for toy labels that give age and safety recommendation, and use that information as a guide. Select toys to suit the age, ability skills and interest level of the intended child. Look for sturdy construction such as tightly secured eyes, noses and other potential small parts. For all children under 8 years old, avoid toys that have sharp edges and points. Once the gifts are opened, discard plastic wrappings on toys before they become dangerous play things. Keep toys appropriate for older children away from younger siblings or neighbors.

Pay attention to instructions and warnings on battery chargers. Some chargers lack devices to prevent over-charging and can cause electrical shocks.

In 2008, the CPSC reports 19 toy related deaths and 235,300 toy related injuries requiring an emergency room visit involving children under age of fifteen years old. Of that number, 82,300 injuries involved children under 5. Choking or strangulation hazards are a large portion of the injuries and deaths that occur because of toys. Recently, the CPSC issued a voluntary recall of a rocking horse toy because the reins of the horse were long enough to pose a choking hazard.

The same day, the CPSC issued a voluntary recall for a different manufacturer's horse-on-a-stick toy because the reins on that toy also created a choking hazard.

### Product Liability Lawsuits

At The Healy Law Firm, we have filed lawsuits on behalf of clients injured by dangerous consumer products. Product liability lawsuits encourage corporations to act in a responsible manner. As just these short summaries show, many children's toys are released into the market without appropriate safety evaluations and testing. If the important safeguard of

products liability law was not in place, corporations could make decisions focused solely on financial return rather than a strong concern for safety.

*We wish all our readers a Merry Christmas, Happy Holiday and a healthy and safe 2011.*

By Martin Healy, Jr. and Dennis M. Lynch ►►



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# Next Generation Steps Up for Irish Heritage

By Cathy Curry

No matter what benefit, concert, or function takes place in Irish Chicago, there is almost always a strong, vibrant woman behind the effort, holding the reigns, and attending to the details that achieve the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. No one realizes just how many young women are rising to the challenge of keeping Irish heritage and culture alive and thriving. Whether born in Ireland, or several generations removed, women of Irish descent are surging to the top ranks of business and charitable endeavors.

*The Irish American News* is proud to present a few of the many women who have made a difference in the Chicago Irish world.

**Cathy O'Hagan Carroll** loved waking up in her home on Saturday mornings, on Chicago's NW side, to the smell of her mother's Irish sausages and bacon and the sound



**Cathy O'Hagan Carroll**

of Irish radio blasting through the air. Big, Irish breakfasts with her sisters, two brothers and both parents gathered round the family table are happy memories. Her father, from Bunrana, Donegal worked two jobs, on the Milwaukee railroad and as night security for Turn Stile store, in order to send his children to Catholic schools. Her mother, from Malinhead, Donegal met her husband at a dance at the Ulster Club.

Cathy is the owner of Johnny O'Hagan's Irish Pub at 3374 N. Clark Street, a popular pub and restaurant near Wrigley Field. She worked for 27 years at Lutheran General hospital as an administrator in OBGYN. She is a committee member of the Irish Immigration Support Group, and a member of the IAHC. Her charitable works include Children's Memorial Hospital, the American Brain Tumor Association, Cystic Fibrosis, and countless benefits Irish in need. Kathy was involved in was The Good Morning Ireland Foundation where she raised money and purchased a mammogram machine for Galway Hospital and bed for the Children's Hospital in Dublin. She donates her house in Donegal as a silent auction item for worthy causes. She also helped start the first girls Gaelic football team here in Chicago and San Francisco!

Her favorite Irish person is her aunt

Sister Maurice O'Hagan who "has been a missionary nun in Africa since 16. She has cared for lepers, aids victims, has had malaria numerous but her gentleness and determination is an inspiration to myself and many others. Also my aunts and uncles for the positive influences they have portrayed through family love and an ongoing bond that has always been extremely strong. I also admire my parents for the sacrifices they gave to give their 5 children the best growing up and their unconditional love and patience with us all. God knows they needed it!!" Kathy hopes to visit her aunt in Zimbria, Africa one day.

Her large family is close to this day. She takes her three children back to Ireland each year to visit. Her children have developed an intense interest in their family and Irish history.

"I truly believe that God puts us on earth to do his work and I believe that we are surrounded by daily miracles if we are open to see them. Life may sometimes be difficult but there are always things to be grateful and thankful for. We get from life what we put into it!"

**Josephine Gallagher Coleman** was born number 6 of 12 children in Glasgow, Scotland. Her father worked building the Clyde Tunnel. He brought his family back to Ireland in the 1960's, living on a farm with many acres of parkland as their backyard. Josephine fondly recalls the days after a rain when a car could not make it up the 1/2 mile lane to the house. Her older brother's two front teeth are still buried in the big tree, she asserts.

She and her siblings visit the old homestead every so often. On her last visit, while walking up the path to the front door, she kicked up the old, iron front door key which she now has hanging from a ribbon on her now-deceased father's photograph.

Josephine originally came to Chicago to visit her pregnant sister. She was the first cocktail waitress in the IAHC's Fifth Province under the direction of Alan Duggan, she worked at the YMCA, and as a personal home care provider. Wanting to see more of America, she traveled with friends to Alaska, and saw the devastation of the Exxon Valdez oil spill days.

When she settled down and married, Mrs. Coleman adopted two children from Catholic charities, an organization she holds dear. She has passed on the Irish tradition of rolling painted Easter eggs down the hill. She taught her son to play guitar and keyboards, and her children continue the family tradition of entertaining themselves. Each year the family makes their own Christmas crackers and Josephine is

adamant about teaching the children to bake her Irish recipes from scratch: rice pudding, apple crumble, scones, and her favorite, treacle bread.

Josephine is still a supporter of the town of Omagh, Ireland, bringing the choir to America for a tour and ending up in Soldier Field as a guest of Mayor Daley while the choir sang during a White Sox game. She organized funds for Omagh after the bombing of the town by the IRA where 2,000 were injured and many killed.

A cancer survivor, Josephine gives freely of herself to her family, friends and charities, looks forward to St. Patrick's Day every year and hosts an annual garage sale to raise funds for the Sacred Heart of Mary's African ministries. She has never met an Irishman or Irish-American who would not chat with pride about their heritage.

"The Irish are the most welcoming people in the world"

**Josephine Craven** has three things on her Bucket List. A Bucket List is simply a list of things one should do before one "kicks the bucket", or cross into the Next Life.

"I've always thought it would be rather decadent to be painted nude. The older I get the more attractive I find the notion.

I would love to spend a year sailing around the Scottish Islands - one of the most beautiful places on earth with the not insignificant benefits of great tea, whiskey and blood pudding.

Then, pandering to my love of performing and theatrics I would like to learn to play the harp sufficiently to not embarrass myself in public - I mean who wouldn't want to sit at a harp in a flowing velvet gown?"

With a Bucket list such as this, Josephine can only be described as an unconventional woman.

Born in Ballinasloe, county Galway with 6 brothers, two sisters and two very forward-thinking parents, Josephine and her siblings were encouraged to be themselves, not overly

concerning themselves with labels or stereotypes. "Contrary to my current couch potato nature I did win a gold medal for the hurdles when I was about 12 - wearing strapped sandals and a gypsy skirt, I might add."

At 24 years of age, before the Celtic Tiger was growling, she came to Chicago, green card in hand, and was hired by the Spencer Foundation. She works as their Information Technology Services Controller to this day.

Ms. Craven returns to her beloved Ireland every December to gather with her family and friends in celebration of Christmas and the New Year. Her Nanan (grandmother) gave her a doll for her fourth birthday. The



**Josephine Craven**

kind of doll about which songs are written. A doll with beautiful hair and eyes that open and close. A doll she still treasures to this day and which she hopes to bring back to Chicago with her in early 2011 with the new clothes her mother is sewing for it. One is never too old to appreciate the gift of love.

Giving freely of her small allotment of spare time, Josephine has been involved with Gaelic Park, the Irish Fellowship Club, the Milwaukee Irish Arts and the Irish American Heritage Center. She is co-founder of the Innisfree Irish Arts, committee co-chair for iBAM!Chicago, and has co-chaired Bloomsday at the IAHC for 10 years.

She admires the "incredible drive and huge amount of time Irish people volunteer to promote their heritage."

**Imelda Gallagher** was born in Chicago, but raised in Ireland. She spent her summers in Chicago and feels like she had the best of both worlds. Growing up in Ireland, she recalls cups of tea at all hours of the day and night- regardless of caffeine content. The tea had to be made correctly, kettle on the boil and scald the pot or cup before making the tea and pouring. She remembers "having the chat until the wee hours of the morning, especially in Gaelic when listening to my relatives tell stories and hearing the beauty of the language. It made me proud to be Irish and to be able to speak Gaelic now." While in Chicago, she recalls going to the ceilis and Irish dances and trying to figure out the "Siege of Ennis" among other dances, but enjoying the fun and meeting new dance partners.

Imelda qualified as a Barrister-in-law in Dublin. Currently working in the wireless industry in the Chicagoland area, she deals with leasing/licensing between the major wireless carriers and landlords where she uses her legal background. Her job lets her meet new people constantly, something she enjoys very much. The projects are varied, extensive and challenging. It keeps her connected with the "cutting edge" of telecom technology. Unfortunately, she spends much time in the car in traffic and walking sites or rooftops for prospective locations in inclement weather can be uncomfortable!

Imelda stays very busy with her Irish organizations. The Ireland Network: it focuses on connecting people from Ireland with new people from Chicago. This helps her to keep in touch with people from Ireland



**Josephine Gallagher Coleman**



while living in Chicago. The group also collaborates with other Irish group and organizations like Concern and the Chicago Council on Global Affairs to host events.

**American Ireland Fund (Young Leaders):** It is important to support programs for peace and reconciliation. This is especially so for a country which has experienced too much violence. She supports the educational, arts and cultural programs the AIF promotes.

**Irish American Heritage Center:** "I went to the Center with my parents and relatives many times when in Chicago. It is a great place to celebrate being Irish and chatting with many people who feel as proud to be Irish as I am! The Center has a broad program of events, plays, entertainment, outings, concerts and there's something for everyone!" she asserts.

**Gaelic Park:** The facilities in Gaelic Park are wonderful for social and sporting events. It also allows people who live in the southern suburbs to have a beautiful venue in their community.

"I love Chicago and living here. I grew up in Ireland and have many wonderful friends and experiences there which gives me the incentive to keep a strong connection and integrate both parts of my life. "Having the best of both worlds!"

Imelda admires people like her parents who moved away from Ireland, through choice or necessity. Like many others, they took a chance when leaving and had the courage to make a new life for themselves without forgetting or diminishing their Irish character, while participating and enhancing the community in which they lived. They passed on the Irish legacy to the next generation who are proud to be Irish and Irish-American.

**Fiona McEntee Sajdak** was born in Dublin, Ireland, the daughter of parents who hosted the whole neighborhood on Christmas. "The open-house party was always 12pm until 4 o'clock on Christmas day. The clock would chime noon and the doorbell would ring at the same time," laughs Fiona. The day was filled with sing songs accompanied by her dad's ac-

cordion. Today, living in Chicago with her brand-new husband, Fiona has created her "family" amongst their many displaced Irish and non-Irish friends. She drinks Kenyan black tea "by the gallon" and is thankful that she can host her own group of friends over drinks, dinners and

holidays, much as her own parents did while she was growing up.

Fiona was interested in journalism at a young age and attended University College of Dublin. She was involved in an exchange program which brought her to Chicago and promptly fell in love with it. She graduated from Chicago Kent of law and is currently an attorney, specializing in immigration law. She opened her own firm early in 2010 in downtown Chicago. Fiona has observed the two-party political system in the US and wishes there could

be more of a mixture, like Irish politics. She admires Bill Clinton, for "paying a lot of attention to the Northern Ireland peace process."

McEntee is on the board of and does pro bono work for the Irish Immigrant Support Group. She is on the board of the professional networking group, Ireland Network, co-directs the young leaders program of the American Ireland Fund and more recently co-chaired Arthur Guinness Day for the Irish American Heritage Center.

In Fiona one finds a gorgeous mixture of vivacious, generous, energetic, first generation Irish, and the age-old Irish hard work ethic. She is as comfortable in a courtroom, fighting the good fight of human rights, as she is cooking for a house full of friends and family.

**Bridget McLaughlin** phoned in for the interview from sunny Las Vegas where she was directing operations at a meeting of the International Business Brokers Association. Being raised as a child of the Mayor of Orland Park, Dan McLaughlin, and no stranger to meeting and greeting VIP's

since she could shake hands, this was just another day for the talented young woman.

Being a fourth generation Irish has not diminished her love of her heritage. Her father's family hails from Donegal and her mother, Patricia, from Tralee. Bridget competed in the Chicago's St. Patrick's Day Queen contest seven years in a row before attaining the crown. She loved the trip to Ireland the crown allowed her, but she enjoyed the year of meet-and-greets even more.

McLaughlin works as a manager for SmithBucklin during the day and volunteers her time to the young Irish Fellowship Club, the American Ireland's Fund new branch of Young AIF, and supports the IAHC and Gaelic Park by attending their

many events.

Growing up on the South Side, she admires the family neighborhoods there, where everyone has some connection to everyone else. The St. Patrick's South Side Parade holds many memories for her. She would accompany her father before the parade began, walking up and down the parade line, shaking hands and greeting then joining the rest of the family to either watch the parade go by, or walk along in it. She recalls the early days going door-to-door during elections, helping hand out pamphlets. Her parents taught her the importance of giving back to the community- enlisting her help with their Yearly Cystic Fibrosis Benefits.

