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# irish american news

### Phil Coulter: The Songs We Love So Well

By Cliff Carlson

Irish American News interviewed the great Phil Coulter, a Northern Ireland native who has written hit music in every decade since the 1960s and is still going strong. His newest project, since he helped form the fantastically successful Celtic Thunder group, is a new CD called Heartland.

**C:** What was the cause of all the greatness that came out of Derry in your generation?

**P:** Well, that is a good question. In fact, a couple of months ago there was a television documentary that aired in this part of the world called *The Boys of St. Columb's*, which was my secondary school. It featured six or seven of us, including Nobel Prize winners like John Hume, who won the peace prize, and Seamus Heaney, who won for poetry. And there was also Brian Friel, the playwright, and a number of other illustrious people.

You know it was a curious thing. I think in our case, certainly, the timing was critical. Around about the 1940s, the London government introduced an education act which made third level education available on scholarship, which before was only available by the payment of fees. This new act meant that kids whose parents could not have afforded to send them to university could

go to university if they won the scholarship. At St Columb's, it was certainly driven into all of us that if you had a talent, if you had brains, you had an obligation to use them. Because here, staring you in the face, was an opportunity to get into a third level school and therefore a lifestyle and opportunities that hadn't been afforded to any of your family before. It's funny, because we have all gone many different ways and have different talents, but the one thing we agreed upon was that a work ethic that was drilled into us as teenagers. It certainly has stood by us, and I am sure that has a lot to do with it.

**C:** Did teachers tell you that you had talent?

P: Yes, they told you and encouraged you if you had talent. This is another thing that is a mantra of mine. My opening lines, when I get young players who come to work in the orchestra or to work with me in studio, or when facing a lecture hall full of students like when I taught as a visiting professor of Irish studies at Boston College for 5 years, my opening lines were always: "Obviously you're very bright kids; you're very talented. So let me just give you a word of advice. Do you know what your talent entitles you to? Absolutely zero. The world is filled with talented losers. People who

believe that just because they are talented that the world owes them a living." So it was embued in all of us that if you had a talent, don't congratulate yourself on the talent. That was a gift from God, something you inherited from the genes of your parents. Congratulate yourself when you work at that talent and turn it into something.



**C:** Do you stay in contact with John Hume, Seamus Heaney, Brian Friel and Seamus Dean?

**P:** Yes, our paths would cross once a week or once a month. Hume would be the one that still lives in Derry, or between Derry and Donegal. So our paths would cross more regularly than the others. It was great when we did that television documentary last year, for all of us to be in the same space at the same time.

**C:** Do you think you have written songs in so many different genres because your generation was exposed to so many types of music?

**P:** I think you're absolutely right. When I went to London straight out of university in 1965, I

was like the kid someone had given the key to the toy shop to. I was in the music business, and there was so much happening on so many sides. I remember growing up listening to the radio, way before music was on television, and we would listen to *American Forces Network, AFN*, coming out of Germany. That's where we heard a lot of the American hit records. Fortunately, our home was a very musical household. Both my parents were very musical. My older brothers were into music. So in the evening we would always tune into the radio to hear *AFN*. I was exposed to so many types of music while I was studying classical music at college.

During my years at university, I always say that during the day I would get excited about the church music of the 1690s and at night I would play rock 'n' roll music of the 1960s! It's always been like that for me. I'm looking back on all of these years, and I'm noticing there wasn't the same corralling into formats as there is today. If you notice today, American radio is heavily shoved into formats. It never used to be like that. Music was music, and pop music was pop music. I have been around for many years, and I have not been corralled into any one area of pop music. When I was producing the Bay City Rollers in the 1970s, if I had allowed myself to be corralled into thinking like a teeny-bopper writer/producer, I would have been dead in the water by the next generation.

C: You have collaborated with others and worked on your own. Which do you prefer, and which has been the most successful?

**P:** I believe some degree of collaboration is never a bad thing. Personally, I'm a self motivator when it comes to writing. I have very trusted left





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My engineer pro, tools operator and orchestrator would be an important part of my whole set up. In terms of collaboration, those are important. In terms of writing, I have never been a great collaborator. I had a partner for many years, Bill Martin, but in point of fact we very seldom sat down at a piano or a table and wrote a song together. The way that partnership worked was that I was the creative part of it and he was the guy who went out and did the selling. I've written with Albert Hammond and with Ralph McTell. I've written with a handful of people, but I'm naturally more of a solo flyer. I'm more comfortable when I'm writing by myself.

**C:** What is the favorite version of one of your songs sung by another artist?

**P:** If someone asked me what is the one song you would want to sign off on or be remembered for, it wouldn't be "My Boy" by Elvis, or "Saturday Night" by the Bay City Rollers, or any other songs that sold a lot of records or made me a lot of dollars. It would unquestionably be "The Town I Loved So Well." And what version? Well, the original version by Luke Kelly. There is no greater compliment to a songwriter to have someone sing and record one of your songs and do it so incredibly well. 'Cause for me, no matter how many songs I have recorded, I still view myself as a songwriter.

C: I see you have even written a sports song that is popular.

P: Oh yeah, "Ireland's Call" is not only popular, it's a sporting anthem. It came about some years back when one of our big sports in this part of the world would be rugby football. I was called into a meeting maybe ten years ago, by the powers-that-be in rugby football in Ireland. In rugby, unlike football, there is a national team that draws players and supporters from both the northern side and the southern side of the border. So the powers-that-be asked me to create an anthem that would appeal to both the north and the south, whatever their political or religious views might be. And that was a challenge to write. But now, whenever the team plays another team, they will play that team's national anthem and then they will play "Ireland's Call," which is a total thrill. A kick that transcends having a number one record because that transcends the pop charts and becomes part of the public culture.

C: Have you ever been commissioned to write a song and just couldn't do it?

P: Yes. There was a movement just last year to have an anthem written just for the Northern Ireland national soccer team. Because of how intense things are in the North of Ireland and some very intrinsic beliefs on both sides, I said

would be a bit of a minefield." And you don't survive as long as I have without learning how to pick your battles. That was one I was not willing to get involved in.

C: Since you're talking about the politics, how do you feel about the political landscape in Northern Ireland today?

P: You know, there have been major changes within my lifetime. When you

hands when it comes to making records. to myself "You know what, Phil? That are talking about Irish history, we often talk about the Flight of the Earls being one of the most significant dates, and that happened in 1607! So our history goes back hundreds and hundreds of years. So for in one lifetime, especially since one lifetime in Irish history is like a paragraph, to see the changes I have seen in the North of Ireland, it is really quite staggering. I mean, it is not over yet, there are still some very intrinsic beliefs and hotheads on both

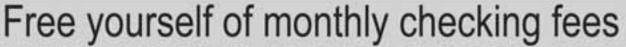
sides of the border. But it certainly has improved beyond all recognition. And that is why someone like John Hume, who stepped up and brought opposing sides together, became one of the great visionaries.

C: You've had some personal tragedy over the years, but like the saying goes, what doesn't kill you makes you stronger. Would you say that applies

P: Oh ves. It's how you deal with

adversity that forms your character. I keep telling that to my kids, that it's the tough times that put the steel in your backbone. We had our share of family tragedy. I lost a brother and a sister, both by natural causes and both unnecessarily, which is hard to accept. But no more and no less than some of the other people from my side of the world. What we came through wasn't easy and was certainly not a fairytale.

Continued on Page 4...



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#### Phil Coulter

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It was a dark hole and a black space for a long time. I knew if I could get through that then I could get through anything. It changes your perspective on life, and it changes your tolerance on a lot of stuff.

C: Where you a part of picking the group Celtic Thunder?

P: Oh yeah, I helped think up the concept! Musically, I created the concept. A major part of that was picking the guys. In fact, I had one of the guys stashed. That was the kid, he isn't so little any more, [Damian] McGinty. He stays close. He just Skyped with me the other day to tell me he just had his first day filming on Glee. When it came to thinking of picking people for the group, I made sure that we were only looking for 4 people, not 5, because that kid was in. After that

we did open auditions to try to find our people, because it was important to me. The music was going to be my department and the understanding I had with Sean was he look after business and I wouldn't interfere with that, and I look after the music and he wouldn't interfere with it. But rather than using singers who had a profile and were experienced, what I wanted was new faces who would bring a fresh, raw energy to this thing. And the only way to get that is by open auditions, which is both a good and a bad thing. You get the good, the bad, and the ugly. In the music business, you have to believe there is a correlation between talent, hard work, and success. If you don't then we are all standing and working on shifting sands. So I believe success will come in whatever degree it will come. It might not come as a million-selling record right away, but there is nothing sure that if he [McGinty] keeps doing what he is

doing and working as hard as he is, then he eventually will find success.

C: What was it like touring with James Galway?

P: We had a lot of fun. We are two extremes in many ways. He's from Belfast and would come from a Unionist tradition. I'm from Derry and come from a Icelandist tradition. He is strictly classically trained with a classical career. I have a classical trained background but as soon as I graduated. I headed for London and more popular music. But there was a great chemistry between us and a great respect. What we had in common was an energy for the music and seeing what those two energies coming together could create. So for me, it was an honor sharing the stage with someone who is the best in the world. It had an energy and inspiration all of its own, but it was also intimidating. Galway would be the first to tell you if you let the ball slip.

**C:** For many artists, because they are adored by so many, they live longer. What do you think?

**P:** I've never really quite thought about it like that before. I do know that there is a Buddhist concept that there is an energy with a lot of positive thought directed at one individual by a large number of people. I think a lot of it has to do with enjoying what you do for a living. I don't get up every Monday morning and think "Oh no, not another week of this." I still love what I do. I'm talking to you now from the studio where I'm working on another project, my first one since Celtic Thunder. I'm excited about that. I'm building a new concept and I'm strategizing all of that. I was as enthused about this as I was about Celtic Thunder. And that is the important thing—to keep the energy levels up and to keep working. People ask me if I think about retiring. I quote Willie Nelson's answer when asked: "Listen, I sing songs and I play golf. Which of the two do you want me to give up?"

C: What is it like to know that anytime of day, 24/7, that your music is being enjoyed somewhere?

**P:** I never quite see it in those terms, but it is great! A very flattering thing. I suppose I've been around a long time now, writing music and making records for 40-some years, and that, at the end of the day, is probably the biggest compliment. Not in the terms of records sold, or the number of appearances in Carnegie Hall or the White House or winning a Nobel Prize, but just the fact that the music has connected with such a vast audience pretty much internationally. And, the important thing is, over that long of a lifespan, there are people out there whose career lasted only 45 weeks! You know, to be doing it for 45 years is probably what I'm proudest of. I'm still doing it, still enjoying it, and people still

want to hear it. That is the critical thing. You cannot create in a vacuum. People have to hear it to stimulate the creativity. For me, in concert when I tour with my own shows, that kind of dialogue with the orchestra, it's kind of a two-way thing. The orchestra or the audience responds to what is happening on stage. I certainly respond to how the audience is reacting. It's a give and take.

C: How has the internet affected vour sales?

P: Well enough. It seems that if the fans of Celtic Thunder are anything to go by, that my audience can definitely find their way onto Amazon, or find a way by nosing around the internet, and getting their hands onto something they want. I just heard very good news a few days ago that Barnes and Noble have gone for the album in a big way and are going to do a special promotion. The Barnes and Noble outlets are perfect venues for my material. So that is good news. The good thing about our audience as opposed to a "top 20" audience is that they tend to be a bit more mature, a little bit more organized, and a little bit more picky. Basically, they don't need the instant gratification and are prepared to put a little bit more effort into finding a good product.

C: We heard your new CD Heartland, and it is truly enjoyable.

**P:** Well, in many ways it is a throw back to when you took a lot of time and trouble before you went near the studio at all. We assembled the finest musicians and picked our material very carefully, and we didn't cut any corners. We wanted to create something which is special and that we could be proud of. Something that many people might say you could not do better. It was important to me that when I exited from Celtic Thunder to have that opportunity to have all that music and stuff that I have written put into my contribution to Celtic Thunder, finding its genre and its musical heart and soul. It was important for me to record that. It was a project I devoted a lot of time, energy, and affection to. So this album is something I wanted to be proud of and have as kind of a swan song for the Celtic Thunder fans.

C: What are you working on now, and what is in the hopper for later?

P: I'm working on a new project, and we will be filming a special in the next couple of months. I hope that will find its way onto your screens in America sometime next year. I'm bringing my 40-some years of experience to the project, and I am enjoying it very much. I finish recording the music for that at the end of next week. Then three weeks after that I am back in the studio starting a new project with a completely different singer and album. Still as motivated and busy as I ever was.

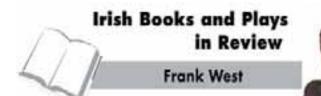
For more on Phil and his music, go to http://www.philcoulter.com,



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#### "What A Beautiful Country to Starve In!"

By Jack O'Keefe

In Famine Ghost: Genocide of the Irish by Jack O'Keefe, the author traordinary? It tells the story of this tells the story of the Great Hunger, or terrible event in a vibrant, colorful way.

the Great Famine, (1845 to about 1850).

The potato crop failed in several areas of Europe. However, there were other types of food for the people to eat. The Irish only had potatoes to eat, because the landlords exported all the crops and animals to England. And then the potato crop failed.

Even during the Famine the

landowners, protected by English soldiers, continued to send all the food to England.

Thus began the saying: "God sent the potato blight, but England created the Famine."

One of O'Keefe's characters, traveling on a road in West Cork observes, "Wagons of food, guarded by dragoons, headed for English ships passed them by. Wagon after wagon of wheat, grain, and live pigs passed by a starving I will put some comments and observapeople."

To justify their actions the English endorsed an economic policy of laissez faire, to "leave business alone." Today we hear much in our country about free markets and free trade. They have sent thousands of American jobs to low wage countries. This has lowered our standard of living. And look at what this policy-ruthlessly applied-did to our ancestors.

I recently read that Ireland is the only country in the world with a population today less that what it was in 1845! (5.5 million today vs. 8 million then.)

The Great Famine was one of the most important events in Irish history.

However none of my older relatives from Ireland, ever mentioned it. Yet their parents and neighbors must have lived thru it. Neither did I learn about it during all the years of parochial education.

Finally, when a young man, I learned of The Famine. I then read everything I could get about it. I keep seven books about The Famine on my bookshelf, and I will now add this outstanding book.

Why is it outstanding? Even ex-

And, even though we know how the story ends. it includes suspense. It includes well developed fictional characters and, at times, even humor.

It is remarkable that the author can bring this utterly grim event to colorful life. O'Keefe makes the story come alive by using a vigorous and memorable story

**Painting By Richard Dellusset** 

O'Keefe develops the story with fictional characters but constantly with the Great Famine as the background.

He creates such a strong and magnetic story, that at the first reading I sat for seven hours straight, ate dinner, and read for another five hours. Then I finished the book in another five hour

I could go on and on with praise, but tions at the end of this review.

Famine Ghost: Genocide of the Irish by Jack O'Keefe. iuniverse.com. Available from Amazon and Barnes and Noble and at iBAM on November 12-13, 2011, where he will sell and sign the book.

The whole of this ghastly period is marked by human nobility—parents who didn't eat so their children had some food-some landlords went deeply into debt to help their tenants.

O'Keefe dedicates the book to perhaps the most noble of all—the Quakers—"The English and Irish Society of Friends... who saved hundreds of thousands of Irish lives in the Great Hunger doing what England would not—feed the starving people."

\* The ugly, selfish comments of Robert Peel, the British Prime Minister and Charles Trevelyan, his Secretary of the Treasury are well known. Trevelyan said: "The judgement of God sent the calamity to teach the Irish a lesson," and Peel's comment that the Famine was "The mechanism for reducing surplus population." But, not as well known is the brutal statement

by England's Poet Lauret, Alfred Lord Tennyson, "Could not anyone blow up that horrible island... and carry it off in pieces—a long way off?"

\* In August 1849, Queen Victoria visited Ireland. She traveled to Cork City, then to Dublin where she attended a reception at Dublin Castle. This indifference to the Famine, led to the saying: "Arise ye dead of Skibbereen and come to Cork to see the Queen!"

\* The book is illustrated with drawings from contemporary newspapers and other sources. Most are from the Illustrated London News. This news magazine was hostile to the Irish. However, even those who worked for it felt sorry for the suffering in Ireland. This is shown in its sympathetic pictures.

\*The Supplement to the Weekly Freeman of July 1881 shows a picture of a grieving Erin. She says: "In forty years I have lost more than three millions of my sons, and daughters, and they, the

young and strong, leaving behind the Old and Infirm to weep and die. Where is this to end?"

\* I believe that in the 1916-1921 Revolution the memory of the Famine was a strong motivation for the IRA. The IRA was bold and unflinching, but it was small in numbers and poorly equipped. How did it defeat the largest army in the world?

The experience of Michael Collins was common. He was raised in Cork, one of the worst areas for famine suffering. His parents had survived the Famine. I believe that memories of The Famine motivated the IRA to super human achievements.

\* An Irish writer describes the effect

of the Famine on today's Ireland: "The Famine left an endless array of legacies which live with us to the present 85

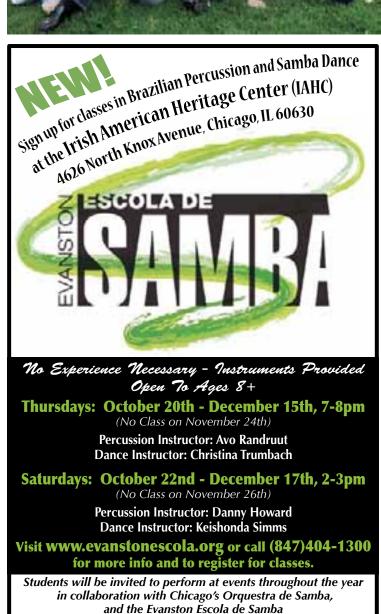
#### A New Home and O'Neill Too!

Artistic Home has an outstanding record as a theatre company. Among the memorable productions of Irish theatre I have seen are: Three by Synge, Juno and the Paycock, and recently, The Tallest Man.

Artistic Home will soon open their 13th season. This will be at the newly redesigned Stage 773 at 1225 W. Belmont. Stage 773 offered Artistic Home

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# Gospel of St. Luke "Quoniam" 188r "For as Much..."

A brief recap. This is the fourth in the series on the five full-page illuminations of the four Gospels. Each one is an example of how an inspired master artist/scribe can submerge the Gospel text in an intricate design, which transforms the veneration by word to the veneration by design, color and ink.

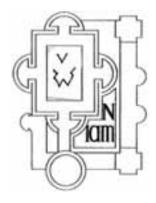
We come to the beginning of the third Gospel, St. Luke's.

The similarities with the other four incipit Gospel illuminations are persuasive. The scribe/artist took the first word "Quoniam"-"For as much" and designed a distinctive, perhaps unique, monogram.



The first word, "Quoniam," is designed as follows: the circle of the letter "Q" is now a rectangular shape with lunettes on the top and sides. On the bottom, it has a balancing lunette. Extending from this bottom lunette is a straight downward band instead of a "Qs" usual diagonal stroke. It ends in a circle filled with an interlacing design of snakes and peacocks. Almost every part of the "Quoniam" monogram is filled with spinning spirals and disksat least 182.

Inside the rectangle of the "Q" is a box containing an angular "u" and "o" in the lower case Greek letters upsilon and omega, which appear as a "v"



and a "w" with extra angles. To the lower right is an irregular shaped space with a yellow border. This space contains the rest of the letters for "Quoniam"-- "N," "I," "a" and "m," and 20 figures. Above center right is another irregularly shaped space, also with a yellow border. It is connected to the lower shape but it is pinched closed by the lunette on the right side of the "Q." Other than the spaces with the yellow border, the rest of the monogram is filled with bands of interlacing designs of lions and snakes; lions and peacocks; two isolated triangles of lions and two of peacocks and snakes. These interlacing figures of lions, snakes and peacocks are symbols of Christ. However, the lions biting heads are not symbols of Christ but of anti-Christian forces, or in this case, punishment for wrong-doing.

This monogram, as with the other Gospel monograms, is designed and drawn with artistic imagination, skill and has a divinely inspired effect. These qualities are distinctly characteristic of the scribe whom I call Scribe/Artist A. I am persuaded to attribute it to him, and believe that he, again, collaborated with another scribe who most likely drew the human figures.

The two irregular shapes with yellow borders contain a total of 30 figures in various positions and activities.

The upper shape contains 10 figures. Four pairs of men with interlaced arms and legs and two men lying horizontally. This image is not unusual in the *Book of Kells* and does not suggest anything specific. Therefore, it is only a decorative space filling design.

In the lower right section, however, the activity of the figures is highly unusual and suggests some sort of narration. There are six figures filling available space in and around the letter 'N." Below this are five figures standing in a row. I describe these eleven men as "observers." They are onlookers, not participants, of a scene with examples of proscribed behavior. In the bowl of the "a," there are two figures, one of them is pouring red wine into a cup held by a man leaning against the left border. Below him is another man slumped against the border who appears to be sleeping or passed out. Yet a second man who also looks like he is sleeping or passed out is in the first curve of the "m." In the second curve of the "m," are two men who appear to be involved in intimate contact.

Below this scene are two men with their heads in the mouths of lions which suggests lines from Psalm 21.22: "Save me from the lions mouth; Psalm 7.3: "... lest he seize my soul like a lion." These images suggest punishment.

There is a third man being punished with his head (uncompleted) in a lion's mouth. He is located on right center top of the monogram. The lion's rear legs are extending below the monogram.

I don't think this is a scene of the torments of Hell, as some scholars suggest. Hell would have more serious grotesqueries, not just the dangers of drinking too much. These kinds of activities are the kinds of behavior that could take place in an Abbey and could



be a pointed warning to the monks. If so, it is a rare example of the Book of Kells scribes adding this level of personal commentaries to their work.

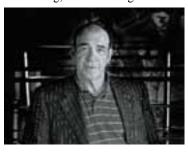
One last note. An embellishment at the top of the monogram containing spirals and disks is trimmed by at least half. This was done in 1821 when the book was trimmed from 14½" x 10 1/4" to 13" x 10."

Next month, St. John's Gospel. Comments or questions are welcome. E-mail: fcrowley@windycityarts.org.

#### Finbar Furey

Join Finbar Furey for an evening of songs, stories and music at Chief O'Neill's, 3471 N. Elston in Chicago, on Nov. 19, 2011, at 8pm.

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# The Inish Connection



# By Colleen Kelly

# Eat Your Heart Out Peter O'Toole!

taste of upscale Irish comfort food. This month, Chips, as it came wrapped in last month's issues of I decided to stay in my own town of Chicago and travel around the city and 'burbs. I found two

on really good Irish fare. The Gage is an upscale and inviting "gastropub" in the heart of Chicago. McGonigal's Pub is a traditional Irish locale located several miles north of the city in the suburb of Barrington. I enlisted the help of my own family to try out these Irish restaurants.

As I began my search for good Irish restaurants, I met up with several friends who commented, "Good Irish

seems to be myth that Irish food consists of po- 1913-style building that was transformed in 2010. tatoes, cabbage and the occasional corned beef consumed on St. Patrick's Day.

O'Toole, was asked what his favorite Irish food was, Irish pub classics include Shepherd's Pie, Fish and he couldn't name any, and subsequently replied: "My

number one choice is Guinness; my number two choice would be Guinness. My number three choice would have to be Guinness!"

My guess is that Mr. O'Toole never ate at The Gage. Should he have experienced this culinary adventure, he would have changed his tune. Located on Michigan Avenue just steps from Millennium Park, The Gage is known as a gastropub, which is defined as a traditional pub that also serves high quality cuisine. With its cozy yet chic atmosphere, this gastropub focuses on upscale

contemporary Irish comfort food. Father and son and I found the presentation of the meal to be a Proprietors Billy Lawless, Sr. and Billy Lawless Jr., opened this dining destination in 2007. With Executive Chef Dirk Flanigan at the helm, The Gage has taken Irish food to a new level with the freshest ingredients, new takes on old classics, and a few surprises on the menu.

To keep it a family affair, my sister Catie and cousin Nicole joined me for an Irish feast at The Gage. For starters, we ordered the much anticipated Scotch egg, a hardboiled egg wrapped in sausage with a crisp crunchy coating. The Scotch egg can be paired with smooth Irish ale or a suggested pairing of wine from a knowledgeable server. Our server Michael was well trained and knew what wine or beer to pair with each new dish, leaving us time to just enjoy the food.

Also, although they have the classic and traditional USDA prime burger on the menu (which is always a personal favorite, as I am a burger gal), we



You don't have to travel to Ireland to get a standout and a pleasant surprise, was the Fish & our own Irish American News paper! I noticed IAN Columnist James McClure, of The Irish Rover, starpubs run by two different Irish families that focus ing out from my fish and chips and thought, hmmm,

good publicity, Jim!

duction. Another

The dynamic Lawless father and son team have broken all Irish fare myths when they created The Gage. It's a warm, friendly and unexpected culinary surprise in the heart of the city.