Bridget has sage advice for those coming to live in Chicago for the first time: "Get involved with your community as soon as you can because they are the most friendly and welcoming of people".

**Clodagh Lawless Murphy** is 100% Irish "the real deal" all the way from Galway city. From as far back as her families have researched, on both parents' side, the whole clan was 100% Irish. Living and growing up in Ireland, her family embraced and celebrated Irish culture every day. She enjoyed watching Irish sports, Hurling and Gaelic Football growing up. The sports are so uniquely Irish and she is "just so proud of them." She herself played field hockey in high school in Galway City. She was granted a scholarship, living in Spain for a year and now speaks Spanish fluently.

The whole family emigrated here 12 years ago. She has followed in her parents footsteps by continuing a career in the restaurant industry here in Chicago. She collaborated with her parents, brothers and sister in opening The Irish Oak, in Wrigleyville. She managed and ran the Irish Oak with her sister Amy from 1998-2009. They sold it last year and since then have worked at their restaurant, The Gage under the guidance and expertise of her older brother Billy and his wife Catherine. Now the office manager for both of the restaurants, The Gage and their most recently opened restaurant, Henri, Clodagh and Amy continue to scout out new locations intending to open up their own restaurant/bar in the near future.

She supports Chicago Irish Immigrant support, CIIS, Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform, CCIR, The Ireland Network and the Young Irish Fellowship of Chicago. "These are amazing organizations in Chicago which bring together all walks of life within the Irish American community. They also offer assistance to the Irish American community on many different issues and concerns that one may have." Clodagh explains.

Clodagh would love to see a bill passed which would guarantee Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

"I know so many people living illegally for years and years in the USA. The government needs to fix the broken immigration system. The government needs to come together on this issue and pass a bill for Comprehensive Immigration Reform. A shout out to Fr. Michael Leonard, Chaplin of CIIS, for all of his hard work and his never ending energy in trying to accomplish Comprehensive Immigration Reform. His trojan work does not go un-noticed. So thank you Fr. Leonard. Another shout out to Billy Lawless (ok a little bit biased, my Dad!),

Chairman of CCIR, for all of his hard work and collaboration with other immigration organizations, in their efforts to try to get the government to pass a bill supporting Comprehensive Immigration Reform." Clodagh says with Galway passion.

A newlywed, Mrs. Murphy met her husband at the Irish Oak. She loves the lilt of Irish laughter and the typically Irish phrase: "Ah- God-Bless-Ya" said with the lovely, soft Irish accent.

She goes home to Ireland usually every second year, but feels very lucky to have her entire family living in Chicago. However, she has never been to Antrim and would one day love to see the Giant's Causeway. "The north of Ireland is so so beautiful but I never really explored the north when I use to live in Ireland so that is definitely going to change!" she states. Clodagh would love to meet the Dali Lama and hopes to have the courage to skydive one day. She loves to cook, especially the Sunday Roast Dinner with carrots, parsnips, roast potatoes and gravy, but still wants to learn how to make her mother's brown bread.

Stay tuned for more culinary surprises from this Galway girl.

*Continued on Page 26*



**Imelda Gallagher**



**Fiona McEntee Sajdak**



**Bridget McLaughlin**



**Clodagh Lawless Murphy**



Continued from page 25

When Bridget Gainer thinks back to memories from childhood, it is hard for her to separate what are typically Irish and what stemmed from growing up in a neighborhood and a family in which Irish tradition and identity were infused throughout daily life. Her mother’s parents came to Chicago in the late 1920’s, her grandfather because he had a sister that was a nun in Joliet and her grandmother because she had an aunt living here. They were the only ones from their



Bridget Gainer

families to come to America, which meant that they had strong connections back to Ireland. Whenever a relative was coming to the States—more often when the Irish economy was tough, they would stay with her Grandparents or her family. There was always a feeling that she had a strong connection to what was happening in Ireland. Bridget has great memories of taking Irish dancing at Dennehy dancers on 111th in Mt. Greenwood, endless hours wandering around a feis (were they always on 100 degree days?) and of her mom pulling her out of school to go downtown to watch the St. Pat’s parade and see the river dyed green. And music—lots of music and singing.

Ms. Gainer is a Commissioner on the Cook County Board representing the Lakefront from Lincoln Park to Rogers Park and west out to Edgebrook and Sauganash. “The best parts of my job are being able to work on issues I really care about. One of the issues I was shocked to discover when I came on to the Board last year was the treatment of women and mothers in the Cook County jail. Not only were female detainees routinely being shackled during childbirth, but after delivery they were returned to jail, often separated from their newborns for months. I lead a group of women Commissioners to ban both of these practices. The difficult parts of the job come when worthy programs and benefits confront limited budgets. The biggest issues we will confront in the next several years will be the needs of the health system and the pension fund for employees and retirees that is heading straight towards insolvency.” Bridget loves the neighborhoods in Chicago and people’s connection to where they are from and where they live. “It knits the City together,” Bridget observes.

While supporting all the major Irish organizations when she can, she is most involved in the Irish organization Concern and especially their luncheon honoring women who work for social justice.



Siobhainn O'Connor Van Santen

“This year we will be honoring Terry McDermott who runs Women’s Justice Services at the Cook County Jail” Bridget says with pride.

Ms. Gainer spent a summer in Ireland when she was 18 and in subsequent trips has spent most of her time in Dublin or in her grandma’s county of Mayo. Her sister Nora’s husband is from Donegal and now that Bridget’s children are getting older they are hoping to make a trip there next summer.

In addition to the joyful Irish traditions—music, social gatherings, parades, the traditions Bridget hopes her children take with them as they grow are the ones she learned from parents and grandparents—a strong faith, good sense of humor, and a deep and abiding sense of fairness, especially for the underdog.

“The Irish were often the underdog throughout our history and while we have been lucky to know success in recent generations, we can never forget that the underdogs of today—the poor, immigrants, prisoners, need our fierce support and vigilance. Like an earlier Irishwoman Mother Jones said, “Pray for the dead, but fight like hell for the living”.

Radio host, active mom, wife, daughter, property manager—whatever hat Siobhainn O’Connor VanSanten wears, she wears with style. In possession of a quick wit and lively eyes, she recalls her favorite memories with animation. Born in Chicago of Irish parents, Siobhainn and her two siblings spent every summer in Galway or Roscommom. She fondly remembers the grocery truck stopping in front of the house where they would buy Rollos and Tatoes—the Irish version of the ice cream truck.

The family’s radio show, started in 1971 by her father, Mike O’Connor, has been a staple of Irish radio for 39 years. At the age of 23, Siobhainn took an interest in the family radio business and worked as her dad’s producer, billing department and advertising sales force. Her parents both worked full time—her dad at his insurance agency and her mother, Margaret, at Sears Catalogue, teaching a young Siobhainn the Irish work ethic first hand.

Mrs. Van Santen’s three children have been raised “on the air” and radio listeners have “listened” to them grow. She volunteers at the school district in which her kids are enrolled. One of the Irish traditions she observes

with her children is celebrating Little Christmas with her family and extended family on January 6th each year.

Siobhainn actively supports every Irish organization. She gives away thousands of dollars in air-time to make sure word gets out about every event throughout the year. She attends as many events around the City as her busy life allows. “The Irish have an enormous work ethic and tenacity second to none. Their sense of humor and grace in the face of tragedy is amazing”

Kathy O’Neill is a fourth generation Irish-American. Her paternal great-grandparents are from Roscommon, Tipperary, and Swinford, County Mayo. Both sets immigrated to the East Coast and settled in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. “One of my great-grandfathers and great-grandmothers were brought to the US by a judge from New Jersey who visited Ireland. He hired my great-grandfather to be his chauffeur and my great-grandmother to be a maid and that was how they met.”

Kathy grew up in a two-flat in West Orange, New Jersey, run by an Irish landlord, amidst a huge Irish contingent of friends whose parents were born in Ireland. She was the baby of three siblings and fondly remembers the St. Patrick’s Day parade every Saturday before March 17th. “In my town, West Orange, New Jersey, we had our own parade for St. Patrick’s Day and it was a big one. We painted the traffic line down the Main Street green.”

Her older sister married a Cork man and his mother, Sheila McGuire, was a colorful influence on Kathy, teaching her about her Irish heritage and taking her to area dances while Kathy was in Jr. High School. She did an internship in New York but wanted to live in a smaller city. After attending Glassboro State College NJ, she tried living in Boston and eventually visited Chicago and made the move here in 1993.

Kathy worked as the media logistics manager for the Democratic National Convention in 1996 at the United Center to help re-elect Bill Clinton. This would mark the first time Chicago hosted any political convention since the violent 1968 Democratic National Convention. Working directly with radio and television coverage, she was hired by ABC news following the conventions as a field producer for shows such as 20/20 and Nightline.

Ms. O’Neill volunteered at the IAHC, beginning in 2000 and was hired as their public relations manager in 2004. She has volun-

teered with Shapeshifters Theatre as a stage manager and press manager, and the Irish Immigrant Support group. She also helps out at the Gift Theater, Seanachai Theatre, the Beverly Arts Center, Concern Worldwide, and Gaelic Park. She is a freelance writer and publicist.

Kathy would love to go to Ireland with her fiends from Galway and Mayo so she can experience it through their eyes. The one thing she wishes she could change? “I would love to see more people vote. It is a privilege to be able to do so and it gives me the right to complain, and I do!”



Kathy O'Neill

Kathy would like to one day visit the Hoover Dam, write a book, and get all the way through Ulysses.

“And if I don’t, that’s okay, too!”

Kathleen O’Connor loves being Irish. No, she REALLY loves being Irish. When asked who her favorite Irish personality is, she will tell you that she loves the “Irish everyman” on the street because they have a delirious pride in the culture and a joyful passion for life. Her grandparents were born in Ireland, County Down and Waterford, and she has visited the motherland many

times. He favorite part about Ireland is enjoying the beat of normal life there—partaking of the simple pleasures of the local experience.

Kathleen was raised in an Irish Catholic neighborhood in Chicago. Her family shared a two flat: Kathleen and her family lived on the top floor and her grandmother and aunt lived below them. Her childhood was filled with the lilt of Irish singing and the brogues of her Irish neighbors.



Kathleen O'Connor

She founded The Chicago Irish Pub Music Meetup in 2008 and it has grown to 700 members in two short years. From her desire to listen to Irish music at area pubs, but not wanting to do so alone, she created the Meet Up group whose motto is “Life is best discussed over a pint!”

Ms. O’Connor owns a small business as a health care consultant. She is very active at both Gaelic Park and the IAHC and can be found listening to great Irish music around Chicagoland on the weekends. If ever you are across the water, You just might run into her in her favorite part of Ireland, Dingle. If you do, the first pint’s on you!

There are many more young Irish we could profile here. Send your suggestions and contacts to: editor@iannews.com.



## Boyle the Kettle

We'll Have A Sup Of Tea

Tom Boyle



### Nollaig Shona Duit

Will you put a red candle decorated with holly in the window, and leave the door open for Joseph and Mary with bread and milk on the table for them? How about a mince pie and a bottle of Guinness for Father Christmas? It's that time of year when everybody wants to be home for Christmas. Aer Lingus will cost you around \$1296 plus tax, and the Euro is about \$1.36... still want to go home for Christmas?

### Predictable

Pope Benedict XVI named twenty-four new Cardinals, but he failed to name Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin. Now, why would you not choose the only Archbishop in Ireland who wanted the whole story of sexual abuse to be told? You will, of course, remember the Pope refused to accept the resignations of the Irish Bishops, who for decades covered up the sex abuse and transferred pedophile priests all over the world.

### Cincinnati Irish

Saturday, November 13th, Cliff Carlson, publisher of *Irish American News*, and myself travelled to Cincinnati, Ohio for the "Grand Opening" of the Irish Heritage Center of Greater Cincinnati.



Tom Boyle encourages the crowd to support the Cincinnati Heritage Center

Founders, Kent Covey, and Maureen Kennedy, put together a great night of entertainment, and the house was packed.

Jim Tarbell played a haunting rendition of Danny Boy on the harmonica. There were step dancers, the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick's Choir, tenor Sean Kelly, and a scene from John B. Keane's play, *Moll*. Barbara Kenny played Moll, and she won the best actress award at the Acting Irish Theatre Competition in Chicago for the very same role.

The Irish American Heritage Center in Chicago sent the new center in Cincinnati a three-volume set of *The Field Day Anthology of Irish Writing* for their library.

Nick Clooney gave a most interesting anecdotal talk about the Irish in the movies, Pat O'Brien, Mickey Rooney, Maureen O'Hara, Jimmy Cagney, et al. Nicholas Joseph Clooney was the host of the TV show, *American Movie Classics* on the AMC movie channel. He said he would only be remembered as the brother of singer Rosemary Clooney, and the father of actor, George Clooney. Nick has been inducted into both the Cincinnati, and the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame. Maureen Kennedy was kind enough to invite me to say a few words to the audience, and introduced me as their mentor. I simply encouraged the people there to get involved, and at the very least, maintain a membership. Vice Consul General Tim Reilly also addressed the crowd and offered words of wisdom and encouragement.