After a night on the town in the city, it was time to experience what the suburbs had to offer so I traveled to the picturesque town of Barrington. Located along the Chicago

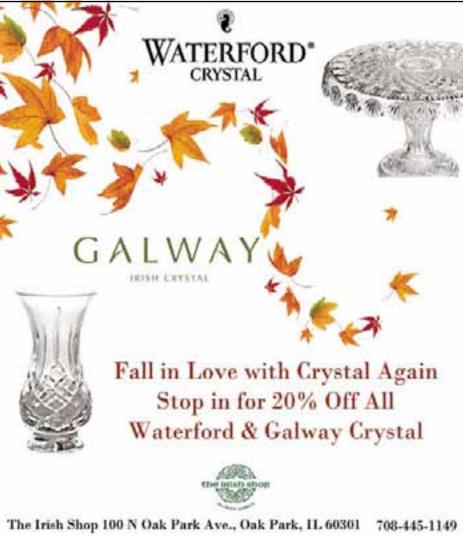
food? Is there such a thing?" Apparently, there Metra train line, McGonigal's Pub is in a beautiful Owned and operated by the McGonigal family, this cozy Irish pub is headed up by Four Seasons-When the legendary Irish-born actor, Peter trained Executive Chef Ted Stay. Beautifully-plated Chips, Tender Slow Roasted Pot Roast and a twist

> on an American burger, which is topped with Governor's Irish Cheese. Joined by my father Bill, we tried a dish called an Irish Boxty, which is a potato pancake with onion, leeks, bell peppers, and root vegetables served in a white wine cream sauce with a choice of various meats. Our server, Patrick, suggested we add corned beef and cabbage to the meal. According to Owner Bryan McGonigal, the Boxty was a rural Irishman's lunch, comparable to American sandwiches. Being traditional by nature, my dad, Bill,

fantastic twist to an old Irish classic.

My experiences at The Gage and McGonigal's Pub were made even more enjoyable because I shared them with my family. With busy schedules, it's a challenge to sit down for a nice meal together. It was a rare treat to spend time with them over delicious Irish fare. Both The Gage in the city and McGonigal's pub in the 'burbs keep family







Fish & Chips wrapped in our own

Irish American News, *Photo by* 

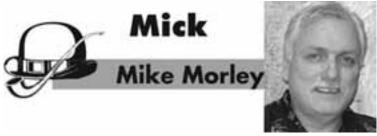
Elizabeth Lynch; Courtesy of The

Gage, Chicago

Owner Bryan McGonigal, left, toasting with Colleen's dad, Bill Keogh, at McGonigal's Pub in Barrington



Irish American News "WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN GREEN!" October 2011



#### White Elephants

The story was headlined: "9-11 Monument Being Scrapped For New Container Piers." My wife, Dorothy, asked the same question that many asked when they saw the story: "Did you ever hear of this?" Actually I did hear about the monument sometime ago in my news surfing. The "Tear of Grief" (or monument "To the Struggle Against World Terrorism") was donated to the US by the Russian people, stands close to 100', and was erected in Bayonne, New Jersey five years before designers of New York's Ground Zero monument finally got their act together.

Why had so few heard of the "teardrop" that they were writing to Hoaxbuster and Snopes to find out if it existed? Yes, the 98' bronze-clad tower is there facing NY harbor, massive yet ignored.

Is the press silence a puerile plot to snub a heartfelt gift just because it came from Russia?

The story that sculptor Zurab Tsereteli flew to New York, visited Ground Zero, but "decided

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that it wasn't the appropriate place for the sculpture" sounds bogus. He did pitch it across the harbor to the mayor of Jersey City, who loved it. But the mayor

died, and objections surfaced. A Jersey City artists' organization called it "an insensitive, selfaggrandizing piece of pompousness by one

Tsereteli, President of the Russian Academy of the Arts, is no stranger to controversy. Opponents once tried to blow up his three-hundred-foot-tall statue of "Peter the Great," which now dominates the Moscow skyline. That monument, along with the "teardrop" was listed by Joshua Keating in Foreign Policy magazine as one of "The World's Ugliest Statues."

of the world's blatant self-promoters.'

The "Tear" features a shiny 40-foot teardrop suspended within a jagged opening in a 106-foot rectangular bronze tower. Inscribed at the base are the names of all the victims of the September 11, 2001 attacks in New York, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania, and those of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing.

Tsereteli says that right after 9/11 he was inspired while walking in Moscow and seeing the grief displayed by his countrymen; tears on the faces of many he passed by.

The monument was homeless in New York from the start, then deported to Jersey City which has its own fairly substantial homeless population and finally declined the offer of a free monument. (After all, Jersey City already has the 50' Colgate Clock, touted as the world's largest, keeping time for busy New Yorkers across the river with its 2,200 pound minute hand.)

By 2004 the teardrop was on hold. Neighboring Bayonne expressed interest, but the city had only \$40,000 to spend. No problem, according to the

that it wasn't the artist, who offered to pay for the installation.

It finally found a "permanent site of honor" facing the harbor, lady liberty and the twin towers site, at Bayonne's decommissioned Military Ocean Terminal. It was dedicated on September 11, 2006, the fifth anniversary of the attack, with Bill Clinton and Vladimir Putin attending.

But the future of the Teardrop Memorial has been uncertain since August 2010 when the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey gave \$225



The Memorial at Harbor View Park Bayonne, NJ

million to the Bayonne Local Redevelopment Authority to build a container port on the land around Harbor View Park. The contract states that if the Park gets in the way of container port

operations, then the BLRA must pay to remove easement restrictions by 2023, or the Port Authority will stop forking over annual installments of \$5 million.

In August 2010 the *Jersey Journal* reported that due to the sale the 10-story high, 175-ton monument would likely have to be moved. BLRA director Chris Patella said it was a "very strong likelihood" since it's on the man-made peninsula's "most prime piece of real estate."

Tsereteli said he was "very sad to hear" of that development: "If the Monument is relocated, it must be installed in another location appropriate to honor the memories of those we lost." But moving the 175-ton work is no simple task. It is installed on steel and cement caissons drilled into bedrock. Each of its five pieces is so large that even the largest crane in Bayonne's container port could not lift it.

Despite the contract, Charles B.McKenna, director of the state Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness wrote to Frank Perrucci, chairman of the September 11th Bayonne Remembers Committee in January saying: "I have checked with representatives of the Port of New York and they have assured me that there are no plans to move the 'Teardrop' Monument. Thus, I hope this allays your fears."

It's been called "a giant tea biscuit" and "one of The World's Ugliest Statues." But what do ordinary non-artistic folks think of it? "Pretty impressive," says one. A blogger calls it a "breathtakingly beautiful creation."

Robert "Captain Bob" Terzi, a Bayonne taxi driver started a petition to prevent the relocation. His sister-in-law survived both World Trade Center attacks and visits the memorial every morning. Karen Collins

million to the Bayonne Local Redevelopment and her 8-year-old son Christian come to the me-Authority to build a container port on the land morial once or twice a week in the summer.

> Barbara Shields said her father, a longshoreman, used to take her out to see the Trade

Center towers being built: "I watched them go up and then I watched them come down." Her cousin died on 9/11 and Barbara and her daughter Megan come to the Teardrop Memorial dozens of times a year. "Whatever the weather, rain or snow, it's beautiful here."

Find an expanded article at IrishAmericanNews.com (Columns, Mick)

E-mail: IrishTV@att.net Watch: IRISH JOURNAL TELEVISION

Chicago cable- CAN-TV, Channel 19: Monday 7pm, Tuesday 2pm Comcast- (Skokie system) 24 North suburbs – Ch. 19 (or 35): Tuesday, 6pm Comcast- (Elmhurst system) 41 West suburbs- Channel 19: Tuesday 7:30pm. © Mike Morley 2011.



# Swimming Upstream

By Charles Brady



## Of Course I'll Be At Your Birthday Party; Now Where's That Bag For My Head?

As I write this, we're just getting over the excitement of celebrating the birthday bash of one of the nation's most well loved figures. Tributes poured in from all over the country, nay, the world in order to wish continued good fortune on a man of sterling and unimpeachable character who continues to be a shining example of human goodness in these troubled times.

Well, no; not really. After all, the festivities in question were for that Prince amongst Chancers, Bertie Ahern who was raising his arms and shouting "Hurrah" at the thought that he has just turned sixty years of age and never seen the inside of a prison cell. In his own head, of course, he is a legend who will be recognised by history as the man who made Ireland super rich and which would still be so if only someone somewhere, as he bleated a few months ago, had told him what was going on with the banks. I knew nothing, your honour. None of it was my fault.

He grins from the sidelines as he happily watches the likes of Albert Reynolds and David Trimble being airbrushed out of the proceedings that led to the Peace Process, hopeful that he will be left as the towering giant of a man who single-handed was responsible for it.

Judging by the less than glittering turnout for Bertie's historic birthday party at his beloved Croke Park, however, maybe not everyone is convinced. Many of his well-wishers either used the side doors to avoid the scurrilous journalists who felt that the public night be interested in how the Great Man was celebrating, or covered their faces as they charged past, sweat pouring from them in case they were recognised. One shameful disgrace of a coward put his head between his knees as his car was driven into the venue.

This must have brought back memories to Bertie, who famously hid under a baseball cap in the back of his limousine when the best medical care for their son!

his daughter Georgina was getting married to her boy band husband, Nicky Byrne in France. How proud we all felt as the Taoiseach of the country hid in a back seat because his

daughter and son-in-law to be had made a tacky deal with a glossy magazine that ensured that it and it alone would have exclusive rights to the photographs. How very dignified, we thought. Yeah, in a pig's ear we did: we simply shrugged and commented that the moneygrubber was embarrassing us yet again.

Nicky, whom we thought in our ignorance, was a professional singer of cover versions with a band called Westlife, surprised us all by revealing another side to himself, namely that he is something of an astute political commentator. Speaking on behalf of the father-in-law, he revealed to us that he was upset at how the press were covering this and that, in fact, according to the warbler, Bertie was "popular with 95% of the public." I have to say I wasn't the only one who was slightly taken aback at this hitherto unreported statistic. So were 95% of the public.

Now, admittedly I'm not a Great Man like Bertie but I have to say that if people accepted an invitation to my birthday party [you don't have any friends, Brady—Ed.] and then felt that they had to cover their fizoogs in case they were associated with

me, they would be getting shown the door in double quick time; but I'm not Bertie. Others were even more cautious: old pals forever like Tony Blair and Bill Clinton recorded and sent their good wishes to him. I can't say I blame them for taking no chances on being photographed with him. I know that I wouldn't like to be seen in his company. You know what they say about judging a guy by who he hangs out with.

He's had a busy old month of it, bless him; and none of it in a good way. First off, we heard that he had claimed €270,000 in expenses for his two secretaries and various secretarial related... uh, things... that he had on the go. Now quite why Ahern needs one secretary, never mind two, is a thought to ponder; more importantly, what on earth is he paying them? As I write this, he is no doubt being swamped by CVs from secretaries who want a slice of that very nice action.

He's been blaming everyone this month: his grassroots workers were "useless" (that really endeared him to people who had self-lessly given their time to him); Brian Cowen got it in the neck for not consulting with him; he even managed to blame the Irish people themselves for "overstretching themselves," conveniently forgetting that he was the main one encouraging them to invest their money and even suggesting that those who questioned the economy should "go off and commit suicide."

Even his ex-mistress Celia Larkin said during the week that she wishes he would "shut up;" and so say all of us.

By the way, she wasn't invited. Wasn't she lucky?

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## Liam Kelly Benefit 10-15

Come to the special benefit to be held in the Erin Room at the Irish American Heritage Center on October 15, 2011 from 4-10 pm to assist Liam Kelly and his parents Maureen (Murtagh) & Will Kelly with medical costs associated with Liam's cancer treatments and secondary health issues.

Liam is the grandson of Bridget & Noel Murtagh of Co. Tipperary & Co. Monaghan and Nancy & Paul Kelly of Rogers Park.

Three-year-old Liam endured 18 months of grueling cancer treatments. He now suffers from the secondary effects of Neuroblastoma. Please join us at this benefit to help his family provide the best medical care for their son!

There will be plenty of food, live music, Irish dancers, raffles and silent auction. Free parking



as well! IAHC is located at 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago IL 60630. Donations at the door or online.

Don't worry about a babysitter! All kids are welcome for a fun afternoon in the Kid's Room!

For more information or to donate, go to www.liamsgang.com.



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### Can the Long Term **Unemployed Be Helped?**

Dooley, is very actively involved in helping people who are between their employment successes. She is employed by Lisle Township (IL) as an Adult Services counselor; she also why not focus on one that excites you; is one of the founders of a very helpful talk show called Job Talk (WJJG, 1530 AM, Thursday @ 4-5pm: replay on Monday @ 9-10am). She recently asked me for my thoughts on the plight of the long term unemployed. As this matter seems to be a vital concern to many, let me share some thoughts.

To start, I believe the fundamental steps that any unemployed person should take are quite similar whether the individual has just started looking for a job or has been looking for a long What distinguishes the recently termiperiod. The job seeker needs to do a number of things.

Develop a positive, upbeat resume loaded with accomplishments: large degree, it's the state of mind of prepare an "HERE'S WHO I AM" the individual.

A friend of mine, Joy Maguire- presentation sprinkled liberally with significant achievements; decide on what job and which circumstances really appeals to you.

In brief, you are looking for a job, join an accountability group; find a job support club that works for your schedule: realize that you need to talk to every personal contact that you can think of; and then establish a target date, when you will start your new job. Most importantly, get moving. Get in front of contacts. Go see them in person, not just an email. Keep after them—they are very likely the source of your next job.

As the French say, vive le difference. nated individual from the person who has been unemployed for a number of months, perhaps even years? To a very

Once a person has been unemployed a "long" time, they become disheartened by the process. They view turn downs as personal affronts. They get frustrated by the lack of attention shown to them by potential employers. They feel marginalized by the coldness of the process. There is great wisdom in the movie, Cool Hand Luke, when the Guard Captain says, "Luke, you have got to get your mind right."

Like it or not, many job seekers have to get their minds right, they have gotten complacent. Complacency is the natural consequence of a long, tough struggle. So necessary actions simply don't happen on a timely basis. What's another day or two, I am already in my 18th month of search? I would agree it's not likely that this one day in a particular set of circumstances is going to have a long term negative effect, per se. However, this attitude of delay or indifference will haunt the job seeker; s/he will begin to slack off from the process. Author and guru, Dick Bolles says that the average job seeker spends only five hours or less per week looking for a job. If you are unemployed, ask yourself, how much time did you really spend on your job search this past week?

Accountability groups can be very helpful if you use them properly. We all need someone, i.e., a coach, a teacher, a drill sergeant, to push us to the completion of difficult tasks. Use your fellow group members as coaches; insist on their candid opinions; and consider their criticisms quite carefully.

Setting a specific target date when you will be starting your new job is critical in my mind; this goal can act as a motivator. Continually measure yourself and your progress against it. Having a goal can help mitigate the angst of your financial problems, your frustrations of rejection and possibly some marital strife.

Looking for a job can create a great deal of fear in your life! Questions like (1) when will this darn job search be over: (2) will my next job be short term: (3) will I really like my next job or will I hate it like the last one? Fear is an element of life. You need to OVERCOME it. If it wasn't so prevalent, why is the phrase "Do not be afraid" mentioned in the Bible over 300 times. Manifesting your fear(s) during your job search will severely and adversely affect your search.

Some ways of mitigating the frustration of unemployment would include active involvement in job support groups and a commitment to volunteer for some worthy cause. Here in Chicago, we have a tremendous number of job support groups (Work Ministry

web site lists all the ones in IL). By spending some time in a volunteer role, you get a chance to balance your difficult situation with some people who are in **desperate** straits.

I mentioned a specific target date which is critical, but a newly established Job Search START date is also vital. If you have been looking for months, establish a new START date; it's your choice. And don't allow vourself to think about the number of months you have endured.

Re-frame how you measure your progress, perhaps you use the number of interviews; or the number of personal contacts reached. You can't control the passage of time/months, but you can control the number of contacts you attempt, the number of interviews you have secured. If YOU are not in control of your search, NO **ONE** is. The world will not show any concern for you; YOU must display the control yourself.

IMAGINE your new job. IMAG-INE your success and future achievements. Carpe Diem.

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

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#### The Iceman Cometh...

Canadian stage actor Stephen Ouimette made his Broadway debut last fall, at age 56. He won't have to wait as long to make his second appearance on the Great White Way, however.

From Stratford, Ouimette sends word that he has landed the role of saloon and hotel proprietor Harry Hope in a very hotly anticipated production of Eugene O'Neill's The Iceman Cometh set to play at Chicago's Good-

The chief reason that spring 2012 show is already getting press is that Nathan Lane, Tony-winning star of The Producers and The Addams Family and one of Broadway's most bankable names, will be playing the stand-out role of sodden salesman Theodore (Hickey) Hickman in the production directed by Robert Falls. Two-time Tony winner Brian Dennehy, who was Hickey in a 1990 production at the Goodman, will also be in the cast, this time playing the anarchist Larry Slade.

Recently, Dennehy suggested to the New York Post that the Chicago run of Iceman Cometh was going to be a "tryout" for a run in New York. That wouldn't be a surprise given the number of times projects with Dennehy and Falls have headed from Chicago to Broadway.

The Iceman Cometh last played in New York's famed theatre district in 1999—with Kevin Spacey as Hickey but as Dennehy told the Post, "It's tricky. Who knows if audiences will sit through drama that's nearly five hours long?" Best to catch this one in Windy City to be sure...

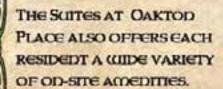
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# **Anthony Kearns in Concert**

Tenor Anthony Kearns performs at the Center this fall for a benefit concert, Songs from Ireland, Broadway and Opera, for the Wexford Institute.

Kearns graciously performs benefit concerts for the Wexford Institute to create resources for educators and families of children with autism.

Kearns is a founding member of The Irish Tenors. He continues to tour with them, as well as perform solo concerts, in operas and other special events around the world. Kearns' extraordinary voice and beautiful renditions of audience favorites bring them to their feet for multiple standing ovations during every concert.

Anthony Kearns performs Songs from Ireland, Broadway and Opera on Saturday,

October 15 at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$35 or IAHC Members and \$40 for general admission. Tickets can be purchased by calling 773-282-7035, ext 10 or by visiting www.irish-american.org.



# **Margo Returns for One Night Only**

The St. Patrick's Fathers presents the award-winning Irish and Country music queen, Margo O'Donnell, for one night only. The concert is Saturday, October 29 at 7pm.

O'Donnell will perform all your favorite Irish and Country favorites in the Auditorium. After the show, she'll continue the fun in the Fifth Province with Joe Cullen, Ted Healy and Johnny Gleeson for music, dancing and light refreshments.

Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased by calling the St. Patrick's Fathers at 773-973-3737 or by calling the



IAHC at 773-282-7035. All proceeds aid the St. Patrick's Fathers Missions.

#### **International Uilleann Piping Day** Patrick Cannady,

International Uilleann Piping Day is October 15, 2011.

Enjoy the sound of Ireland at the Center

and learn about the uilleann pipes!

International Uilleann Piping Day, a global celebration of this uniquely Irish member of the bagpipes family, will take place at various locations around the world on Saturday, October 15, including the Center.

This day of piping activity was initiated by Na Piobairi Uilleann (NPU), an international association of uilleann pipers based in Dublin. The day's activities are aimed at raising awareness of this iconic Irish instrument and the craft of uilleann pipe-making.

The event at the IAHC will include a presentation and piping concert featuring Tommy Martin, a highly respected piper from Dublin, as well as members of the Midwestern piping community:

Brendan McKinney na piodani dinteann and Kevin Henry. There will be afternoon workshops for

student pipers of all levels.

The workshops will be led by Martin and Cannady and will run from 1pm-5pm. The cost is \$50. Workshop topics will include aspects of maintenance as well as tuning, technique, repertoire, and style.

The evening presentation and concert at 7pm features discussions about the pipes and a Q&A session with the performances.

Tickets are \$15 and seating is limited; call Patrick Cannady at 773 426-8001, the IAHC office at 773-282-7035, ext 10 or email irishtradmusic@sbcglobal.net to reserve your

Indicate your name and the number of tickets you would like in your message.

# Comhaltas Concert Boasts First Class Talent

Join the Center for Echoes of Erin, the 39th Annual Comhaltas Concert this October, as part of its North American Tour. This year's tour is sponsored by Tourism Ireland and features 12 artists, many of whom are All-Ireland Champions.

Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann was founded in 1951 and is celebrating its 60th Anniversary in 2011. From the Tour beginnings in 1972 in North America has grown a vibrant Comhaltas movement with 50 branches promoting the native culture of Ireland and forging strong links between this vast continent and the homeland. Thousands of Irish-Americans (and non-Irish) play and regularly listen to Irish traditional music and visit Ireland on a regular basis.

Echoes of Erin 2011 presents variety of music, song and dance presented in an entertaining fashion while simultaneously providing an insight into our authentic Irish cultural traditions. A group

of 12 musicians, singers and dancers from among the very top All-Ireland champions have been selected for the 60th Anniversary.

The concert is Saturday, October 22, at 8pm and tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$15 for IAHC and CCE Branch Members. To purchase tickets, call 773-282-7035, ext. 10.



# Slainte! Prost! McToberfest Comes to the Center

Let's be honest, who has more fun than the Germans and the Irish?

The Center will put that statement to the test with the McToberfest celebration this October.

McToberfest combines the largest and most spectacular social event in the world, Munich's Octoberfest, with the hospitality and high spirits of an authentic Irish pub. The Center's first floor will be transformed into an authentic German beer hall with a lot of Irishness mixed in.

The evening includes a German brauhaus polka band, Die Musik Meisters, the City of Chicago Pipe Band in kilts and lederhosen, local favorite rock band Steve Davern and

Friends and Irish rock band from New York City, the Mickey

A portion of the ticket sales will benefit Concern Worldwide's campaign to fight famine in the Horn of Africa and the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to honoring the lives of our fallen heroes. The Foundation provides support and assistance to the families of Chicago Police Officers who

were killed or catastrophically injured in the line



The Mickey Finns

This is the charity of choice for the Young Irish Fellowship Club, who is partnering with the IAHC

McToberfest is Friday, October 21, from 4pm-midnight and tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. Patrons can enjoy a special rate of \$5 at the door from 4pm-6pm.

#### Schedule:

5pm - Die Musik Meisters

7pm - Steve Davern and Friends

9pm - Appearances by Die Musik Meisters and the City of

Chicago Pipe Band

10pm - The Mickey Finns

To purchase tickets, call 773-282-7035, ext. 10 or visit www.irish-american.org.



# THE HERITAGE LINE IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER Chicago, Illinois



#### WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

### **President's Message**

The first 60 days as President of the Irish American Heritage Center have been interesting, enlightening, educational, challenging and fun. I have had the opportunity to meet members, board members, neighbors, volunteers, staff, suppliers and many of our cultural friends and partners, to name a few.

Everyone I have met is interested in helping the Center continue to achieve the Center's vision and mission. They are interested not in watching us grow, but in helping us grow. I look forward to continuing to reach out to all for help.

To achieve the vision and mission, we will work together in many ways. I would like to highlight a few that are extremely important. These are only some of the areas we are working on.

# Membership

We all need to work together to significantly grow our membership. We have seen exciting growth in the last years but we need to continue this momentum. We will be working to retain and renew the members we have while we address growing our membership with children, young adults, adults, families and seniors.

We will be initiating new members benefits that will clearly display how we value our members.

I do hope that our members feel that the best benefit of membership in the IAHC is being a member. Benefits are important but I trust our members see the value of the Center as the key element in their membership decision.

#### **Volunteers**

We rely on volunteers. We need to continue to have the support of the great volunteer base we have while we work to expand our volunteer numbers and roles. There are countless ways volunteers can help us. Any time you can offer is appreciated. Office, business, trades, sales, marketing, landscaping, cleaning, kitchen and more is needed. Please come join us for an hour, a day or more. The reward is great.

#### **Attendance**

We will be working hard to increase attendance at our events. We will be placing focus on our cultural events and programs and be working to



increase attendance at these events and programs. Attendance energizes the organization and helps fund

our programs. We will increase our sales and marketing efforts and come together with new ideas to support all the Center's events.

#### **Development**

We will continue to staff and grow the Development Committee. This committee will help us see an even brighter future for the Center. This team will help us reach out to sponsors, corporations' foundations and grant sources. The team will also help us work on opportunities for all of us and our families to help the Center. Would you help us with this important effort?

As I said earlier, these are only a few of the areas we are working on. There are many more just as important.

I am excited and enthusiastic about our future. Together, we will use strategic and effective tools to continue to achieve the centers vision and mission.

I think our founders would approve of the road we are taking.

John Gorski

President

#### **Traditional Celtic Art Classes**

The Center's School of Celtic Art offers beginner and intermediate traditional Celtic Art classes for teens and adults. The class features an introduction to easier-than-you-think techniques

for knotwork, interlacing and color theory. Students can work on projects of their choosing.

The fall semester runs from October 18 to December 20 on Tuesday nights,

from 7pm to 9pm. Tuition is \$135 for IAHC members and \$165 for the general public and tuition includes a one year membership to the IAHC. Returning students receive a discount. To register, call Frank Crowley at 773-612-6584.

# 2011 Golf Open

The IAHC Golf Open was a success, in spite of a heavy rain shower late in the day. The dinner was plentiful and delicious, the raffle prizes were abundant and the participants were enthusiastic and generous.