### Todd Stroger

What else would you expect from this man who is not cooperating with Toni Prekwinkle in the transition of Cook County government? Smug, arrogant, not acting in the best interests of the people. Not only is he a loser, but a sore loser! Grow up Todd! Of course, Commissioner William Beavers stuck his two cents in when Toni Prekwinkle wouldn't retain Stroger's top executives. In other words, the County of Cook ain't ready for reform! How about an end to the nepotism, and the no bid \$25,000 contracts?

### iBAM! Wrap-up

This event was really quite remarkable. The Bogside Artists were indeed, remarkable. They painted their famous *Peace Mural* along with portraits of John Hume, Seamus Heaney, and Brian Friel, all Derrymen from the free city of Derry. I watched the Bogside Artists work and enjoyed chatting with them. The authors were very interesting, and there is nothing like provocative conversation. How often do you get to talk one-on-one



Cincinnati Heritage Theater

with an author of some renown? Congratulations to all the honorees, especially Liz Carroll, who was given the Music Award. Congratulations to the committee that made this event possible. Irish culture has risen to a new level of excellence.

### Barack Obama

The election proved to be a lesson in humility for President Obama. Besides digging a deeper hole with the national debt, and an ill-conceived national healthcare bill, what has he accomplished? Our foreign policy is a train-wreck, as evidenced by his recent trade mission to Asia.

Senior citizens are paying the highest price, with no increase in social security,

increased cost for health care, and those poor souls who saved their money are getting interest rates that are at an all-time low in the banks. Now they would like to increase our taxes across the board. I say enough is enough. Amen to that, brother!



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# Nominate a Rose

## roseoftralee INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL Chicago Rose of Tralee

Enter to represent Chicago in Ireland for the 2011 Rose of Tralee Regional Selection in June and compete in Ireland to return for the International Selection in August for the experience of a Lifetime!



There will be only 40 girls chosen from the Chicagoland area to participate in this year's selection to be held March 11, 2011 during the Irish American Heritage Center Festival weekend in Chicago. The selection will take place in the elegant Erin Ballroom and the 40 winners will participate in the entire weekend festival that will include bands, vendors, parades and more. The staged event will be held Friday and the winner will be announced on Saturday evening.

**DEADLINE:** All preliminary applications need to be in the hands of the Committee no later than January 31, 2011.

### Chicago Rose of Tralee Rose Entry Form

THIS PRELIMINARY APPLICATION IS FREE! (There is no entry fee to enter at the preliminary stage.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: (MM-DD-YY) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Must be 18-27 years old – by September 1, 2011)

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

In a paragraph, tell us why you want to be the Chicago Rose of Tralee: (You can add a sheet of paper to this application if you do not have enough room)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Irish Organizations and Clubs you are affiliated with: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Irish surnames in your family: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

For more information visit our website at [www.chicagoroseoftralee.com](http://www.chicagoroseoftralee.com) and the International website at: [www.roseoftralee.ie](http://www.roseoftralee.ie)

#### Rules:

- \*You must be available the entire weekend, March 11, 12 & 13th.
- \*You must be between the ages of 18 and 27 as stated above.
- \*Able to travel to Ireland for the Rose of Tralee Regionals - June 2-5 (plus travel) and if chosen at the Regionals, return for the two-night televised Rose of Tralee International Festival - August 14-23 (plus travel).
- \*Preliminary Application is in the hands of the Committee no later than January 31, 2011.
- \*If chosen as one of the 40 Chicago Finalists from the preliminary application, you agree to secure a \$500 sponsorship fee. (This can include businesses, friends and family). This fee includes your 2-night stay accommodations.
- \*If selected, must reside in the Chicagoland area during reign. Exception if selected as International Rose of Tralee, then may elect to exercise option to reside in Ireland during her reign.

Please mail completed entry to: Mary Kay Gavin-Marmo | Chicago Rose of Tralee | 11137 S. Artesian | Chicago, Illinois 60655 | 773-239-3927  
Or complete Preliminary Rose entry form on our website at: [www.chicagoroseoftralee.com](http://www.chicagoroseoftralee.com)  
**Hurry - Once the 40 spots are filled - registration will be closed!**





## The Irish Rover

By James McClure



### Irish Accent in Old World Wisconsin

I have always enjoyed a combination of history, the outdoors and the rural countryside.

A unique combination of all three is what you get when you visit Old World Wisconsin in southwest Waukesha County, about 95 miles northwest of Chicago and 35 miles southwest of Milwaukee.

Old World Wisconsin is a living history museum that feels more like a time machine than a quaint and cluttered reproduction in a single site. The mere size of the place makes you feel like you have been plopped down square in the middle of 19th century Wisconsin with miles to go between the many ethnic settlements in the countryside.

Spread across hundreds of acres is a collection of ethnic villages made up of actual homes, businesses, shops and public structures that have been relocated to the area and restored. The grounds and options are so vast that the best way to get around is by taking trams that take you among the various sites, weaving in among the farmlands, nature trails and thick forests that surround the tourist attraction on Highway 67 in Eagle, Wisconsin.

You might not expect to find Irish immigrant life represented in any great detail, but it is some of the first information you get on arriving. The 10 minute orientation video in the Ramsey Barn Museum Store makes several mentions of the Irish coming to Wisconsin in the wake of the Potato Famine, and it doesn't take long to learn a firsthand account at the first house on the first stop along the tram route in the Crossroads Village Area.

The Hafford House is a tiny two-story structure that tells a personal story of Irish struggle, loss and restoration. Originally located in Hubbleton in Jefferson County, Wisconsin, the house, decorated to circa 1885, belonged to Mary Hafford, the widow of an Irish railroad worker.

Many Irish helped build the many railroads crossing Wisconsin in the 1800's, in work that was both transitory and dangerous. When Mary's husband died, the widow had to find a way to provide for their family of several small children. She became the washerwoman for the railroad men and others as her community began to grow. A woman in period costume tells you all about Mary and how she prospered and made the house a home.

The little village on the prairie in the Crossroads Village Area of Old World Wisconsin gives a sense of the next stage of development in the state, after the initial pioneers and im-

migrants founded their farms and built their crude cabins. The village includes a Catholic



*A look inside an Irish home.*

church built in Milwaukee in 1839, a wagon shop, a general store, a shoe store, a stage-coach inn, a town hall and a blacksmith shop, where a history interpreter hammers out glowing nails and tools commonly required in a culture acquiring widespread ownership of horses, wagons and farm implements.

Journeying into the Polish, Finish, German, Norwegian, African-American and Yankee areas gives a daylong perspective on how America and Wisconsin grew from humble beginnings and the taming of an unexplored territory. The trams run continually between the various areas and settlements and you can get off and explore to whatever detail you wish. Along the way you might find yourself discussing with a farmer how he feeds hogs and shepherds his sheep, learn from a one-room schoolmaster how Wisconsin immigrants first learned, or see how hardy explorers in a new land out-lasted and thrived in a harsh country winter with a roaring hearth, cured meats and warm pelts for survival.

One can also see au-

thentic gardening and farming methods, all of which place you back in the remarkable time of a developing region.

A good way to start or break up the day of self-guided historical wonders is to get a light meal or snack at the historic Clausing Barn Restaurant, a rare remaining octagonal barn built by Ernst Clausing which overlooks a vista of a widespread forest and glacial lake.

Getting around the huge attraction is easy by foot or tram, but by the end of the day more youthful groups tend to dart for the every fifteen minutes tram like an overrun fearful populace trying to get the last plane out of Saigon for fear of being left behind in the wilderness. A final tram around 5pm picks up any stragglers along with the dozens of 19th century immigrants who demonstrate and explain the life in Old World Wisconsin.

Although closed for the season at the end of October, the living history museum is now open for the first three weekends of December with special holiday programming and select access to the grounds.

If you've ever enjoyed the artwork of a Currier and Ives painting of bygone Christmas times, now you can take that imagination one step further and step right into the

holiday scene and experience it this yuletide season. For more information call (262) 594-6300 or visit [www.oldworldwisconsin.org](http://www.oldworldwisconsin.org).

### Ireland with Maeve

CIE Tours is offering an unparalleled opportunity to experience Maeve O'Malley's Emerald Isle, and discover the real Ireland that most people miss. Maeve will share her favorite places and introduce you to wonderful people who will greet you like long-lost friends. Learn to speak Irish, see crafts in the making and visit quaint local pubs. Experience the warmth and charm of the Irish people and immerse yourself in the richness of the ancient Celtic heritage. Maeve will show you the best!

The trip is planned for June 16-25, 2011. Land Price: \$1,995.00 per person sharing; Land & Air \$2,875—round trip on Aer Lingus from New York, JFK. Inquire about air fare from your local airport. Single Room Supplement: \$400.00

The tour includes: Transport by luxury motor coach with a driver/guide for 9 days; Superior Hotel accommodation for 8 nights; 8 Full Irish breakfasts; 6 Dinners including a Medieval Banquet at a 15th century Castle; Tours of Dublin, Limerick & Galway; Dingle Peninsula, Burren & Connemara Tours; Horse-drawn Jaunting Car ride in Killarney; Boat cruise on Lough Corrib; visits to Guinness Storehouse, Irish National Stud & Japanese Gardens, Blarney Castle, Muckross Traditional Farms & Mucros Weavers, Adare Village Bunratty Folk Park, Cliffs of Moher, The Burren, Kylemore Abbey, Clonmacnoise and much more; Hotel portorage, service charges, and government taxes; Flight bags, ticket wallets, baggage tags and strap. This is all inclusive—no hidden extras!

For more information contact Maeve at 516-643-4919 or email [MaeveOMalley@optonline.net](mailto:MaeveOMalley@optonline.net) or NACTA Travel at Toll-Free - 866-622-2244.

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**The Jig is Up!**  
Irish Music Scene Enlivens New Mystery Novel  
By Rosemary Herbert

When a mystery writer wants to endow her book with atmosphere, reveal character, and kindle some romance through action in a memorable place, a neighborhood Irish pub is just the ticket. At least that has been the case for me, when I was writing my thriller, *Front Page Teaser: A Liz Higgins Mystery*.

Published by Down East Books, *Front Page Teaser* follows the adventures of Liz Higgins, a gutsy reporter for Boston's scrappy tabloid newspaper, the *Beantown Banner*. Liz rails at being assigned only light and community news stories that, at best, receive front-page teasers leading to articles buried deep in the newspaper. When a devoted mom goes missing from Liz's community news beat, the reporter vows to discover the truth about the disappearance and nail front-page news in the process.

Along the way, Liz falls for two very different men: the enigmatic and intellectual forensics expert, Dr. Cormac Kinnaird, and the warmhearted neighborhood man, Tom Horton, who pastes ads on the huge billboard that dwarfs Liz's tiny house on the



edge of the Massachusetts Turnpike.

It was when I needed to have Liz meet the forensics man in a memorable location that I thought about taking my characters to one of Boston's famed Irish pubs. At first, I thought the pub scene would simply say "Boston" to many readers, but when I scouted out the scene at The Green Briar Irish Pub during one of their popular traditional Irish music nights, I immediately realized that the place offered even richer opportunities for the writer.

Accompanied by Irish tenor banjo player Tony Alcorn, I learned a great deal about The Green Briar's acclaimed, traditional Irish music seisiuns, which have been led by Larry Reynolds for two decades. Observing how the musicians wear expressions of intense concentration and happiness as they play, I immediately realized that here was the place that I could develop my rather stiff and pretentious forensic man's warmer side. Endowing Dr. Cormac Kinnaird with an Irish tenor banjo, I decided to make him a novice player. In contrast with his know-it-all manner in his day job, he is no expert with the banjo. And while playing it, he wears a winning, boyish expression that is not lost on my reporter-sleuth Liz Higgins, who warms up to him as she sees this man with banjo in hand. Liz also meets Kinnaird at the pub right in the heart of Christmas season.

It is no surprise to seisiun leader Reynolds that Irish music brings out the best in Kinnaird while it also kindles romance in my mystery novel. "Irish music is a great vehicle to bring people together in a happy mood. We all strive to make that happen when we sit down to play," Reynolds said.

Rosemary Herbert brought ten years of experience as the Boston Herald's book review editor to the writing of *Front Page Teaser: A Liz Higgins Mystery*. She is also co-editor, with the late Tony Hillerman, of *A New Omnibus of Crime*.

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## Careers

By James F. Fitzgerald, CPA



to find time to participate in family matters. Perhaps to them, family is **not** just an add-on to

“ideal” place where you would want to be in 2020. Expect to fulfill your destiny and you are far more likely to achieve it. A friend of mine recently told me that he is simply too busy to plan out his life, there are too many demands on his time already. Well, ten years from now, he will be ten years older, with or without a plan. In my mind, establishing at least a general direction will facilitate moving in the desired direction.

### #3. Health. Are you in the best shape of your life?

It’s such an obvious, albeit uncomfortable question, do you take good care of your health? When I asked a friend that question he went into a denial mode. He is a big time lawyer, father and husband. He can’t seem to find the time to work off some of that holiday-driven weight. He means to do so, but life gets in the way. I recommend that you find healthy and helpful ways that work into your life style, so you will have a chance to enjoy a long and fulfilling life. As the experts say, quitting a smoking habit at any time will improve a person’s health. I am willing to bet that starting an exercise program at any time will also enhance your life.

### #4. Finances. Are you going to survive the current financial crisis?

Start today to look more carefully at your financial situation. Many of us simply ignore the realities of our finances. But remember, nasty stuff happens to even the nicest, best prepared people. But some thoughtful time can normally mitigate the damage. Consider the services of a financial advisor or at least the counsel of a successful friend or relative.

Don’t spend what you don’t have. Don’t charge expenditures because you “think”

their day when they have a few available moments.

As a parent of four great children, I can assure you that you cannot “re-wind” the lives of your youngsters; they are three years old only once, hanging on every word you speak. And these times seem to pass in the blink of an eye.

On a personal level, I think that an integral part of family is your religious and cultural background. One needs to live these beliefs and values and share them with your loved ones. In the fast pace lives that many of us live, the spiritual dimension can sometimes be ignored. Can you comfortably share your conduct of today with your spouse and children? Would they be proud to hear how you treat the people on your team? Some of us do have trouble looking at ourselves in the mirror, I sure hope that doesn’t happen to you very often.

### #2. Career. Are you going to exercise more control over your career in 2011 and beyond?

What to do about your career? As Daniel Burnham once said about Chicago, make no small plans. If you don’t decide on what your life is going to look like in five or ten years, someone or something else will decide it for you. Where do you see yourself in 2020? Give it some thought: plan on where you want to be. Obviously, all kinds of things can get in the way; but at least you will have a broad road-map to follow.

General Eisenhower said as the Allies prepared to storm ashore in Europe in 1944, specific plans will go out the window when the first shot is fired, but the planning is absolutely essential to the success of any major task. So do some planning, it will be invaluable to you.

Are you going to allow your peers, bosses or circumstances to decide on what goals you either reach or don’t reach? My suggestion would be that you spend some time over this month considering the

some new business or bonus is coming your way. **Think** before you sign for something that endangers your financial position. There are a million books out there on how to handle your finances, including *Finance for Dummies*. Find a resource that speaks to you.

If these four touch stones (**Family, Career, Health and Finances**) are important to you, you may want to weigh carefully every major decision in light of its effect on one or more of these key elements. START paying attention to these four touch stones NOW. All the best wishes to you and yours in this coming year. *Carpe Diem*.

**NOTE: Prepare a list of all your achievements for this year and put it in your career file for future reference.**

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

## Are You Ready For 2011?

As we approach the new year, many of us begin to think of ideas to add to our list of New Year’s resolutions. Well, here is another view of that task for your consideration. Rather than a long laundry list of specific “DO NOT’s,” let me suggest four resolutions one for each of four major elements in your life: **Family, Career, Health and Finances**.

### #1 Family. What will your relationship with your family be this coming year?

Where do you place your family on your list of priorities? Many of us would say, my family comes first obviously while our actions may suggest something else. We all know that there are busy times in any job, but if you are busy all the time, you need to do some soul searching about how to spend the next year of your life. One of the thoughts that may have occurred to you as you have heard of long term employees being laid off is that total and complete loyalty to the organization may not be all that it once was. We all recognize that senior management is charged with the responsibility for keeping the company afloat and that sometimes means making unpleasant decisions, like separating hard working, decent folks like you and me from the company.

I attended my sister’s funeral recently. As comments were made by her loved ones, not one person mentioned how dedicated she was to this or that employer. No, their comments were addressed to the times she spent with family members.

We have all heard of people who build an exercise program into their daily planner; perhaps you should consider doing the same for meaningful participation in the affairs of your family. Be sure to provide for that “quality” time that people talk about. Interestingly enough, you commonly find that the truly most successful people in our society somehow manage

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**Irish Books and Plays in Review**

Frank West



we see ourselves, our future, is often tainted by the very hope of what we wish to become!”

Deirdre is the author of several novels, and teaches at Trinity College, Dublin. The colorful cover shows an empty bed—with mime masks on the wall over it.

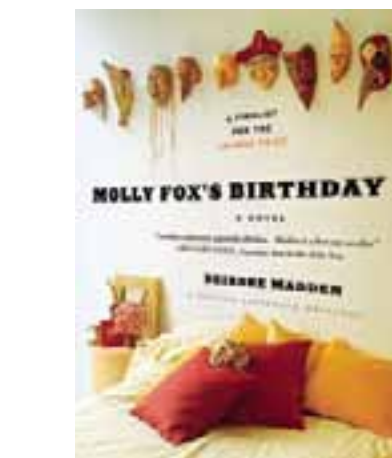
Madden says this about plays: “As in life, people don’t always say what they mean or mean what they say!”

Molly Fox is a fictional Irish actor who will be out of town for a few weeks. She lets a playwright friend live in her house while she is gone. The book describes the process the playwright uses to develop characters and events to put in a play she is writing.

The playwright narrator is never named. She met one of the characters in the book while both studied at Trinity. They studied the work of various playwrights, but emphasized those of Oscar Wilde. His plays urge us, and society, to drop our masks and to live as close to our real selves as possible.

Madden says: “As was the case with Wilde himself, we were at each moment of our lives the

persons we were and shall become.”



*Molly Fox's Birthday* is enthralling, thoughtful and quietly powerful. The book shows great empathy and compassion for human beings.

Oscar Wilde suffered greatly for his beliefs, and he would strongly approve of Deirdre Madden's showing us the transformative power of theater.

*Molly Fox's Birthday* by Deirdre Madden. Picador/picadorusa.com: New York, 2010. 221 pages, \$14.

**Renegades: Irish Republican Women**

Women are mentioned only briefly in the many books I have read about the War of Independence, but many women were heroes of the revolution too.



Two women seem to get all the attention, as if no others participated. They are Countess Markievicz, and Maude Gonne MacBride.

Sinn Fein promoted the equality of women and men—as in pre-Christian Ireland. And, an all women's group, radical for early 20th century, was formed. It was called Cumann na Mban. These women supported the desire for an armed Irish revolution. Women were an integral part of the rebel forces in the GPO on Easter Monday, 1916. They had gone on route marches with the Volunteers, smuggled guns, learned Morse Code signalling, did rifle practice, collected information about British forces for Michael Collins, brought supplies and ammunition to Irish forces, wrote propaganda articles for the IRA newspaper, etc. etc.

This book is about these unrecognized women

fighters of the Revolution. I found their story to be compelling.

*Renegades: Irish Republican Women 1900-1922*, by Ann Matthews. Mercier and DuFour editions, 610-458-5005: Cork and Chester Springs, PA, 2011. 414 pages, \$29.95.

**The Tradition of Prison Escape**

On a cold Winter night in 1960, a 21 year old Provisional IRA man escaped from Crumlin Road Prison in Belfast. The prison was so secure that it was called Europe's Alcatraz.

He was part of a long tradition of IRA prison escapes. This book is about that tradition. IRA Jail Breaks: 1918-1921. Hunger strikes and prisoners wearing only blankets locked in 'dirty' cells didn't begin in our time during the Troubles in Northern Ireland. As shown in this book, they began many years before during the War of Independence.

Padraic Fleming was the champion of those protests. Locked into various British prisons, he did so much damage to his cells, that the prison wardens found it too costly to keep him in a regular cell. They built a special one for him. He quickly tore that one up too! His unflinching will to not wear prison garb for criminals became an inspiration to Irish people inside and outside the prisons. The IRA wanted political prisoner status, not criminal status. They never wavered in this.

In our time, British Prime Minister Thatcher tried to force the IRA prisoners to wear the clothes of criminals. This prompted the Hunger Strike. After ten men had died, the British capitulated.

The exciting adventures told about here are not the things of movies. They are real and extraordinary.

*IRA Jail Breaks: 1918-1921* edited by Florence O'Donoghue. Mercier Press and DuFour Editions. 610-458-5005: Cork and Chester Springs, PA, 2011. 319 pages, \$29.95.

**The Ultimate Escape**

In the Spring 1875, the Catalpa, a whaling ship, sailed from the United States pretending to hunt for whales. The secret destination for the ship was Western Australia.

Six Fenians had been sent by the British to one of the worst prisons in the world. This prison in Australia was isolated on the land side by a desert so hot that it took three weeks to cross. On the ocean side, the water was overrunning with sharks. The Irish prisoners were being worked to death. Fenians in America, resolved to free them.

The raising of money, planning and preparations for the two year voyage was intense. All of this was done in great secret so British spies wouldn't hear of the planned escape.

After a very long voyage, storms, mutiny, and a close brush with a British cruiser, the ship arrived. The prisoners escaped. This received world-wide attention. And, the freed Irishmen were greeted in America as heroes who had escaped death.

The author, Vincent McDonnell, is an author of history and mystery books for young Irish people. I have reviewed many of them. The books telling of the escape shows the courage, and daring of these Irishmen. This incredible true story held my attention to the end of the book!

*The Catalpa Adventure: Escape to Freedom*, by Vincent McDonnell. The Collins Press and DuFour Editions. 610-458-5005: Cork and Chester Springs, PA 2010. 128 pages, \$12.95.

**Molly Fox's Birthday**

Do we see ourselves and life accurately? Or, is life a play with ourselves as the main character?

The author, Deirdre Madden, says “for how

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**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

**Daniel J. McLaughlin**  
Mayor of Orland Park





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**'Tis the Season  
 for the Holiday Bazaar**

Get into the holiday spirit with the Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale this December. The annual event is Sunday, December 5, 2010 from 9am to 3pm and includes mass, a breakfast, bake sale and visit from Santa Claus. The Fifth Province Pub will be transformed into a Winter Wonderland and will be decorated for the season.

Mass is celebrated in the auditorium at 10:30am and a traditional Irish breakfast follows. The Irish Heritage Singers will provide the music for the mass.

The cost for the breakfast is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children and reservations are required. To purchase tickets for the breakfast, call 773-282-

7035, ext. 10. There is no charge to browse and shop.

Holiday shoppers can browse the bazaar, where there will be a craft sale from Chicago artisans and an Irish-American quilt will be raffled off. There will be an instant raffle with prizes from each of the day's vendors and local Irish import stores.

The Jolly Holly Bake Shop sells homemade pies, bread, scones, cakes and cookies. Everyone's favorite, Santa Claus himself, visits from 1-3pm and children can have their photos taken with him for free. The IAHC is stroller-friendly.

For more information, call 773-282-7035.

**Ring in the New Year  
 with Annual Party**

Kick off the New Year in high style with the annual New Years Eve party at the IAHC.

This year, celebrate under the chandeliers in the Erin Room, an upscale ballroom that seats 350. Doors open at 8pm on December 31, 2010.

Tickets for the party are \$25 and include dancing, hors d'oeuvres, and a champagne toast at midnight, party favors and entertainment by Joe McShane and the SilverBridge Band.

McShane will be playing some old favorites as well as tunes from his forthcoming album, *I Could See it in That Smile*, which includes a duet with Margo O'Donnell. McShane also appears on Margo's latest album, *Stories in Song*, and performed with her when she was in town this past fall.

Tickets can be purchased at the door or by phone. To reserve tickets or to reserve a table for you and your friends, call the IAHC office at 773-282-7035, ext. 10.



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**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17th**  
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**The Fifth Province Pub**



**Irish American Heritage Center 2010 Annual Appeal**

The Irish American Heritage Center is a thriving cultural, educational and social hub in the heart of a great American city, famous for the contributions of its Irish citizens. In this, our 25th year on Knox Avenue and ahead of our 35th year as an organization, we have achieved some remarkable goals and are excited about the possibilities ahead of us in 2011 and beyond.

We urge you to stay engaged with the Irish American Heritage Center and even dig deeper with us as we work hard to preserve the heritage, challenge the culture, and find meaningful ways to bring proud Irish Americans together in Chicago. Your financial support will enable us to push forward on a number of new initiatives that will help set the organization's course for its next 25 years.

**Yes!** Count me in as a donor to the 2010 Annual Appeal at the level indicated below\*:

- President's Club (\$5,000+)
- Director's Circle (\$2,500 - \$4,999)
- Center Champion (\$1,000 - \$2,499)
- Benefactor (\$ 500 - \$ 999)
- Patron (\$ 250 - \$ 499)
- Advocate (\$ 100 - \$ 249)
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 or Visit [www.irish-american.org](http://www.irish-american.org) to make a contribution. \*Gifts of all sizes are welcome and appreciated!





# THE HERITAGE LINE

## IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER

Chicago, Illinois



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### President's Message



#### THE MONTH BEFORE CHRISTMAS

*with apologies to Clement Clarke Moore and/or Henry Livingston*

T'was the month before Christmas  
and all through the Center  
All the creatures were stirring,  
except for a mouse (there are none here!)  
The musicians hung their stockings by our fireplace with care,  
In hopes that some tips might find their way there.

All the members snuggle into the pub at half nine,  
With visions of Guinness and fish and chips on their mind  
Over in the corner stands a lad in his Irish cap  
The music stirs his soul and sets his toe to tap.

When out in the parking lot there arose such a clatter  
He ran outside to see what was the matter  
Bracing the fierce Chicago cold,  
He stood tall and stared around - oh so bold.

The moons shone brightly on the salt melted asphalt  
The glow of the streetlights would give away who was at fault  
Then to his surprise what did appear  
But an old-fashioned jaunting car with a donkey, not reindeer

In it sat a little old driver, so lively and quick,  
What? Was his mind playing some kind of trick  
He quickly thought he might be going insane  
When suddenly the old fella beckoned with a walking cane

"Now, young man, come over here!  
I could use some help getting up the stairs.  
I've been meaning to get in to see the new hall,  
I've got a hankering to dance, dance away all."

So he helped the old fella inside the door  
And said, "I'll show you up to the fourth floor."  
So up to the Center-top on the elevator they flew  
Where the Erin room was full of people and more music too.

And then, in a twinkling, the old man stood tall  
As he smiled widely as he surveyed the new hall.  
"Tis marvelous" he said. "All this dancing around"  
Lickety split, cane in his hand, he struck the lad dumbfound.