Thanks to our major Golf Open sponsor, John L. Sullivan Whiskey for

their generous donation of a raffle basket and a case of



their tasty whiskey for the general raffle.

A special thanks to our hole sponsors:

Ancient Order of Hibernians
Pat Burke
Coffee Unlimited
Cooney Funeral Homes
Josephine Craven
Frank Gleeson
The Mayo Association
Phoenix Rising Management
St. Patrick High School
Shannon Rovers
Town and Country Distributors
Thanks again, to all of the partici-

-Alan Duggan, Mary Gorski, Maureen O'Looney, the IAHC Golf Open Committee

pants. See you next September!

Have a Frightful Time at the Shamrock Kids
Club Halloween Party

Parents, bring your kids to the Shamrock Kids Club Halloween Party at the Center.

Festivities and activities include scary stories, trick or treating around the Center and a costume parade, with prizes for best costumes.

The party is Friday, October 28 at 6pm and the cost is \$3 per child for IAHC members and \$4 per child for general admission.

Reservations can be made by calling 773-282-7035, ext 10. You can also call for more information on the Shamrock Kids Club. This new club is a fun way for kids ages 6-12 to learn about their heritage in a fun way and for families to socialize with each other.

# Stone Hearth Series Plays and Brunch

The Center continues its Sunday brunch/theatre series, The Stone Hearth Staged Read-

ing Series, this fall.
Each month, a
cast of professional actors perform
staged readings
of Irish one-act
plays in the Fifth
Province Pub
following an Irish
brunch. Remaining
dates for the fall
are October 16
and November 6.

On each date, brunch is served from noon to 1pm and performances begin at 1pm.

Writer/producer Frank
Mahon (*The Quiet Man Tales*),
actress Brigid Duffy Gerace and
various IAHC members have
formed a group of theatre professionals in order to rekindle
local interest in one of Ireland's
great art forms, the one-act
play.

First popularized by the young Abbey Theatre in the

first part of the 20th century, the one-act play has recently found a new audience. While always be-

ing appreciated in traditional theatres, one-act plays are now often produced in pubs and restaurants, particularly in Ireland.

Tickets for the brunch/theatre package are \$25 for IAHC members and \$30 for nonmembers.

The schedule follows:

#### October 16-

Brigid Duffy

A View From the Obelisk by Hugh Leonard

Directed by Bradley Armacost **November 6-**

Bedtime Story by Sean O'Casey Directed by Si Osborne Reservations are necessary

and September's event was sold out. To purchase tickets, call the IAHC office at 773-282-7035, ext 10 or visit www.irish-american. org.

# Did you know...? We are a full service Wedding and Conference Center

The Irish American Heritage Center proudly offers a first class facility for your wedding, business meeting, conference, family event, social activity, seminar or gathering.

Our attention to detail will ensure your business seminar, meeting, dinner, reception or party will be handled professionally.

Call us today at 773-282-7035, ext. 21.





# THE HERITAGE LINE

# IRISH AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER CHICAGO, IIIINOIS



#### WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

#### Staff Message (Each month, a member of the IAHC Staff will write a message.)

Looking back over the two years that I've been working for the Irish American Heritage Center, it wasn't difficult to pick a favorite memory—it was my first day working here. I was in the office on a Saturday, the only staff member in the building, and I was terrified... there was so much to do and I didn't feel like I knew enough yet. But within the hour, the office was filled with the volunteers who work here on Saturdays. I had about a dozen Irishmen sitting around the office after tea time, joking and talking, and telling me all about the organization, each other and their "brides." I remember calling my mother on my walk home that day and telling her I had found my place in Chicago.

I joined the Irish American Heritage Center as a member long before I moved to Chicago; I was attending graduate school in Louisville, Kentucky when I stumbled across the IAHC website and immediately fell in love with the Center and everything it did for Irish America. I have always been drawn to the academic side of Irish culture; although I was a McGing Irish dancer growing up in Cincinnati, over the years I have developed more of a passion

for Irish history and literature. I worked as a researcher on a college production of Brian Friel's play *Translations*, and my mind was made up. I completed a Master's degree focused in Irish studies and have used those skills often here at the Center, from giving impromptu speeches for visiting groups to participating in the Eugene O'Neill lecture and theater program in 2010 to working with all of the Center's wonderful cultural partner organizations on a daily basis to organizing our semi-annual Irish Boot Camp. I know lessons in literature and history aren't necessarily as glamorous to "Irish newcomers" as learning a dance or listening to traditional music (or having a pint), but I feel strongly about people understanding this aspect of the heritage, because it gives them a further sense of where they come from-and to some degree, where they are going.

My absolute favorite part of the Center is seeing the different generations come together to celebrate their shared heritage. It's something that other cultural centers would do anything to have—the next generation taking up the banner for the heritage, even though most are several generations removed



from the Old Country. It was uplifting to help with Heritage Camp in July and to watch

young Irish-American children get excited and learn about everything from hurling to Irish language to sean nós dancing. I hope they grow up to recognize the amazing opportunities they have to study, understand, and take part in such a beautiful and vibrant culture.

If there is one thing that I would like to share with our membership, it's the hope that you can find a part of the Irish culture that brings you joy and keeps you learning, whether it's history or music or food or theater or sport or art or literature or the craic! It's a heritage that I am extremely proud of, and I feel blessed every single day that I am a part of the Center and can share it with others.

Le meas, Leslie Singel Program Coordinator

### Why Volunteer at the Center?

Volunteers at the Center are important to our success. From the very beginning, the hard work of countless men and women has allowed the Center to grow and thrive through the years.

As we expand, we need volunteers more than ever to help us preserve and promote Irish heritage.

Volunteers earn a continuing

pride
in
helping us
and
keep
our
Center
running.
Some
volun-

teers

are here every week for many hours, while others work special events a few times a year. Any contribution is appreciated!

Volunteers are needed for:

- building and grounds mainte-

-serving daily lunches for area seniors through Chicago's Golden Diners program

-staffing special events and cultural programs

-assisting various IAHC committees

-performing light clerical work in the main office

- experience in computer



support, graphic design, sewing, education and sales

If you would like to volunteer or learn more about volunteer opportunities, email us at info@ irishahc.org or call the main office at (773) 282-7035.

# Third Annual iBAM! Celebration

#### More than 100 Irish and Irish-themed authors, artists and musicians will participate in third annual celebration of Irish Books, Arts and Music

The third annual Irish Books, Art and Music celebration; iBAM! comes to the Irish American Heritage Center this November. This year's theme is *Handing Down the Tradition*.

A fundraiser for the Irish American Heritage Center and its Library, iBAM! is Saturday, November 12 and Sunday, November 13, and opens each day at 11am.

Co-produced by the IAHC, the Irish American News and the irishbookclub. com, iBAM! is a 2-day Irish cultural celebration that brings together as many as 100 authors, artists and musicians from North America and Ireland. The celebration features art and museum exhibits, panel discussions, poetry readings and competitions, film screenings, live music, theater, dance performances and children's activities, all under one roof. Authors will sign and sell their books each day from noon-5pm. During the day and into the evening there will be live music performances with Irish musicians from Ireland and all over North America.

The cost to attend iBAM! is \$10 in advance each day and \$15 each day at the door. Two-day passes are available for \$20. Children 12 and under are free.

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

Confirmed participants include:

Author

Frank Delaney (Sunday only), Chris Binchy, Claire Kilroy, Glenn Patterson, Rita Emmett, Kevin O'Hara, Mary O'Donoghue, Belinda McKeon, John Kenny, Joseph Woods, Joan McBreen, Cynthia Neale, Vincent Woods, Patrick Taylor, Kevin Barry, John Hoban, David Lynch, Mary Pat Kelly, Jerry O'Neill, Patricia Falvey, Cathal Liam, John Francis O'Brien Jr., Monica Dougherty, Dolores



Whelan, Arthur Cola, Sandra McCone, Brian Turner, Francis A. Boyle, Conor Cunneen, and Eoghain Hamilton

Poetry

Joan McBreen (Sunday only), Jerry O'Neill, John Francis O'Brien, Jr.

Music

Dr. Larry McCullough, Jimmy Keane, the Lennon family; Maurice, Ben, and Brian, Jackie Daly, Matt Cranitch. Mick Moloney, Paul de Grae, Liz Carroll, Dennis Cahill, Martin Hayes, Ciara Walton, John Hoban, Patrick and Karen Cook-Cannady, father and son; Cormac and Johnny McCarthy

Exhibits

The Life and Works of William Butler Yeats from the National Library of Ireland in Dublin From The Sources from University College Cork Wake Amusements from University Collect Cork John McGahern Special Collection from NUI Galway

Artists

Elizabeth Cope, Jennifer Allen, Cindy Matyi

Dance

The Cunningham Family, Sean Nós dancers from Connemara

Theater

Performances by Seanachaí Theatre Company, ShawChicago, Smock Alley and Azusa Productions

Film

A partnered program with the Chicago Irish Film Festival of Irish Film Shorts

Food

Celebrity Chef Rachel Gaffney
On Friday, November 11, kick off the
weekend with a celebration of the contributions of the Irish in the arts with the
iBAM! Awards Gala, a black-tie optional
dinner in the IAHC's beautiful Erin Ballroom which includes a strolling cocktail
reception on the IAHC's second floor Arts
Wing. Dinner includes live music and

the annual iBAM! Cultural Arts Awards, where five individuals will be honored for their outstanding contributions to Irish American culture.

The 2011 iBAM! awardees are:

**Music:** Maurice Lennon, world-class Irish fiddle player

**Performing Arts:** Artistic Director Mark Howard of Trinity Irish Dance Company

Visual Arts: John David Mooney, Chicago artist and arts philanthropist

Literature: Writer Maeve Binchy Person of the Year: Father Andrew Greeley, Roman Catholic priest, sociologist, journalist and fiction writer

The dinner also features a cocktail reception from 6pm to 7pm and dinner is 7pm to 11pm. The cost is \$100 for IAHC members and \$125 for general admission. Reservations are required.

To purchase tickets, call the IAHC at 773-282-7035 or visit www.ibamchicago. com.

Generous sponsorship for iBAM! is provided by Imagine Ireland; an initiative of Culture Ireland.

4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago, IL 60630 • 773-282-7035



# THE HERITAGE LINE IRISH AMERICAN hERITAGE CENTER Chicago, Illinois



**HOURS** 

**Genealogy Monthly Meetings** 

The last Sunday of every month at 1pm

(except December)

Museum

Call our office for a docent led 45

minute tour

**Art Gallery** 

Special exhibits throughout the year

Library

Mondays and Wednesdays - 4-8pm

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-1 pm

Friday closed

Saturday 9-3pm

Sunday open on the 2nd and last Sun-

day of the month

#### WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

#### **Sounds of Brazil Fill the Center**

MaSamba, Evanston Escola de Samba and Orquestra de Samba present a lively program of Brazilian music at the Center.

Sounds of Brazil will showcase the increasing influence of Brazilian culture in Ireland, as it becomes a more multicultural society.

MaSamba Samba School is Ireland's premier Latin music collective and has operated in Dublin for the last 17 years. MaSamba's extensive activities in Ireland include parades, stage shows, and music workshops, and the group has also worked in the UK, Germany, Mexico, Brazil and the United States. MaSamba has received support for their week-long visit to Chicago from Culture Ireland, part of the 'Imagine Ireland' program.

They will be joined by Evanston Escola de Samba (pictured), which brings the spirit of samba to the Chicagoland area through

education and performance of Brazilian music and dance and Orquestra de Samba, a ten-piece mixed instrumentation ensemble comprised of musicians with classical, jazz, Latin, and Brazilian backgrounds.

The Sounds of Brazil concert features all three groups performing Brazilian percussion styles as well as Brazilian vocal and instrumental styles.

The concert is Sunday, October 16th at 3pm. Tickets are \$15 for students, IAHC members and seniors and \$20 for general admission, and can

be purchased by calling the IAHC at 773-282-7035, ext. 10 or visiting www.irishamerican.org.



## Save the Date for the Irish Heritage Singers Annual Concert

The Irish Heritage Singers, present, *A Journey Home*, a concert based on the story of an immigrant's journey to America and back home again. Music includes selections of Sean Nós music, Irish music of the past and American Stephen Foster tunes.

## Sunday, November 20, 2011, 2pm

Tickets are \$15 for IAHC Members and \$18 for general admission. To purchase tickets, call 773-282-7035, ext 10.



# Member You Should Know October Focus: Marialice McCarthy

Marialice McCarthy has only been a member of the IAHC for 3 years, but she's made up for lost time by volunteering as much as possible. Not only does she serve lunch with the Golden Diners

program a few times a week, but she is also involved in Nimble Thimbles, Tir Na N'Og, Celtic Women and Chicago Irish Immigrant Support. She has even opened her home to a few Irish folks who have needed somewhere to stay while in Chicago. Not to mention that she was in the first "graduating class" of Irish Boot Camp back in February!

Marialice joined back in 2008 after a friend convinced her to visit Maureen O'Looney's store, Shamrock Imports. Over tea, Maureen told Marialice to become involved at the Center; Marialice took her advice and has "never regretted it." She loves the IAHC "because it makes me feel like I'm at home. I wanted to learn more about being Irish and I came here to find out what being Irish meant."

IAHC involvement runs in the McCarthy family. Her youngest son is a member of the Center and her 2 grandchildren, Ashley (11) and Samantha (7) came all the way from Virginia to participate in this summer's Heritage Camp... and to visit with their grandmother of course! As a hard-working volunteer herself, she encourages everyone to volunteer: "Don't be afraid," she says. "Every-

one is so welcoming because we all have the same thing in common."

When you see Marialice around the Center, be sure to say hello!

# **Culture Corner**

#### Visit the IAHC Library

 for research lending of our extensive collection, book signings, lectures and activities

Each month from September through May, the The Great Irish Books Club meets in the Library on the second Sunday of each month, unless otherwise noted.

#### October meeting

Sunday, October 9, 1pm-3pm *Troubles* by J.G. Farrell

#### the Genealogy Club

for monthly meetings on finding your roots

#### the Art Gallery

for Exhibits, lectures and art classes

#### and the **Museum**

· for our collection and special exhibits

#### Love to sing, dance or create?

The Irish Heritage Singers rehearse each Thursday night at 7:30pm. To join this lively and talented group, call 773-282-7035 ext.34 or e-mail irishheritagesingers@irishahc.org.

Love to ceili dance or want to learn? The Francis O'Neill Club meets every Friday night at the IAHC.

A Céilí Mor (Big Céilí) is held the first Fridays of each month. Free lessons begin at 7:30pm, followed by live music with The Ceoltoiri Chicago Céilí Band from 8:30-11:30pm. in the Fifth Province. The cost is \$10.

Regular Céilís are held the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or 5th Fridays of each month, with taped music from 8pm-11pm. The cost is \$5 for Francis O'Neill Club members and \$7 for non-members.

Nimble Thimbles is a group of busy quilters and skilled artisans who needlepoint,



Genealogy Documents

crochet, knit and sew in an established workshop. The group meets Tuesdays at 9:30am and Wednesdays at 7:30pm in Room 205. If you would like to be a part of the group, contact Nancy Liston at 773-282-7035, ext 10.

# An bhfuil Gaeilge agat? = Got Gaelic?

Join Na Gaeil for classes to learn the Irish language starting the first week of October 2011, Saturday the 1st and Wednesday the 5th, at the Center

Saturday classes meet 11am-1:30pm. Wednesday classes meet 7pm-9:30pm. Beginners 101\* meets on the 3rd floor in Room 304. Intermediate and Advanced groups meet in the Library on the 2nd floor.

The fee is \$100 and the term runs through January 2012. No advance registration is required. Minimum age: High school.

\* Beginners 102 will run February-May 2012. Beginners 101 will then be offered again in October 2012.



# THE HERITAGE LINE



To join call 773-282-7035 x10, visit

www.irish-american.org, or fill out

the form below. Send payment to:

The Irish American

#### WWW.IRISH-AMERICAN.ORG

#### October 2011

October 2	Remember the Ten Memorial Mass		
	and Open House	Erin Room	1pm
October 5	TIR NA NOG Seniors meeting	Fifth Province	11am
October 7	Francis O'Neill Ceili Dance	Fifth Province	8pm
October 8	St. Patrick's Fathers Social	Room 309	8pm
October 13	Irish Immigrant Support Meeting	Room 304	10am
October 15	International Piping Day	Various	1pm
	Anthony Kearns Concert	Auditorium	7:30pm
	Roscommon Club Midwest Dance	Room 309	8pm
October 16	Stone Hearth Staged Reading Series	Fifth Province	Noon
	Sounds of Brazil Concert	Auditorium	3pm
October 18	Celtic Women Monthly Meeting	Fifth Province	7pm
October 21	McToberfest	1st Floor	4pm
October 22	Comhaltas Concert	Auditorium	8pm
October 23	Galway Fellowship Mass and Breakfast	Fifth Province	11am
October 27	Irish Immigrant Support Meeting	Room 304	10am
October 28	Shamrock Kids Halloween Party	Library	6pm
October 29	Margo O'Donnell in Concert	Auditorium	7pm
October 30	Genealogy Meeting	Library	1pm
		'	

### Regularly Scheduled Events

Through October 23 - Seanachai Theatre's Shadow of a Gunman					
Thursdays through Saturdays		3rd Floor Theatre	7:30pm		
Sundays	·	3rd Floor Theatre	3pm		
TuesŠat.	Golden Diners Lunch Program	Kitchen 12:3	0pm-2pm		
Monday	Memoir Writing Class	Sham Amer Rm	7pm		
Tuesday	Memoir Writing Class	Sham Amer Rm	7pm		

## **Book your Holiday Party Now**

We have many rooms to accomodate your family or employee party. To schedule a visit to see the spaces, call Kevin O'Kennedy, Events and

Operations Manager at 773-282-7035, ext. 21.





All shows start **UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT** after 9 p.m.

#### **OCTOBER 2011**

Sat, 10/1 Barry Fagan's Band Fri, 10/7 Ceili Mor Sat, 10/8 the Ceili Band Fri, 10/14 Seamus O'Kane and Jimmy Moore Sat, 10/15 Joe Cullen and Kathleen Bremer Fri, 10/21 McToberfest Sat, 10/22 Dooley Brothers

Fri, 10/28 Joe McShane Sat, 10/29 Johnny Gleeson and Friends

Drop by for the very best in traditional and modern Irish music.

No Cover Free Parking

Take \$1 off of any Supper in the Fifth Province with this Coupon - Good through October 31, 2011

#### BECOME A MEMBER

Chicago boasts one of the finest Irish Centers in the world. Become a part of it.

Running, maintaining, and upgrading the Center is a big job that takes big commitment.

Your membership helps make the Center happen.

Heritage Center Membership 4626 N. Knox Ave Chicago IL 60630

Name				
Address				
City	State	_Zip_		
Phone		-		
Credit Card #			Exp	
			· • ——	١

3 Digit code on card's back:

#### **Individual Membership Annual dues**

□ \$30/year or \$50/2 years

#### Family Membership

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

#### \$250 - Harper

☐ 3-year membership no annual dues

#### \$500 - Bard

☐ 5-year membership no annual dues

#### **□** \$1,000 - Chieftain

10-year membership without annual dues

#### **□** \$2,500 - High King

25-year membership without annual dues

#### □ \$5,000 - Saint

Lifetime membership without annual dues





If you have an iPhone and the Kaywa Quick Response Code Reader App, just scan the code to the right and be taken directly to the Irish American Heritage Center website!



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

Find us on Facebook

**Facebook and Twitter** 

# The Heritage Line Staff

**Contributors:** 

Kathleen O'Neill, Editor

Mike Boyle Frank Mahon

Alan Duggan Tim McDonnell Kevin O'Kennedy Leslie Singel

John Gorski Mary Morris Mary Griffin Sheila Murphy

Follow

# ooliganism Mike Houlihan



Maybe you've heard a few from me before, but like the story of our lives, it continues to unravel in directions we never imagined.

Back in the early 80's I was living in Hell's Kitchen in New York City. I'd only been married a few years and my twins were still in diapers. I was a young actor-producer then, continually on the hustle. I lived in subsidized housing and around the corner from my apartment was a row of Off-Off Broadway theatres where I wheeled and dealed my bag of tricks. I was romantically broke in those days, "a dweller on the threshold."

Across the street was the Blarney Rock pub, just 50 yards west of Holy Cross Catholic church. My search for spirituality ping-ponged between those two institutions; mass in the morning and halcyon nights and earlier mornings at the Blarney Rock.

My shaman at the bar was Mike Monaghan, a lad from the old country who'd just gotten married himself. Mike the bartender was from Galway and his wife Cindy waited tables at the Rock.

Blarney Rock was a beacon of I finally did get the bonhomie late at night after trodding the boards of 42nd Street. It was cheap, close to home, and they served years ago. food as well as booze. They had steam tables and the guy with the paper hat would carve up sandwiches or whatever you wanted: mostly meat 'n potatoes dishes.

And then there was the lad from Galway, skinny then with big ol' glasses. "How are ye Mike?" he'd say through a wise guy grin as he put my glass on the bar.

The joint was usually empty by midnight and I'd find myself sitting in the corner of the bar as it stretched out later at night for Mike, so he was pretty 50 ft. to the door, with a window onto 42nd Street. Mike and I would watch the transvestite hookers out the window as they assaulted drunk frat boys from Jersey. Magic Johnson with boobs and high heels smacking the mopes, as they would leap from the car, "She took my wallet!"

Mike Monaghan would stand at the door and shout, "HE took your wallet, ya amadon!"

Mike drank Hennessy then, a gentlemen's drink that could kick your ass. Just like Mike. Many a night I would sit at that bar and listen to Mike tell me stories of Ireland. The Quiet Man was our favorite movie. I'd tell Mike of my

A good story never really ends. show business schemes, and he'd offer advice. We even pooled some dough to put on a show with a couple of phony You can stay with us in Headford, a little

brothers from Limerick. They turned out to be scoundrels though, "the Irish are a treacherous race."

When the Hennessy was cooking, Monaghan would put his foot against the beer cooler behind the bar and lean back against the bottle rack with a very serious look about him. His

story of Children of Lir, Osin of Tir na Nog, Cuchillin, Finn Mac Cool, and the Salmon of Wisdom? These stories are well tested thru the centuries."

I'd have him fill my glass and then relax while Mike Monaghan painted the pictures of Irish mythology. We'd sit there til two am, sometimes three, and

finally Mike would take my glass and say, "All right now get the fook out of here!"

And I'd go home. fook out of New York in '85. Twenty-six

Then in November of 2006 I got an email from my old pal Mike Monaghan. "I'm still alive, just about. I'm

to Cindy. Make contact if you want me to expand further."

My old pal Mike Monaghan. Well I wrote back immediately and within a half hour of back and forth blarney we were on the phone talking. It was talkative

We caught up on our families, both proud to be married to the same women. good story, because this isn't the end These days, that's a feat. When Mary

was pregnant with our twins in New York she wore her grandmother's big old camel hair coat. It was warm and roomy and sat in our closet til Cindy was preggers with her own twins and we handed it off to her. I told Mike I would have to come to Galway and get that coat back.

Mike wrote me, "When you come to Ireland, we will take care of everything.

> village 16 miles north of Galway. Cindy will not be here, she will be in the Sahara on a camel coat-knitting course. We'll have great Craic, when you come over to Galway."

And we did indeed. Mike told me on the phone, "When you come to Ireland, I'll be your Barry Fitzgerald.'

brogue would lilt, "Didja ever hear the 
It was as close to being Sean Thornton as I was ever going to get. It was March of '09 and both sets of twins were now grown men and we could all drink together!

> As we sat in Mike's living room after a dinner of Irish stew, Mike popped *The* Quiet Man into his VCR and we quoted the lines as we celebrated the reunion

of a couple of "Irish cousins."

That reunion is one of the highlights of the documentary film I've been working on for the last three years, Our Irish Cousins. The Monaghans of Headford are featured in the film as well as many of you who came to signings of my book,

back in Ireland since '86. Still married Hooliganism in Chicago and on the road at some of the Irish Festivals of 2008 and 2009.

The film should be finished early next year, but in the meantime you can meet Mike Monaghan and some of the friends we made on our journey when you visit http://ouririshcousins, and watch the trailer.

Our Irish Cousins must be a pretty



OLLECTOR'S EDITION DVD

(L-R) Mike Monaghan and Mike Houlihan

### Midwest Connemara Pony Show

The Midwest Connemara Pony Show was held at Windy Isles Farms in Peotone, IL on July 23, 2011. The horse show was again, a huge success. It was the third hosting of the event that was held in memory of Martin Prendergast of Windy Isles Farms who passed away in May 2009.

For a show called the Midwest Connemara Pony, which represented the ACPS Regions 5, 6, & 7, the scope of the show far exceeded the name. Ponies came from KS, OH (by way of VA), KY, IN, and IL. There was also a strong contingent of competitors from IA.

The dedication of the competitors

brought people from as far away as a 12 hour trailer ride with ponies to take part in the show. This dedication was matched by the volunteers who came from far away as well-Marcia Rood, of Connemara Crossing in OH, ran a fantastic split the pot and worked the raffle for the show.

This year's show took on an international flavor under the judging of Irish judge Heather Wright of Co. Meath, Ireland (of Ard Cherrymount Stud). Despite the brutal heat of the day she did not flag in her judging duties and her thoroughness and at-

Continued on Page 18...