He threw off his coat and danced agelessly on his feet  
He was wearing a green suit that smelled vaguely of peat  
Despite his appearance he was greeted with smiles  
For this hall has room for all dancers and all styles.

His eyes how they twinkled as he remembered the old ceili's  
The jigs, the reels, the lessons he received almost daily  
He got up with the band and asked for a fiddle  
"Let me teach you all some new diddle-aye-diddle"

He took off his coat and rosined up the bow  
And those who were there remember and know  
That he held the fiddle not on his chin but on his belly  
That shook when he played like a bowl full of jelly

He played the liveliest tune ever heard  
And his fingers moved so fast on the fiddle it was almost  
absurd

He soon had everyone on their feet  
Dancing a mad ceili to his wonderful beat

He said not a word but played and danced with all his might  
He kept everyone on their feet until well past midnight  
And then as quick as he arrived  
He was back, old and weak by the lad's side.

He said, "Its late, my boy, no more wetting your whistle.  
I think it's time for an early dismissal"  
He helped him to the jaunting car and heard him sing as he  
rode out of sight,

**"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night."**

*The Irish American Heritage Center wishes the entire Irish Community a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year! Come dance the night away with us soon.*

*Bob McNamara  
President, Irish American heritage Center*

### IAHC Annual Appeal

The Annual Appeal is underway for members and friends of the IAHC. The generous contributions of the Center's volunteers, members and friends have always been its strongest asset, and we continue to appreciate your efforts.

As they have in the past, IAHC members Pat and Peggy Burke have once again offered \$1 for every \$2 that we are able to raise from others during this year-end appeal. Your support will enable us to push forward on a number of new initiatives and programs.

With this financial support, we hope to complete and develop projects that will help set the organization's course for its next 25 years.

We thank Pat and Peggy for their continued generosity and ask you to join them in helping the IAHC continue to serve as a vibrant and special place to celebrate our Irish heritage.

The names below are members who have contributed to the Annual Appeal through November 9, 2010. We will continue to list the donors to the appeal through our February 2011 issue.

**President's Club (\$5k+)**  
Burke, Pat and Peggy

**Director's Circle (\$2,500-4,999)**

Joyce, Tom and Cathy

**Center Champion (\$1,000-2,499)**

Hembreiker, Helene, in memory of her mother, Clara Frances

**Benefactor (\$500-999)**

McNamara, Bob and Jeannie  
Roach, Meghan and Mike

**Patron (\$250-499)**

FitzSimons, Tim and Frances  
Kennelly, Ellyn  
Liebner, Mrs. Edwin  
McNamara, Tom and Mary  
Walsh, Joe

**Advocate (\$100-249)**

Atkins, Michael P. and Monica  
Barrett, Edward and Sheila  
Berry, Maureen and Jack  
Bunnell, Carolyn  
Cortese, Karen and Joseph  
D'Amico, John, State Representative  
Dineen, John and Marilyn  
Ed Kelly Sports Program  
Farwick, Mr. and Mrs. John Regan  
Fitzpatrick, John  
Flaherty, Patrick and Jeanne  
Garrity, James and Catherine

Goldspiel, Stephen

Gunning, Tim

Halloran, John J., in memory of Rita

Jacobson

Heraty, Molly and Peter

Kavanagh, Nuala & Seamus

Kearns, Eileen

Krupka, Paula Kelly

Lally, Catherine

McAuley, Dennis and Angela

Moriarty, Rev. James F.

Murtagh, Noel and Bridget

Nicosia, Margaret Tully, in memory of

Annie and Patrick Tully

O'Connor, Robert and Mary

Odell, Paul A.

O'Hearn, Edward in memory of Junior

Walker O'Hearn

Schulz, Noreen

Thompson, Catherine

Thompson, John T.

Trager, Dr. and Mrs. Eugene

Wenzel, Mr. and Mrs. George

**Friend (\$1-99)**

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Burris, Edward J.

Clarke, James R.

Conboy, Tom

Crowe, Mary Jane

Feder, Lee

Fluhler, James & Patricia

Hehir Family

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Lally, Kathleen

Mahoney, Thomas F.

Mahoney, Donald L.

Malone, Jim and Ann

Massey, Jane

Mulvihill, Thomas E.

Murphy, Mrs. Audrey

O'Donnell, Gerald L.

O'Donnell, Karen

O'Neill, Kathy and Piekarz, Mark

Ponzetti, Denise

Reilly, Margaret M.

Ryan, Tom and Anne

Torricelli, Paul

Traynor, Noreen E.

Ward, Monica F.

**Anonymous (2)**

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## Executive Director's Message

September, October and November were special months at the Irish American Heritage Center.

We welcomed Gaelic Storm back to the Center stage and with Arthur's words of support flying over us, attached to a prop plane, we toasted the founder of Ireland's most recognizable brand at our first annual Arthur Guinness Day Music Festival.

We opened our beautiful new kitchen area, the result of the fundraising efforts and the hard work and skills of our volunteers, who completed another special transformation of a piece of this old school building that had stood in its 1920's original form until this year. We enjoyed God's blessings for beautiful October golf weather for our outing, Tommy Herr's long-drive victory, and the wit of Maureen O'Looney and Alan Duggan on the microphone together at the dinner afterwards.

We watched in awe as the Bogside Artists created a peace mural of John Hume, Seamus Heaney and Brian Friel live at iBAM!, which is ours to keep, so stop by to see it in the Art Gallery sometime soon. We listened

to the insights from Mary Pat Kelly speaking live to John Hume in our Auditorium after the screening of her documentary on him, the man recently voted as Ireland's Most Influential Person of All-time in an RTE Survey. We belly-laughed while listening to Frank Delaney talk about imagination and stories and luck, and admired the polish and quality of author panelists David Lynch, Kathleen Hill, James Murphy, Terry Boyle, Mary Pat Kelly, Frank Delaney and many others. We were moved by Maurice Lennon's presence on stage at the Four Courts concert and the emotional camaraderie clearly evident between Maurice, Paddy, Jimmy Keane and Jimmy Moore, not to mention the quality of their music. We were equally moved by Maurice and Paddy's rendition of *Boulavogue* for one of the Center's best volunteers and men, Kevin Moran, at the iBAM! dinner.

Together we have created many rich experiences to celebrate across the past few months and too many to fit on this page from the past year. Now, as the holiday season descends upon us, there will be a candle in the window

and some bread and milk outside the door to welcome members and visitors to the Holiday Bazaar on the December 5 and our close to 1,000 new members at the new member party on the 17th! I look forward to sharing many moments of grace and peace with my extended family here at the Irish American Heritage Center, before we turn the page toward an exciting 2011 in our Chicago Irish Home.



Onwards,  
Tim McDonnell  
Executive Director, Irish American Heritage Center

P.S. We are currently in search of a new Manager for our Shapeshifters community theatre group at the Center. If you are interested in discussing the opportunity, send me an email at [tmcdonnell@irishahc.org](mailto:tmcdonnell@irishahc.org).



## Paintings of Ireland Exhibit

Irish artist Mary McSweeney will exhibit her paintings this December in the Fifth Province.

Her exhibit, *Paintings of Ireland* will be featured on Friday, December 10 from 4pm-9pm. Meet the artist and see her beautiful works on display and for purchase.

## 2010 iBAM! a Success!

The iBAM! Irish Books, Arts and Music celebration was held the first weekend of November and was a huge success. More than 100 authors, musicians, artists and more showcased their talents at this annual event.

Save the date for iBAM 2011 on November 12th and 13th.



Jeannie, Lila & T.J. McNamara enjoy the iBAM! Celebration

## Annual Golf Open

The IAHC 2010 Golf Open was postponed, rescheduled and played on October 16, 2010.

There seemed to be an abundance of good feeling and we made many new friends.

The outing was a financial success and made a profit for the IAHC, thanks, in no small part to our sponsors, Ballydoyle Pub, who sponsored our bus.

The generous sponsors are:  
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Mike Neary  
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Thanks again to all of our generous

sponsors and volunteers. See you next year!  
-Alan Duggan



The Bogside Artists' Peace Mural, which is on display at the IAHC.





# THE HERITAGE LINE

## IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER Chicago, Illinois



WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

### December 2010

December 2	Irish Immigrant Support Meeting	Room 304	10am
December 3	Francis O'Neill Ceili Dance	Fifth Province	8pm
December 4	Shamrock American Club Social	Sham Amer Rm	8pm
December 5	Bazaar, Craft Sale, Mass, Breakfast	Various Rooms	9am-3pm
December 10	Mary McSweeney Art Exhibit/Sale	Fifth Province	4pm-9pm
December 11	St. Patrick's Fathers Social	Erin Room	8pm
December 12	Great Irish Books Club	Library	1pm
December 16	Irish Immigrant Support Meeting Celtic Women International Meeting	Room 304 Room 304	10am 7pm
December 17	Christmas at the Center, featuring The Chancey Brothers, Joe McShane and more!	Fifth Province	8pm
December 18	Roscommon Club Dance	Room 111	8pm
December 19	Shamrock American Club Mass	Fifth Province	10am
December 20	City of Chicago Pipe Band Open House/Recital	Fifth Province	7pm
December 24	Building Closed		
December 25	Building Closed		
December 31	New Year's Eve Party	Erin Room	8pm

#### 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

### Piping and Drumming Academy Holds Recital and Open House

The Chicago Academy of Piping and Drumming will hold a recital at the IAHC on Monday, December 20 at 7pm.

After the recital, join the group for an open house where perspective students or anyone with an interest in piping or drumming can learn more about the academy.

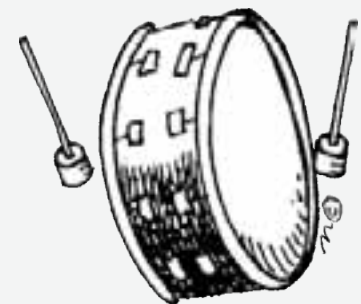
The group will showcase the talents of its students from age 9 through 29 and guests can hear the progression that students take from beginner to world class professional.

The City of Chicago Pipe Band, 2010 North American Champions, in conjunction

with IAHC started the Chicago Academy of Piping and Drumming. The mission of the Academy is to teach the basic elements of piping and drumming to further expand the art in the Chicago area.

In other news, the band has recently been upgraded to grade 1, which is the highest level in which a band can compete. The grading system goes from 5-1, with five being the most introductory and 1 being the top. They are currently in the top 1% of all pipe bands in the world. Currently, there are only 32 bands at that level in the entire world, and only 3 others in the US.

For more information, call Patrick Lynch at 773-875-6812.



## the fifth province

### UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT

All shows start after 9 p.m.

#### DECEMBER 2010

- Fri, 12/3 Ceili Mor
- Sat, 12/4 Donofinn
- Fri, 12/10 Seamus O'Kane and Jimmy Moore
- Sat, 12/11 The Dooley Brothers
- Fri, 12/17 Christmas at the Center, 8pm
- Sat, 12/18 Tony Leonard's Band
- Fri, 12/24 CLOSED
- Sat, 12/25 CLOSED
- Fri, 12/31 New Year's Eve Party, 8pm, Erin Room



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### Question about Membership?

Change of address? Email us at [membership@irishahc.org](mailto:membership@irishahc.org) for your membership questions.

### Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

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



Facebook and Twitter



### The Heritage Line Staff

Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

#### Contributors:

Alan Duggan  
Bob McNamara  
Leslie Singel

Mary Griffin  
Mary Morris

Tim McDonnell  
Sheila Murphy





WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

## Make a Gift of Your Irish Heritage Give the Gift of Membership

As you finish up your holiday shopping (or if you are like some of us, you haven't even started yet), there is still time to give the gift of Irish Heritage to someone or to yourself. By giving the gift of membership, someone you care about will be able to enjoy all the offerings of the Irish American Heritage Center along with membership discounts and new member privileges, including a subscription to the *Irish American News*. Membership as a gift shows you care about preserving your Irish heritage and provides someone with a gift that continues to give through the amazing place that is The Irish American Heritage Center.

Besides, **someone is going to Ireland courtesy of The Irish American Heritage Center – why not you??!!** With our membership drive coming to an end soon, your odds at winning this trip are infinitely better than any other raffle or lottery you could enter. Currently, the odds are 1 in 975. Wouldn't you rather have those odds than playing the lotto?

**975 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.

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

Here are the contest rules:

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

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

3. The person who recruits the most new members will receive a free party at the Irish American

Heritage Center for themselves and 25 guests.