#### Seanachaí's Shadow of a Gunman

Seanachaí Theatre Company will open its 2011/12 season Classic *Voices: The Revolutionaries* with Sean O'Casey's The Shadow of a Gunman in the 3rd Floor theatre at the Irish American Heritage Center, 4626 N. Knox Ave. in Chicago. Directed by John Mossman of The Artistic Home (Juno and the Paycock), The Shadow of a Gunman runs to October 23rd 2011.

In a Dublin tenement four years after the Easter Rising, poet Donal Davoren finds himself the victim of mistaken identity as an IRA gunman. The notoriety of being a "gunman on the run" becomes an amusing and attractive alter ego, especially given the newfound affection of the lovely patriot Minnie Powell. But at what cost?

The Shadow of a Gunman (1923) is part of O'Casey's well-known Dublin Trilogy, which includes Juno and the Paycock (1924) and The Plough and the Stars (1926), the latter of which inspired Irish patriots to riot.

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



# Heather A. Begley



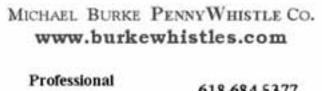
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## Logic and Our Civil Unions Law

the public and common weal. My column is only one of the issues causing division in families and discord where once peace reigned. Stop reading! Easily dispensed with, that. The other is Civil Unions. Civil Unions is the or read catechetical selection that said State of Illinois's official imprimatur on homosexual cohabitation. I believe most citizens are pretty much cool with the notion of two gents or two ladies finding happiness in a same sex relationship.

My only beef with the issue is the political nature and the punitive undertone that goes with such legislation. The very name of the law (Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act) oozes with Hegelian nonsense. In fact Act, Rep. Greg Harris. the very first thing to happen after the hugs and huzzahs of civilly unionized couples was the punitive actions taken upon Catholic Charities with regard to adoption by homosexual couples. The Catholic Church still maintains that

Two issues seem to be disturbing homosexuality is immoral in the same way that any adultery heterosexual or otherwise is immoral and that marriage between a man and woman is the place for civil carnal relations and unions.

I have never heard a Catholic homily that homosexuals will go to Hell. Unrepentant sinners will go to Hell. I repent on an hourly basis on a slow day.

The issue of civil unions has been closed with the signature of Governor Pat Quinn-for now. I know a great number of very good people who see civil unions as a gateway to Homosexual Marriage Laws in Illinois—they are gay activists and include the author of The Religious Liberty and Civil Unions

The Catholic Church is on the wrong side of this moment in history, according to Gay Activists. I believe that Illinois is on the wrong side of Truth with this agenda. No two men will ever have a baby together, no matter how much

they try; no two women will fire the necessary gamete into the ovum. As I recall from Father Schiebel's Biology classes, "guys got sperm and dolls got ovums." They are both wonderful gametes in their won special ways, but they require one another to form the necessary component of a human being—the Zygote.

They clone sheep and artificially inseminate. Artificial as opposed to natural. David Crosby can offer his baby batter to Melissa Etheridge and a zygote can make its appearance, but is that a marriage of true minds?

Greg Harris and every carbon foot-print who embraces John Dewey would say so and also say that anyone who rejects Gay Marriage as perfectly natural is a hater.

I disagree. I'm not mad at anyone. Get riled in traffic and with myself at times, but... nope; can't say I hate anyone. Don't care much for John Dewey. He was a Hegelian philosopher who bit American Education like a vampire. *The Philosophy of American Education,* a core requirement for God's sake, is coming to a conclusion formed well before the inquiry. The Inquiry is the answer. Gay Marriage is a Civil Right— Yep. Public Schools need only more

money—Correcto!

logical and St. Thomas Aquinas influenced most aspects of our Faith. Even the greatest atheist philosopher of the modern age, Lord Bertrand Russell eschewed John Dewey for Catholic apologists.

Here is an example of very primitive Catholic logic.

One afternoon, Pat met Headsy, whom he hadn't seen for quiet some time. After chatting for a while, Pat asked Headsy what he was doing with himself at the moment. Headsy told Pat that he was taking courses at Loyola (pronounced – Lie Olah).

"B.S." said Pat... "and what are you studying?"

"Logic" replied Headsy

"What's Logic?" said Pat, "I went to Tilden. We didn't have that religion stuff."

"Well! I went to Quigley and beyond and continue to expand my mind and stay fresh with thought," said Headsy... "Let me ask you - do you have a goldfish?

Pat: "I do!"

Headsy: "So... you probably have the fish for your kids!"

Pat: "That's right!" Headsy: "So,

from that I might assume, having Catholic doctrine is at core very kids and all means you're probably married...!"

Pat: "That's right!"

Headsy: "So being married means you're more than likely not a homosexual!"

Pat: "That's right!"

Headsy noted that it was logic that allowed him to figure all that out. These mildly hoary gents say 'God speed' and head off in different directions.

An hour later, Pat meets his mate Sweet Mary, who went to Longwood.

After a while Mary asks Pat had he seen his old pal Headsy around.

Pat explains that he met Headsy only an hour ago.

Mary says: "And what's old Headsy doing these days?"

Pat replies "He's studying at Loyola." Mary: "That's wonderful and at his age! What's Headsy studying?"

Pat: "Logic!"

Mary: "And what's logic?"

Pat: "Let me explain... do you have a goldfish?"

Mary: "We do; so?"

Pat: "That means you're not a homo!'

Logic. It can be applied... with great care.

#### MW Connemara Pony Show Continued from Page 17...

tention to detail was well noted.

The In-Hand classes were large and the quality was high. Deb Clinch of Iowa's 11 year old mare Thurman Irish Peach (Landgate Bluebeard x Aladdins Rhiann) won both the large mare classes of the day: the 6 and older mares class and the broodmare class, in addition to being named Supreme Champion of the Show.

There was fun for the whole

family and espite the heat the mood at the show was fun and festive

The entertainment continued after the show with performances by the World Champion Irish Dancers of the Dennehey School of Irish Dance and music provided by the Irish duo of the Two



Thurman Irish Peach (Landgate Bluebeard x Aladdins Rhiann by Aladdin)

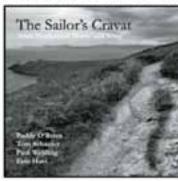
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Johnnies. The party went on late into the night, talking ponies and sharing stories

The Midwest Connemara Pony Show owes its success and continual growth to the love and dedication of the volunteers. Many people talk about the closeness of the Irish community in Chicago and how far they go for one another in support—the Midwest Connemara Pony Breeders Show exemplifies this. The Midwest Connemara Show committee would like to extend a thank you to all competitors, volunteers, Inspectors, sponsors and staff who made this show the successful event that it was. We look forward to seeing you again next year.

Full results of the competition can be found at http://midwestconnemarashow.com/Schedule.html.



#### Chicago GAA Big Win for the Ladies

By Greg Miller

The St. Mary's senior camogie team & the Aisling Gaels ladies intermediate Gaelic football team both returned to Chicago last Labor Day with their new North American Championship Cups held high. The Chicago Patriots, Parnells, and Michael Cusacks also made a strong showing in San Francisco at the finals, but it was our ladies that came back with the titles. After a moment of silence for Nancy Doyle (mother of Nora Doyle) the St. Mary's senior camogie team took the pitch against Boston, who had just beat San Francisco to make it to the final.

At the end of the first half the Mary's were down by 2 points, and had their managers Tim Lawless & Anthony Corcoran nervous about whether they could pull out a win. With only five minutes for a half time speech, the odds seemed stacked against Chicago, but our girls weren't going to let a few mistakes in the first half be the reason they come home empty handed.

So after a few words from Elaine McMahon & the captain, Annie Redmond, the girls pulled together, and hit the field with a ferocious intensity. By the end of the game the Mary's were on top with a score of 2-6 to 0-7. Jan Haubenreiser, the St. Mary's Goal Keeper, in particular was one of the

## O'Connell, Keane and Moore in Skokie

Catherine O'Connell, Kathleen Keane & Jimmy Moore will be doing a show at 2pm on Sunday, October 16, at the Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Avenue (Lincoln & Oakton), in Skokie. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door.

Join them for an afternoon of 'whatever suits their fancy'! If you have anything you would like to hear, email a request, they will take it under ad-

Note the 2pm time; they would like everyone home (or a favorite pub) for dinner and the Bears game!

847-677-7761 or info@skokietheatre.com.

Anyone interested in booking Catherine for a special event, contact her at catherine@catherineoconnell.com.

#### Online This Month

Due to limited space, Meehall Recalls will be online only this month.

He will be back in print next month for your reading pleasure!



Aisling Gaels Ladies Gaelic Football lClub



St. Mary's Camogie Club

The Aisling Gaels ran away with the Chicago Championship this year, and it was no different when they went up against the best North America had

Being the largest ladies team in

power players of the tournament, not Chicago this year, they enjoyed an letting in a single goal all weekend. extremely strong lineup of Irish & American players alike. Among their top players were Gillian O'Connor & Niamh Ward, whose agility and speed was unmatched throughout their competition this year.

The North American Cup proves

slowing down in the near future, and have raised the bar for ladies football across the board. Both the St. Mary's Camogie Club & the Aisling Gaels icsports.com or find ChicagoGaelic-Gaelic Football Club are still look- Sports on facebook.

that these girls have no plans of ing for more American players, so if anyone is at all interested, regardless of experience, they should visit the league website at www.chicagogael-



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at the Irish American Heritage Center 4626 North Knox Ave, Chicago, IL



Follow what's happening at the MAC

# Cathie Ryan

OCT, 14 and 15, 8 p.m. Cathie Ryan's soprano voice gamered her the Irish Female Vocalist of the Decade from Irish American News.

#### Danú Christmas in Ireland DEC. 9, 8 p.m.

Traditional carols, reels and contemporary Irish songs.



Tickets: (630) 942-4000 www.AtTheMAC.org

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# nicago Gaelic Dar



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

#### A Chairde:

I was at Croke Park in Dublin on Sunday September 4th to witness the All-Ireland Hurling Finals, and I witnessed a tremendous game between Tipperary and Kilkenny. The same two teams also played the Final in 2009 and 2010, and with one success each, this 2011 Final was eagerly anticipated. Many felt this game did not live up to the excitement of 2009 and 2010, I disagree and thoroughly enjoyed the game, though I favored Tipperary the eventual losers on the day. Our national games are played by amateurs, however the commitment, fitness level, and passion is such that any neutral observer in the game day audience of 81,000 people would not believe it. There is something special about volunteers committing themselves to the greater good for the love of it without recompense. At Gaelic Park we are proud of our professional staff who manage the weddings, of-

fice, kitchen and bar. We depend on their success to finance what the volunteers love to do, which is to celebrate our Irish Culture in every way. The volunteers who tend the grounds, the GAA section, the Ladies Auxiliary, our Ceili and Set dancing, Drama and Choir groups and the Irish Musicians all do so with a love and passion which transcends monetary reward. Our Directors who give their time and expertise are also volunteers, as are all the men and women who volunteer on Irish Fest weekend. I want to spread the word on their behalf, volunteer is a beautiful word, one cannot measure the sense of satisfaction a volunteer receives from doing something they love. So if you want to feel good about yourself, contact a Director at Gaelic Park or any of the groups at mentioned above. I am confident you will not be disappointed.

John Devitt, President

#### **Gaelic Park Players Fall Production**

## The Beauty Queen of Leenane

written by Martin McDonagh

SPECIAL for opening night (Friday, 11/4) tickets are 2 for 1! The ticket price is just \$12 and performances will be held on Fridays, 11/4, 11 & 18; Saturdays, 11/5, 12 & 19 at 8pm; and Sundays 11/6, 13 & 20 at 3pm.



The Sunday tickets are \$25.00 for the Dinner/Theatre combination and reservations are required.

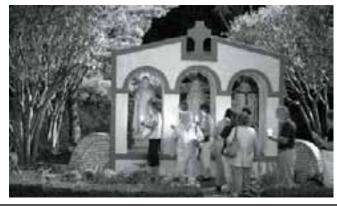
Call our main office at 708.687.9323 to reserve your tickets. Get a group of family and friends together and meet in the Carraig before the Play for a bite to eat and a cold drink, and then stop in later and enjoy the entertainment in the Pub.

#### Lady of Knock Commemoration

There were over 600 guests in attendance for this beautiful ceremony on Monday, August 22. The Benediction, Rosary and a candlelit procession to the Grotto was led by Monsignor Boland. Director Kay Knightly, chairperson of this event, would like to thank the Gaelic Park Women's Auxiliary for hosting the refreshments following the ceremony; the loyal volunteers who came out during the day to spruce up and set up the patio for all the guests; and to Marian Ryan and staff for all the finishing touches.