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

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

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

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

### How to enter:

• Once you have identified a new

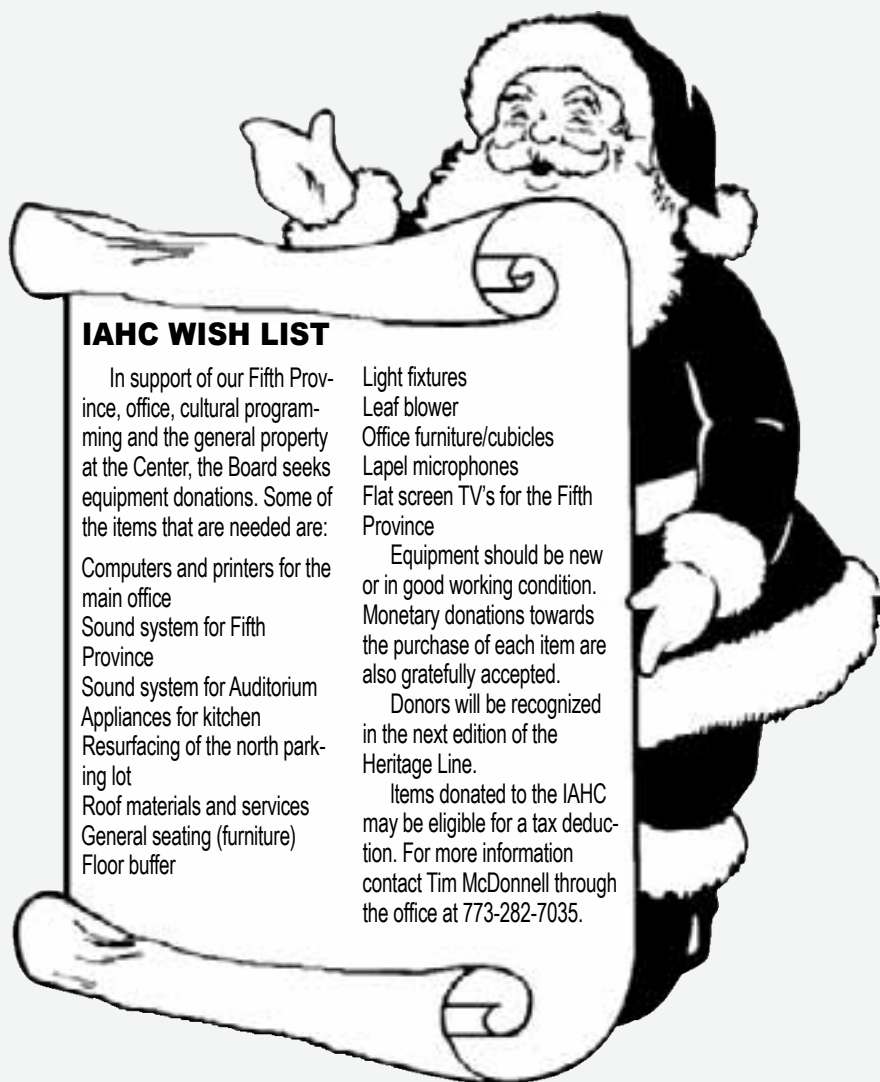
member for IAHC, have that new member fill out a IAHC Membership Form or contact the office for details.

• On the top of the new member's form, insert your name in the, "I was recruited by" space.

• Have the new member complete the form and submit it with their dues to the Center for processing.

• **Membership Forms** are available below or on-line at [www.irish-american.org](http://www.irish-american.org).

All new membership forms for the contest must be received at the IAHC office by December 31st, 2010 for entry into the contest. Winners will be announced at the 25/35 Anniversary Event in February of 2011.



### IAHC WISH LIST

In support of our Fifth Province, office, cultural programming and the general property at the Center, the Board seeks equipment donations. Some of the items that are needed are:

- Computers and printers for the main office
- Sound system for Fifth Province
- Sound system for Auditorium
- Appliances for kitchen
- Resurfacing of the north parking lot
- Roof materials and services
- General seating (furniture)
- Floor buffer

- Light fixtures
- Leaf blower
- Office furniture/cubicles
- Lapel microphones
- Flat screen TV's for the Fifth Province

Equipment should be new or in good working condition. Monetary donations towards the purchase of each item are also gratefully accepted.

Donors will be recognized in the next edition of the Heritage Line.

Items donated to the IAHC may be eligible for a tax deduction. For more information contact Tim McDonnell through the office at 773-282-7035.

I was recruited by: \_\_\_\_\_

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### \$500 - Bard

5-year membership  
 no annual dues

### \$1,000 - Chieftain

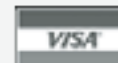
10-year membership without annual dues

### \$2,500 - High King

25-year membership without annual dues

### \$5,000 - Saint

Lifetime membership without annual dues







## Tradition In Review

Bill Margeson



Cathy Cowan and the Chieftains’, *Bells of Dublin*. Each for a different reason, and each so special. Bohola and Cathy are both local artists—Chicago

In what has become a yearly tradition, we give out opinions around this time as to what are the top albums for the Christmas gift giver. The ones with real trad taste. The gift giver who wants to give something fab—something trad. Does it shock you to find out we have recommendations? Then, it is up to you to find them. Easy. Rampant Lion in Villa Park and Paddy’s on the Square in Long Grove will have them, or can get them for you quickly. There are a couple that will require contacting the unequalled European distributor, Copperplate and Alan O’Leary directly. So be it. These are worth the effort. You can also go directly to the artists’ websites and order there. If you are in Chicagoland, best to go to Rampant or Paddy’s or any local Irish merchant.

First, let’s do the top three Irish Christmas albums of all time. They are *bo-Ho-Ho-hola* (by Bohola), *A Kiltartan Road Christmas* by

legends—so take that into account. Bohola’s is such a great mix of stories and the music, wonderful. Cathy Cowan’s album has Cathy Cowan. Need we say more? The Chieftains’ *Bells of Dublin* is rightly revered and loved around the world. So, there’s your Christmasy Christmas picks. Easy.

But what about non-Christmas, trad tasties? There are so many. Thousands. Where to start? The way we are doing this this year is just leaning back, closing our eyes, and imagining some of the best of the best over the years. Also keep in mind that we want to give you what is currently available, and can actually be found. It could well be argued that the best instrumental album of all time was Moving Cloud’s first, self-titled creation. It was on Green Linnet, and as the true trad fan knows, that catalogue is now owned by Compass. However, the album itself is extremely hard to find. So now on to others more readily available.

First, and always, is *Beal Tuinne*. This album of a couple years ago remains the greatest Irish album we have ever heard. There is really nothing more to be said about it. It can be found at Copperplate Distribution, as well as Rampant Lion—we know those two have it. Not everyone does. Simply go online and Google Copperplate Distribution, and you will be there instantly. We would also recommend anything in the Copperplate catalogue. If you are a trad lover, and you know you are, you cannot go wrong. If you are not using and supporting Copperplate, you are a foolish trad lover. Get on the stick and get with the program.

Joe Derrane was reviewed here last month with his new album, *Grove Lane*. It is brilliant. It is Joe Derrane. The master. Still tall in the saddle after all these years. Easily available everywhere, as it



is on Compass.

Five vocal albums come immediately to mind. Choose any of these. The independently produced *Faces*, by Deirdre Scanlon, a seven-time, All-Ireland vocal winner. Stunning. Or, through Copperplate, find Eilis Kennedy’s *Time to Sail*, a multiple award-winner. There are many who would argue that she is Ireland’s greatest singer. Speaking of Ireland’s greatest singer, don’t forget Cathie Ryan’s *The Farthest Wave*. If you don’t have it, get a grip on yourself. Get it. Cathie is alpha and omega of the great Irish vocalists. Matt Keane is the greatest singer of the Keane family and his album, *Out in the Fields*, is genius. Maranna McCloskey. *At Last* is the name of the album. A goddess from Derry. A stunning talent and a great gal. This gifted alto never sets a foot wrong. We have not been in contact with her for some time, but the talent remains. This is a tremendous album.

Two additional have come to mind. Kevin Henry’s album, *One’s Own Place*, should be findable through your local Irish music merchant. It is, in many ways, the ultimate Irish album, as is Kevin Henry the ultimate Irish talent. A musical icon. Another wonderment is *Hum-*

*ding*er by Paul Brock and Enda Scahill, accompanied by Ryan Molloy on piano. If Joe Derrane is not the greatest living box player, Paul Brock or David Munnely are. Enda Scahill is the best Irish banjo player. By the way, you may have noticed we sneaked David Munnely’s name in. His group’s album, *Tight Squeeze*, is a legend. Brock, Derrane, Munnely. You love button box? FAB.

OK, we lied. Let’s try and give you a couple titles that WILL be harder to find, but oh, so worth the effort. We still believe that the best Irish trad vocal/instrumental album by a group is *Reeltime*, by the group of the same name. Released in the early ‘90’s, this group from Galway redefined trad music and spawned legions of copycats. We won’t name them here. They know who they are. The album was released on Green Linnet. The Shanachie label produced a brilliant bit of business from DeDannan called *Hibernian Rhapsody*. Starring Tommy Fleming on vocals, and the original DeDannan, it is still a masterpiece. DeDannan has become something of a musical laughingstock in trad music, as its internecine warfare has produced



The New DeDannan and The Old DeDannan. Musical egos and conflicting pocketbooks do not obscure what was once the greatest group in trad, and this was arguably their greatest album. Shame on them all for being so silly.

See the problem? These just drift in and out of our mind as we are writing this to you. If we had done this list an hour from now, there would be totally different names on it. The point is that we absolutely, 100% guarantee that each of the albums listed would be a delight to receive and a pride to give. 100%.

Now quit sitting there reading this and get to work. Support these artists and show your friends what incredible taste you have. Merry Christmas!

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## Wonder Waltz by De Danaan

Reviewed by Bill Nevins

De Danaan, the revered, three decade-old Irish traditional band, takes its name from the Tuatha de Danaan—legendary magic folk of lore. Like those storied other worldly people of the Goddess Danu, De Danaan the band has renewed and reinvigorated itself many, many times over the years.

A "who's who" of singers and instrumentalists has flowed through their various line ups. I recall buying a signed LP of an early De Danaan album from the great Maura O'Connell when she was a young lass just begun singing with the band and also staffing the merch table at an outdoor concert in Vermont way back in the early 80s.

Now two of the founders of De Danaan, Bouzouki master Alec Finn and bodhran wizard Johnny "Ringo" McDonagh, have again re-formed the band to tour and record this fine album. Joining them in that good work are singer Eleanor Shanley, Brian McGrath, Derek Hickey and fiddler Mick Conneeley. This album is a very

fine outing, indeed. Traditional tunes—jigs, reels and airs abound, all delivered with De Danaan's



trademark verve and precision. Each is a delight.

For me, though the highlights of this most worth-having album are the songs. De Danaan has always conjured for me a turn of the century feeling, and in many of their albums that meant the turn of the 20th century, both in Ireland and Irish-America, as they played what seemed a revived version of the grand dance hall and stage shows of times long gone by.

However, on *Wonder Waltz*, as the title implies, De Danaan give trad music an new kick forward. This is so wonderfully apparent in the choice and delivery of songs, which suggest old Ireland uncertainly plunging on into the as-yet-undefined 21st century world we now all face. Economic crash, social turmoil and the quiet yearning for peace and home all are reflected poetically in "Ireland," "Across the Borderline" and, most poignantly for me, in an updated take on Paul Brady's beautiful, classic 1980s song "Hard Station."

*Wonder Waltz* is a grand listen. I highly recommend this De Danaan album, and all of their back catalog, for your holiday giving and enjoyment choices.  
www.dedanaan.eu.

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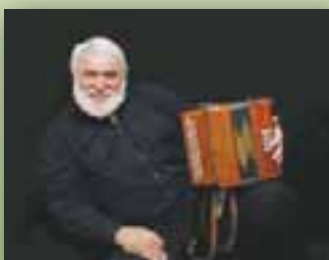
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## Matt Molloy: Keeping Traditional Irish Music Alive

By Katie Hamilton

It's nine p.m. on an unusually warm summer Saturday in Co. Mayo and tourists and locals alike are already crowding for a spot in the back room of Matt Molloy's pub. The World Cup is on, but there is no television in sight. There is not a pool table or poker slot to be found. Food isn't served here, although the lucky patron might be able to snag a packet of peanuts from behind the bar. Tonight, as with every other night, the main attraction at Matt Molloy's is traditional Irish music. Seasoned fiddle, accordion, flute, guitar and bodhran players have gathered in the musician's corner. It's seisiún time.

Born in Ballaghadereen, Co. Roscommon, Matt Molloy is no stranger to Irish music. He was eight years old when he first picked up the flute; ten years later, he won the All-Ireland Flute



Championship. Molloy went on to become a founding member of The Bothy Band, a member of Planxty, and a solo artist as well, although he is perhaps best known for his role with the iconic Irish band, The Chieftains.

The group recently released their newest album *San Patricio*, an amalgamation of Irish and Mexican music which has already topped the Billboard Latin Albums chart.

Molloy has a decidedly simple attitude toward his pub: "This is a social setting," he said. "I kept it the way I like

it. And it is working." One look at the burgeoning crowd proves Molloy is onto something.

"It's only when you travel a lot that you see potential on your own doorstep," Molloy said of opening his now-famous pub 21 years ago in Westport. Awarded Ireland's Tidiest Town in 2001, 2006 and 2008, this picturesque village lies just off Clew Bay, an inlet where the Atlantic Ocean rushes into the west of Ireland. Originally built in 1858, the building still boasts the original frontage, including the windows. Molloy decided to "extend the character of the pub," transforming the kitchen into a back room with seating, and what was formerly a drop-off area for horses and carts into an outside smoking area now known as the Yard Bar. Renowned countrywide for its traditional Irish music scene, the pub usually appears under the "must visit" section in Irish

travel guides.

So what is it about traditional Irish music that attracts people from all over to this tiny corner of the world?

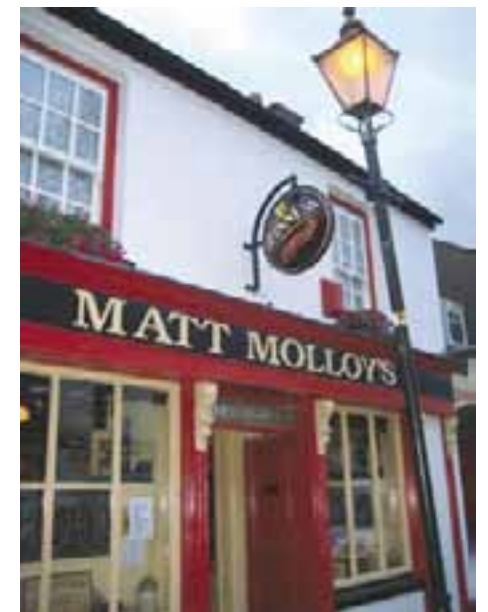
"It's timeless," said Diana Lavery, visiting from Southport, England.

"It's raw talent," said her husband, Peter.

"The musicians are all so passionate. You get the character of the music," said another Southport native, Christine Wright.

But it is not just tourists who come to Matt Molloy's. Perhaps the local put it best: "It's an Irish culture thing," said Pat Heraty of Drummin, a village just four miles up the road. "The culture of Irish music is really deep. You have to know it, to listen to it."

In that case, Matt Molloy's is the perfect place to be.





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# Chicago Gaelic Park

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



## A Chairde:

The Gaelic Park Players completed a successful run of *The Last Rose*. This was the debut performance of this play and the author, Ann Dunphy, attended the first three performances. The play was well written, well directed and well performed. The Gaelic Park Players are one of the many constituent groups who consider Gaelic Park their home. The Players present a play in November and a play in April each year. The performances are most enjoyable and well received. In addition, they have numerous activities and pitch in at Gaelic Park whenever asked. They coordinate the performing arts stage for the Festival and have a great trivia night. We are fortunate and proud to have this vibrant group be such an active and productive participant at Gaelic Park. The Chicagoland area is lucky to have groups such as The Gaelic Park Players bring Irish theatre to our area. There is no bigger event than iBAM!, Irish Books, Arts and Music, which was recently held at the Heritage Center. Congratulations to Cliff Carlson and the Heritage Center for another successful edition. We frequently overlook the time, work and effort that go into events such as iBAM!. The end result is truly a gift to the Irish community.

Gaelic Park is alive with the Christmas spirit. As soon as you turn in the gate off of 147th Street, your eyes are met with a magnificent array of Christmas decorations. Inside, every room at Gaelic Park is tastefully decorated. Pat Daly coordinated this effort for years and set a high standard. Our volunteers continue this tradition and should be commended. We hope you stop by for any of the great events, including the Celtic Supper, Monthly Mass, Mingle & Jingle, Tony Kenny Christmas Concert, Mary McSweeney Art Exhibition and either of the New Year's Eve events. On behalf of everyone at Gaelic Park, we wish you a happy and blessed holiday season.

*Yours very truly,*  
John C. Griffin, President

## One Stop Christmas Shopping at CGP

New merchandise has arrived just in time for the holidays. We have beautiful jackets, polo shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies (child, youth, adult sizes) hats, umbrellas and more. Come in early and often to get the sizes you need.

Give the favorites on your list a Chicago Gaelic Park Gift Certificate, available in all amounts and great stocking stuffers. The certificates can be used in the Carraig Pub, for the Sunday Celtic Suppers and merchandise. All items are available for purchase in the main office.

After selecting gifts for all your friends and family, come into the Carraig for a hot meal and drink, and then enjoy the rest of the holiday season!

## Enjoy the Holiday Season at Gaelic Park



Gaelic Park has so many great events year-round and the holidays are no exception. Our talented volunteers have outfitted the inside and outside with an endless string of lights,

Christmas trees in every direction. They have made the place look like a Winter Wonderland. Whether you are coming to catch up with old friends in the Carraig Pub, attending a terrific concert, or looking for some relaxation away from all the shopping, make sure to stop and admire their fine work.

### December 11 & 12

**Mary McSweeney Art Exhibit** is a two day event and is open to the public on Saturday, December 11, 4pm-9pm and Sunday, December 12, 10am-8pm. Mary returns to Gaelic Park for her 17th annual exhibition where patrons eagerly await her new works to add to their prestigious and valuable collections. Born in Killarney and a graduate of the Cork School of Art, she has exhibited in Ireland, Canada and the United States. The Artist's website is [www.marymcsweeney.com](http://www.marymcsweeney.com).

### December 12

**Tony Kenny's Christmas Time in Ireland** has been praised as the greatest in Irish song, dance, music and laughter. This performance includes Ireland's #1 comedian, Joe Cuddy and the Dublin City Dancers. Tickets are \$25 and you can reserve yours by calling Gaelic Park at 708.687.9323.

### December 9 & 16

#### Mingle & Jingle Christmas Party

Gaelic Park is hosting the Annual Mingle & Jingle Christmas parties on Thursday, December 9 and Thursday, December 16. Call the office to reserve your tables!

#### Merrymaking at CGP in 2011

- 1/6 Women's Little Christmas Party
- 2/5 Merry Ploughboys Party \$20
- 2/12 Craic-a-Palooza Party
- 2/20 Annual Gaelic Park Convention
- 3/17 St. Patrick's Day Luncheon \$25
- 3/17 Dave Coady Farewell Concert/Dance \$25
- 4/2 Conal Gallen Comedy Night \$25

## Annual Winter Coat and Food Drive

Carraig Pub manager, Enda Byrne, will oversee this event which begins on Wednesday, December 1 and runs through Wednesday, December 15. Donations will also be accepted at the December 12 Christmas Mass at Gaelic Park. All donations of winter coats and canned and dried food

received will be donated to "Together We Cope" a private, not-for-profit organization based in Tinley Park. Together we Cope is run by neighbors helping neighbors in need, and is focused bridging the gap for residents in temporary crisis by providing food, shelter, clothing, and referrals.

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## Carraig Pub

Carraig Pub is the place for a great night out with music and delicious, mouth-watering food. The Carraig offers many daily specials and serves food Monday through Thursday 5pm to 9pm and Friday and Saturday 5pm to 10pm. Visit the Carraig for Pub Trivia every Tuesday night beginning at 8 pm and continuing each week through mid- December. Check the website at [www.chicagogaelicpark.org](http://www.chicagogaelicpark.org) for a full calendar of upcoming events at the Carraig as well as a complete menu and drink specials.

This month's entertainment schedule is:

Fri, 12/3 JoeMcShane  
 Sat, 12/4 Richie Z  
 Fri, 12/10 Joe Cullen  
 Sat, 12/11 Ray Gavin  
 Fri, 12/17 Gerard Haughey  
 Sat, 12/18 Justin Griffin  
 Sat, 12/31 Bernie Glim & Country Roads  
*Party favors, complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a midnight champagne toast to ring in the New Year, no cover charge!*

## Sunday Celtic Supper

Celtic Suppers are a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon with friends and family, and are perfect for family celebrations



**Winning Apple Pie Recipe** Not too tart - not too sweet... this apple pie is sure to please! Marla Butler adapted the May 2005 Reader's Digest award winning Grandma's Apple pie to win this year's apple pie contest at the Heritage and Harvest Day Festival. She would like to share the recipe so you too can make delicious, flaky, buttery-crust, apple pies that have the precise amount of complexity of flavor.

**THE CRUST** Using a large spoon air-orate your flour by stirring the flour four or five times from the bottom of the bag of flour to the top. Next, lightly spoon 2 2/3 cups of flour into measuring cups and use a knife to level off the top of the measuring cups (preciseness is required in baking perfect pies). To the flour, add 3/4 teaspoon of salt. Take one cup of cold unsalted butter out of your refrigerator and cut the sticks of butter into quarter teaspoon bite sizes pieces into the bowl with the flour. Next, place two ice cubes in a 1/2 cup measuring cup and fill the cup with ice cold water. Sprinkle the water over the flour mixture. Using a pastry cutter, mix the dough until it looks like oatmeal and will form a ball. Place the ball of dough in the refrigerator for a half hour.

**THE FILLING** Peel and slice three Granny Smith, four Rome Beauties and four McIntosh apples. In bowl, add scant cup of sugar, one teaspoon cinnamon, 1/3 teaspoon nutmeg, three tablespoons of minute tapioca and three tablespoons of orange juice. Roll out one half of dough for a nine inch pie plate. Pour apple filling into crust and dot filling with two tablespoons of butter. Roll out top crust and place on top of pie. Trim pie crust and cut about five air vents into top of crust. Sprinkle pie with coarse sugar. Bake at 375 for about one hour... **ENJOY!**

for the holidays. For the cost of \$16 music, dancing and a delicious, hot, all you can eat buffet meal is provided. Children are welcome, ages 4 to 12 are \$9 and under 3 are free. Please call Gaelic Park for more information or to reserve tickets. Entertainment this month includes Gerard Haughey on December 5, Ray Gavin on December 12 and Joe Cullen on December 19.

## Monthly Mass and Breakfast

Join us for monthly Mass at 10am on the second Sunday of the month. A delicious traditional Irish breakfast buffet immediately follows which includes bacon, eggs, sausage, black and white pudding and more. Breakfast for adults is \$8 and kids 12 and under is \$4.

## CGP Sunday Radio Program

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



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# \$ Daly Investor

By John P. Daly



unemployment rate stuck over 9.5%, interest rates at historically low levels, GDP growth in the low single digits, and complete uncertainty of what next year’s tax codes will look like; definitely not the prettiest

environment. However it does show the resilience of this country and our financial system. We have certainly come a long way from where we were in 2008. In case you have forgot let me remind you of some of the events that were occurring just 2 short years ago. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the nation’s mortgage backbone, were put into conservatorship. Lehman Brothers, a top 3 investment bank, had just gone bankrupt. AIG, this country’s largest insurer was close to collapsing and the S&P 500 hit a 14 year low of 683 on March 6th 2009. A 56% fall from its all time high in October of 2007. We are not out of the woods yet. We still have a lot of work to do to get this economy growing again and to get the unemployment rate down. But it seems as if we are moving in the right direction.

One question I always get from clients and prospects is “how do you think the market will perform the next year?” The answer I end up giving 99% of the time is “I don’t know.” I do believe there are many opportunities for investors today, but there are also many uncertainties in the short term. That’s why I always stress that investors

make sure their risks are aligned with their goals and needs. If you plan on investing, be make sure you have a long enough time horizon (5yrs +) to get you through the unforeseen obstacles the future may hold. Remember, investing is for the long term not the short term. Here is an interesting fact that many of the new clients I meet with are surprised to hear; Investors who were properly diversified and maintained a moderate allocation (60% stocks/40% bonds) over the past 3 years actually have higher account values today than their value was back in October 2007 (all time market high). If you’re not one of them, please call me—we need to talk!

I hope all of you and your loved ones have a healthy and happy holiday season. Merry Christmas to all and a prosperous New Year.

*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.*

## Year In Review

2010 is almost over and what a ride it has been. I wanted to take a look back at what investors have gone through this year and where we have come since 2008.

The stock market started the year strong with a nice rally through mid April. Fears of a double dip recession and possible deflation caused it to pull back 16% by the beginning of July. Companies started to report Q2 earnings and the majority of S&P 500 firms beat expectations. This prompted a nice 17% rally from the end of August through the first week of November.

At the time that I am writing this article, the market has pulled back a few percentage points from its recent year high in early November and is currently up about 6% year to date. Now we still have one month left to go in 2010, but it looks as though the stock market has a good chance to finish positive for 2010. And speaking of good performance, let’s not forget about bonds. Long term bonds are up close to 10% while short term bonds are up around 4% year to date.

Now all of this has occurred with our country’s



William Dougherty, 1st Vice President, and Greg Bella, 3rd Vice President of the Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge #7, presented the Distinguished Service Award to Police Officer Kerry Pozulp and Sergeant Jose Lopez. While the officers were conducting surveillance in the 3800 block of S. Michigan Ave., they successfully subdued an armed felon in possession of a controlled substance and an illegal firearm. William Donahue stated “due to these officers’ dedication to duty and courage in a difficult situation, a dangerous armed offender was removed from the streets of the City of Chicago.” Pictured (L-R): V.P. William Dougherty, Officer Kerry Pozulp, Sergeant Jose Lopez and V.P. Greg Bella.

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## Chicago Gaelic News

**Pat Hennessy**

### Gaelic Park Aglow for Christmas

Once again our Gaelic Park will be aglow for the celebration of the coming of the Christ Child so many years ago. The decorations outside and inside are so attractive that motorists along the busy street stop and come in to visit.

And, as usual, *Tony Kenny's Christmas Time in Ireland* all star show on Sunday night, December 12th, will bring back many fond memories to all of us. Doors open at 7pm and the concert starts at 7:30pm; for tickets and more information call Melody and her colleens at the front office, 708-687-9323.

The craic will be mighty when Tony Kenny and his all cast including comedian Joe Cuddy, Tony's multi-talented colleen, Victoria Kenny, and the world renowned Dublin City Dancers and Singers. This indeed is a holiday celebra-

tion of the song, dance and music of the Gael.

So you can sit back and imagine *Christmas Time in Ireland* with a warm turf fire on a cold night enjoying a rousing sing-song by the hearth with family gathered around. It will be a show that you will never forget. So get your tickets early and enjoy every moment.

### Beatification Ceremony of Blessed Edmund Rice

Brother Edmund I. Rice, founder of the Irish Christian Brothers, C.B.S., is now known as Blessed Edmund Rice until such time as he is canonized to sainthood and known as Saint Edmund Rice, God speed the day! Ceremonies were held all over the 30 countries that his schools are operating in. We have three of his great schools in Chicago, Br. Rice,

Leo, and St. Laurence. He was born in Westcourt, Callan, Co. Kilkenny, birthplace of our own great Gael, Nick Tierney. As a boy he was fond of the old caman game of hurling and played it with other kids—behind the house in case the occupation army of England would see them and stop the play. It was a time during the infamous Penal Law days, a cruel time for the Irish nation. He attended a ‘Hedge School’ in a large shed, and was taught the usual course until such time as he enrolled in the Kilkenny City College.

Brother Rice needs one more miracle to be sainted and Catholics and others are saying his prayer daily asking the good Lord to grant a favour: *O God, you inspired Blessed Edmund Rice to follow your son in a life of consecrated service to the poor and all in need of a Christian education. Grant through his intercession the petition I now make. I ask this favour through Christ Our lord. Amen.*

### Congratulations to the Madigan Family

Congratulations are extended to Mike and Lisa Madigan who retained their positions in Illinois, despite the unfairness of the *Chicago Tribune* and reporter, John Cass, who tries to belittle Speaker Madigan on very occasion. He even belittles the Irish language in doing so, but the Madigan family sails by in all their glory. One wonders what he would say if someone tried to belittle his Greek ancestors' language? Continued good luck Mike, and Lisa. American-Irish are very proud of you both. *Beannact De ar an oibre agus slainte.* (God bless your good work and best wishes). *Bennact Na Nollaig.* (Blessed Christmas)

### O’Gorman Exhibit



Thomas J. O’Gorman’s exhibition of new Irish paintings, *A Roof Over our Heads*, will take place on Wednesday, December 8, 2010, from 6-9pm, at Revival Gallery, 2016 West Armitage Avenue (at Damen) in Chicago. The exhibition includes 75 Irish-themed paintings.

RSVP: tog515@gmail.com.

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## Gareth Woods: Made of Love

By Pam Niequist Wehbi

The second album for County Louth, Ireland, native Gareth Woods, *Made of Love* is the tangible result of the artist's growth as both an artist and a man. It is as much a collection of memories, hopes and dreams as it is songs, and a showcase for Woods' brilliantly clear voice and love of life and fatherhood. He has arrived.

Musically, *Made of Love* is seamless and allows Woods to express his talents on the guitar. Lyrically, it is more than admirable and even quotable. Thematically, it is a celebration of love, from pursuit of a partner to the birth of a child to overwhelming gratitude for life thus far.

*Made of Love* is categorized as folk music, but there are twists. "No Rain" has an intro that feels as if U2 could enter the picture at any moment and is, perhaps, closer to rock than any of the other 10 tunes. The country-bluesy "Wake Up" urges you to "give it your best shot... turn your life around," while "Upstanding Man" is a really upbeat, swamp-rocky fun song best listened to during a nice drive—or anytime, really.

With the release of *Made of Love*, Woods has bared his soul and permitted his audience to share his feelings—feelings that many people can relate to at some point in their lives. "End of September" is a prime example. It is a reflection of happy childhood memories and how the simplest things, such as watching the birth of a foal, can make a young child so proud. He says, "And I'm 36 years old... now it's payback time... I want to thank my mom and dad and give my kids the love I had."

"Shine Like the Sun" shows a father's wonder and hope for his child: "Beautiful baby I look into your eyes // So clear and so pure and with nothing to disguise... I wanna get to know you, show you how the world is run // I'll be proud to be your dad, make you proud to be my son // Cuz you shine like the sun."

The title track is resonant, solid and defining. "For you see nothing can break us; we're made of much tougher stuff // Than even nature or time, we're made of love."

May Gareth Woods never break his stride. *Made of Love* is available at cdbaby.com.



## Mother Superior's Ho-Ho-Holy Night

Did Baby Jesus get to ride in the sleigh? Was Santa with the Holy Family in the manger? Did the elves guide the Three Wise Men? Holy Holidays! See our favorite nun answer these questions and more in the Christmas comedy: Mother Superior's Ho-Ho-Holy Night.

Vicki Quade, creator of the hit show *Late Nite Catechism*, sends Mother Superior to a new parish to help create a holiday pageant like never before.

The *Northwest Indiana Times* calls the show, a "Candy Cane Classic!" *Metromix* calls the show, "Great holiday fun for the whole family!"

The premise: Mother Superior wants to help the folks at St. Gabriel's come up with a new holiday pageant. But As always, Mother Superior's ruler is quick, her aim is spot-on, and she wants to help the folks at St. Gabriel's come up with a new holiday pageant that will impress the Vatican and win an audience with the Pope!

Quade calls *Mother Superior's Ho-Ho-Holy Night* "a funny look of our Christmas traditions, from hanging stockings on St. Nicholas' feast day, to singing odd Christmas carols, to a recreation of the events leading up to the birth of Jesus Christ."

Of course, being a nun, Mother Superior has lots of opinions about the holidays and Catholicism in general. An interactive experience, the audience not only gets to vote on which Christmas holidays to feature—there are prizes for those who can answer Mother Superior's trivia questions.

*Mother Superior's Ho-Ho-Holy Night* opens November 26, 2010, at the Royal George Theatre, 1641 N. Halsted in Chicago; 312-988-9000; www.nuns4fun.com.



## Reel Jiggy

Deirdre Kozicki



Recently I went to the Halloween Feis. I only did the dances that I'm doing for solos for Oireachtas (Regionals). The first dance was my reel. I thought I did really well. I ended up getting 2nd, but again, I missed 1st by a half of a point. Then I did my hornpipe. I thought I did better in my hornpipe than my reel, but my one shoe fell off. I wasn't even sure I was going to place but I got 4th place. It was still a pretty fun day though and I hope to improve by Oireachtas. I've been practicing a lot. I have to go to solo practice before team practice on Saturdays. That means 3 hours of dancing. I have been working so hard, and it is finally going to pay off (I hope). I am very excited! I hope our team will win first place again! Wish me luck. I will have the results for you next month.

I also went to iBAM and had a great time. I learned new things, and found some things quite interesting. Like, I saw Mary Pat Kelly's movie which was a documentary about John Hume. I found the documentary interesting, and also how she made it. I want to wish my fellow Mullane Healy Godley dancers good luck.

*I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving holiday!*  
Nollaig Shona Duit.

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## A Word With Monsignor Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

**Rev. Monsignor Michael M. Boland**

Administrator, President and CEO



• Seniors also rank very high on Catholic Charities' list of priorities. This year, the Catholic Charities Housing Development Corporation

### Charity and Hope Renewed: The Spirit of Advent

We are now in the Season of Advent. In many ways, Catholic Charities lives this sacred season of preparing for Christmas year-round! The hungry, homeless and hurting families and individuals whom we help throughout the year "walk in darkness" like God's people of old, waiting for the "salvation" of a better life. But with the help of Catholic Charities and our generous volunteers, donors, board members and staff, "the people who walk in darkness will see a great light!" The light of charity shines on them. The "spirit of giving" gives them hope!

During Advent's four-week "waiting time," many families renew and share their faith as they prepare their hearts, homes and gifts for the celebration of the Savior's birth at Christmas. Hundreds of these families and numerous parishes share their blessings with Catholic Charities during this season.

Here are just a few of the ways we celebrate the Season of Giving:

• For over 60 years, untold thousands of low-income families struggling to stay housed, homeless families, and families in our shelters and New Hope apartments have depended on the generosity of Catholic Charities' Toy Shower (through December 13) to brighten their children's Christmas – and to provide much-needed winter clothing and household goods for the whole family through our Sponsor-a-Family program (through December 10).

• Our popular "Spirit of Saint Nicholas Ball" in early December will assist more than 220,000 children in need in 76 Catholic Charities' programs, providing food, clothing, shelter, licensed childcare for low-income families and supportive services for teen parents.

• On November 29, a very special home for homeless mothers and children was dedicated: Madonna House in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood. With the support of the Perry family and other generous donors, Catholic Charities was able to open our doors in this newly renovated building to provide 50 mothers and children with safe shelter and comprehensive, wrap-around services so that they can move from homelessness to self-sufficiency; and never be homeless again.

celebrated 25 years of building or renovating 43 affordable housing buildings with 2,648 units or beds for seniors, veterans, the physically disabled, homeless persons in need of shelter, retired priests and nursing home care. Twenty-one of these buildings are beautiful, dignified apartment residences for seniors with limited incomes.

• Right now, hard-working people are struggling to make ends meet. In the last year, we have seen a 60% increase in requests for food at our 10 food pantries in Cook and Lake counties; and 1 in 7 Americans lives in poverty. But Catholic Charities lives in hope, because Advent is a time of "Hope Renewed." And so, I invite you to participate in Catholic Charities' Year-end Appeal.

As we celebrate Advent and look forward to Christmas, I thank everyone for your generosity to Catholic Charities in 2010 through your volunteer service, financial contributions, and participation in our programs and events; and especially for your prayers for our work and for the people we serve. None of Catholic Charities' 159 programs that helped 1.1 million people last year would have been possible without your prayers and support.

Thank you for bringing the light of God's love and hope into so many lives.

The Spirit of Christmas is the charity that nurtures hope: the loving act of unselfish giving and the joy that it brings—not only to those who receive—but to those who are able to give. As we celebrate Advent and look forward to Christmas, I thank God for all the families, seniors and individuals—of all races, religions and economic circumstances—whom we are able to help. And I thank all who so generously reach out to help their brothers and sisters in their time of need. May God bless you!

For more information about Catholic Charities' programs and Year-End Appeal, please visit: [www.catholiccharities.net](http://www.catholiccharities.net); or call Margaret Hughes at (312) 655-7012.



## O'BITUARIES

### Friends we will miss

#### Chuck Ward

By Edward J. Ward

I have been reading emails and comments on Caring Bridge as hundreds of people express their condolences to our extended family at Chuck's passing. And we thank all of you for your kind words and prayers. I was preparing a few remarks about Chuck to share with his close friend Bob Gosse who delivered the eulogy at the funeral service. But I can't just express my awe and admiration for Chuck in just a few words and wanted people, especially those who were not able to join us as we celebrated his life and said goodbye to him to know more about who he is, not just what he has done. Abe Lincoln once said that a man's character can be judged not by how he handles success, but how he handles adversity. Chuck's last two and a half years since his cancer diagnosis shine out like a bright beacon to all who observed and came in contact with him. His dignity, humility, courage and sense of humor never wavered, even at the end when he was in terrible pain. His wife Cathy and daughter Bridget and son Colin made a courageous and extraordinary decision to invite Chuck's friends to visit him in his final days this week to say their goodbyes. And a steady stream of visitors came to tell him that they loved him and to pay their last respects. And Chuck, even up until the last day, and in great pain, acknowledged them and even joked with them.

Chuck was 11 years my younger, my "kid" or "baby" brother. I always wonder what course our

lives would have taken had not Irish music brought us together. Chuck was 22 years old when Irish Fest started and was involved every year since. He was always enthusiastic, funny, a pleasure to be around and could work with people on all levels. He got along with everybody. In fact, I think the only one he argued with periodically was me. Just reading the wonderful comments and tributes on Caring Bridge says it all—he was a "good guy" in the truest sense if the word.

When he was diagnosed with a serious form of cancer on June 8, 2008, he was told how serious it was and was told he would be lucky to last a year. I remember when he cashed in a small insurance policy that year and had to get a physician's signature to verify he had only months to live. Quiet resignation—never a complaint—never a "Why me?" or "Why not someone else?" He was never angry at God or anyone else about his illness.

Chuck did not claim to be an overly religious person but he was a deeply spiritual person. His faith, determination and the prayers and intercessions of all those who knew him, allowed him to live long enough to accomplish a few very important goals he set out for himself—to see his daughter Bridget married, to become the President of Milwaukee Irish Fest and lead the festival through its 30th anniversary year and to return to Ireland. These blessings were all accomplished and were all the more meaningful as his treatments ended and his condition worsened. His demeanor this past month was an inspiration to anyone who was with him, while at the same time being heartbreaking to have to see him in so much pain and distress. I can't help but cry when I think of what he went through. God grant us all the grace and courage to be more like him.

I remember when our son Brendan died in 1986. One of his little playmates, trying to understand his death, said that his body fell off. I can't think of a more accurate description of dying. Certainly for people of faith, Chuck's body fell off but his soul and spirit live on. My dad used to tell us that only the Irish looked upon death as a "promotion." I know my mom and dad believed it. I believe it. And I think Chuck, with the wonderful assistance of Fr. John, believed that his journey was not over, but in reality just beginning. What is there left to say? We love you Chuck, we will miss you and congratulations on your promotion!



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#### Maureen McKenna, nee McGinnity

Beloved wife of Pat; loving mother of Martin (Kathy); dear grandmother of Pierce, Casey and Noelle; dear sister of Jimmy, Annie (Frank) McGrath, Mena Connolly, Rose (Jimmy) Doran, Rita (Hugh) Clerkin, the late Margaret Clarke, Hugh Pat, Bridie Doran, Charles and Dymphna. Interment All Saints.

She was a Native of Scotstown, County Monaghan, Ireland. Member of Irish American Heritage Center and Shamrock American Club. In lieu of flowers donations to Misericordia, 6300 N. Ridge, Chicago, 60660. 847-685-1000.





*Nollaig shona  
agus  
Athbhliain faoi mhaise*

(Merry Christmas *and* a Happy New Year)  
*to*

*All the readers of the* IRISH AMERICAN NEWS



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