# A HALLOWEEN PARTY IS BREWING!

Don't miss this ghost and goblin party on Friday evening, October 28. The spooky fun starts at 6:30pm with hayrides, Halloween movies, games for all ages and much more!

#### Costumes are optional!

chase.

Free admission and there will be food and drinks available for pur-

#### Celebrate Thanksgiving at Gaelic Park

Leave the cooking and entertaining to us! Chicago Gaelic Park will once again host a special Thanksgiving buffet on Thursday, November 24. Music, dancing and a delicious, hot, all you can eat meal. The buffet will include turkey, ham, roast beef and all the trimmings and will be served from 3-6pm. Music and dancing will follow until 8pm. The admission and dinner price is \$23 for adults and \$11 for 12 and under. Reservations are required and all tickets must be paid for in advance. Call 708.687.9323 for more details.

#### **MEMBERSHIP** NEW 🖵 RENEWAL 🖵 ☐ Family Membership \$50 □ Individual Member \$30 NAME first initial SPOUSE (if joining) first initial ADDRESS \_ street city state zip PHONE: home work F-Mail: Donation Enclosed Checks made payable to: Chicago Gaelic Park Mail to: Chicago Gaelic Park Membership Chairperson,

# Monthly Specials for CGP Members

6119 W. 147th St, Oak Forest IL 60452

October coupon discounts are in the mail...along with your current membership card. Come to the Park often and take advantage of these special offers while enjoying a delicious meal and lively entertainment in the Carraig Pub!



# Chicago Gaelic Park

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

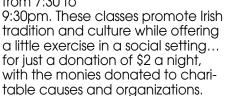


**Lunch Music & Dancing** at the Park on the first Wednesday of the month (October 5, November 2 and December 7) beginning at NOON until 4pm. We welcome large groups! You will enjoy a wonderful full course meal and entertainment, all for the modest cost of \$13 per person. *Reservations are necessary*, call the office today at 708,687,9323.

#### Irish Music Sessions in the Pub

are held on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm by Pat Finnegan and Friends. Everyone welcome!





**Set Dancing** is held year round on Monday nights, 7:30–9:30pm with a \$3 nightly fee.

CGP Sunday Radio Program live broadcast is held on Sunday nights from 7-9pm straight from Gaelic Park by Harry Costelloe, Mary Hackett and Mary Riordan on WCEV 1450 AM. Hear all the week's Irish news and sports direct from Ireland, in addition to all the latest events and goings on at Gaelic Park. Call 708.687.9330 to request a song or dedication.

Ladies Auxiliary Monthly meetings will resume on Oct. 12th (2nd Wednesday of the month) at 7:30pm. Membership is only \$15 per year and you can bring your yearly dues to the meeting or send/drop off at the Gaelic Park Office.

Monthly Mass and Breakfast Mass resumes on October 9 at 10am, and will continue on the second Sunday of the month through Mother's Day. The Mass is followed by a delicious traditional Irish breakfast buffet for a cost of \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 12 and under. Flu shots will be available before and after the October Mass and payment can be processed through Medicare.

**Sunday Celtic Supper** Gaelic Park resumes its popular Sunday Celtic Supper on November 6. Celtic Suppers are a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon with friends and family and perfect for gathering family together for special celebrations. For the cost of \$16 for adults, there is music, dancing and a delicious, hot, all you can eat buffet meal. Children are welcome, ages 4 to 12 are \$9 and children under 3 are free. Reservations are required. The buffet is available from 4-7pm and music and dancing from 5-9pm.

County Down Association Dance will be held at Gaelic Park on Friday October 7 at 8pm. There is a donation of \$10 and a cash bar. The dance will be held in the Celtic Room with music by Gerry Haughey and Sean O'Donnell.

#### Irish Musicians Association Autumn

**Ceili** This evening of music and dancing will be held on Sunday, October 16 from 3pm-8pm at Chicago Gaelic Park. Refreshments of tea and soda bread will be served throughout the evening and there will be a "split the pot." Admission is just \$10 and children 12 and under are free. For more information, contact Donna Killen at 773,233,4490.

Banquets at Gaelic Park Elegant surroundings, the finest of food & excellent service! Our three beautiful banquet rooms can accommodate any event: weddings, showers, reunions, proms, anniversaries, group luncheons, special parties as well as business seminars. The Emerald Room can accommodate up to 500 guests; our Tara Room, with window views of our patio waterfall, can accommodate up to 300 guests; and the Celtic Room up to 120 guests. Call the office today for open dates and visit our web site http://chicagogaelicpark.org/banquet\_facilities/facilities.

## Save the Date!

#### **OCTOBER**

Friday 10/7 Sunday 10/9 Wednesday 10/12 Friday 10/28 County Down Dance Monthly Mass Breakfast CGP Ladies Auxiliary Halloween Party

#### **NOVEMBER**

Weekends 11/4-20 Sunday 11/6 Thursday 11/24 County Down Dance Sunday Celtic Supper Thanksgiving Dinner

#### **DECEMBER**

Saturday 12/3 Sunday 12/4 Thursday 12/8 & 15 Saturday 12/31

Saturday 12/31

Andy Cooney's Christmas Show Gaelic Park Super Fundraiser Mingle Jingle Christmas Parties Family NYE Party

NYE Gala Dnner Dance



**PUB QUIZ NIGHT** with quiz master Tim Tobin, resumes on October 4 and will be held every Tuesday through May starting at 7.30pm. The pub quiz is a fun way to spend an evening with friends and have a chance of wining prizes. Teams can consist of up to five players and the cost is \$5 per person and 20% of the total amount collected is put aside and at the end of each season, the money is donated to a local charity.

# Old St. Pat's Comes to Our Neighborhood!

Old Saint Patrick's has a rich experience of great speakers. Now each month you can join us at Chicago Gaelic Park on *the third Wednesday of each month* as we discuss current religious and spiritual thoughts. Light refreshments and hospitality begins at 6:30pm and discussion follows at 7pm.

#### Wednesday, October 19, 2011

Sr. Mary Paul McCaughey, Superintendent, Chicago Catholic Schools.

Topic: Of Patent Leather Shoes, Bibles, and Basketballs: Will the Real Catholic School Stand Up?

#### Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Sr. Joan Marie Weithman Chaplain, Palos Community Hospital

Topic: Chaplaincy in Today's World

#### Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Bob Kolatorowicz, Adult Spirituality, Old Saint Patrick's Church

Topic: Vocabulary of Faith

#### Wednesday, March 21, 2012

Al Gufstason, Founder Career Transitions Center

Topic: Give Us Today our Daily Bread

#### Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Mary Kay Slowikowski, Public Speaker Topic: One Woman's Journey to Grace

#### Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Dr. Mary Amore, Executive Director of Mayslake Ministries

Topic: In the Footsteps of Jesus

Please contact Rosemary at chitownrosie@att.net if you have any questions.

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10/8 Ritchie Z

10/14 Gerard Haughey

10/15 Joe Cullen

10/21 Joe McShane

10/28 Bernie Glim & Country Roads

10/29 Pat Guinee

9/30 Gerard Haughey

Music begins at 7:30pm on Fridays and 9:30pm on Saturday nights. OPEN TO EVERYONE WITH NO COVER CHARGE!

Check Website for Full Schedule

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**I**(**I**(**I**) 22 "WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN GREEN!" Irish American News October 2011



#### The Return of The Handicrapper

than-life figures that transcend the gloom and doom of a troubled urban existence. One need only turn to Metropolis, where a mildmannered reporter named Clark fights for truth, justice and the American Way as Superman.

Not too far away another superhero takes things on the ground level in Gotham City as The Batman—a dark knight who though a millionaire playboy by day named Bruce, turns into a denizen of the night, fighting crime and corruption with a beltful of devices and an uncomparable car of dash and daring.

#### Anne's Irish Knits



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But no more. At least in Chicago, where this intrepid once and future investigative reporter has finally broken a

Every great metropolitan area has larger- mystery that has held Northeastern Illinois and Southern Cheddar Land locked in a web of intrigue. I speak of course of a mystery that

> has plagued the pages of Irish American News ever since May 2009 when my Irish Rover column first spoke of the man of mysterious mechanical motoring known only as -THE HANDICRAPPER! In white vinyl three-inch tall capital letters on his rear window.

Masked only by the blue-grey haze of billowing exhausting emanating from the Nimitz-class carrier profile of his mottled white 1984 Lincoln Town Car, I once followed the Handicrapper in a vain

attempt to ascertain his identity as he barreled (on probably 2 of 4 carburetor barrels) southward from the point where US 12 in Wisconsin squeezes from four lanes to two on its triumphant entry into the Land of Lincoln.

Alas, somewhere in Richmond, Illinois' business district the ghostly white vision of Bondo and white Krylon marked by flecks of original factory paint outpaced me. My attempt to photograph it with my cellphone camera fell short passing the Dog 'n Suds and I all but gave up by Anderson's Chocolate Shop where the phalanx of speed-trap police stands guard at the gateway of glacial McHenry County.

Having found and identified the mysterious rider, this halcyon highway hero of low-slung street cruising, the mystery is now revealed.

It begins in the bowels of the urban jungle where Dennis, an unassuming government worker, safeguards our water quality and flood control as a tester with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of G.C. That would be

Men of for- Greater Chicagoland, not Gotham City.

As his rusty, er, trusty white steed awaits in fame. Men of the handicapped parking space at the Metra train station just shy of Fox Lake, Illinois, Dennis commutes back and forth to Chicago making Cook County water from Lake Michigan safe for consumption.

At the end of the day, Dennis takes a slight limp into the Handicrapper and roars off into the night, as faces press against the glass of the bi-level commuter cars wondering just who is behind the wheel of this free-wheeling frightful sight of a backfiring four door clunker belching off into the night.



Dennis S., also known as, THE HANDICRAPPER

Every superhero has an everyday man who knows of his mysterious existence. That would probably be the mechanic at Fred's Auto Service off US 12 in Lake County on the outskirts of Fox Lake. For that is where I last caught up with the Lincoln Limo of Lake Michigan liquid purification.

"It doesn't look good," says Dennis as he sits outside Fred's with a hobbled Handicrapper idled with a bad water pump. Between the front and back Illinois handicapped plates lies a 25 year old ruin of a vehicle that may in fact have breathed its last. The man of mystery utters those four words that signal defeat for even the most hearty of motoring marvels... "you wanna buy it?'

Could this be the end of the Handicrapper? Will the Deep Tunnel ever be completed? Can the near-retiree with the expansive car make it to the end of his water grime-fighting career in an era of shrinking government? Stay tuned! IrishRoverJim@aol.com.

#### Cathie Ryan in Concert

By Bill Margeson



Irish songstress, Cathie Ryan is returning to Chicago. For her many, many fans in the area this will be welcome news, indeed. She will be appearing with her band at the MacAninch Arts Center at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn on Friday and Saturday, October 14 and 15.

Many consider Cathie to be the greatest Irish singer/songwriter of her generation, and the many international awards she has won provide testament to this. No Irish singer has been more honored. In fact, her long career has resulted in her winning two consecutive Female Singer of the Decade Awards from this paper, alone.

She began her iconic career with the group, Cherish the Ladies, and then struck out on her own. The resulting four albums on the Shanachie label are treasured worldwide by Irish music lovers.

Currently at work on a brand new album, Cathie has been gone from Chicago's concert scene for a number of years. "Chicago is one of my favorite cities in the world," she recently stated. "Between my concert schedule, and homes in Ireland and New York, the arrangements have just not worked out. I could not be more excited to be returning to Chicago. The audiences here and the city itself are just the best. The band and I are truly, truly excited."

Tickets for the widely anticipated return are on sale online at: http://tinyurl.com/Cathieryan or by calling 630-942-4000. Telephone orders may be placed Monday evening from 6-9pm, Tuesday through Friday from 10am-5pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm. The tickets are \$36, with Club Mac cabaret seating available at \$40 per ticket.

This is a night of Irish music to anticipate and treasure!





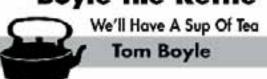


Irish Heroes

automobile dealership.

unless I said thanks in person.

# Boyle the Kettle



Two great men have left us, Jerry Gleason, and

Fr. Jim Close. These two men were among the

brightest stars in the Irish Heavens. Each man

was unique, Jerry Gleason was a hard-drinking

car salesman who at the age of 40, gave up the

drink, and with a loan from a friend bought an

By the time I became President of the IAHC, he

had already donated 5 cars to our "Taste of Ireland"

Festival. Each year I would visit the Chevrolet

dealership to say thanks to Jerry. He told me, "you

don't have to come here to ask for the car, we put

it in our budget." I told him I wouldn't feel right

Gleason Chevrolet and they came away with the

car they wanted at a fair price. More importantly,

Jerry gave a car each year to Misericordia to sup-

port Sister Rosemary Connolly, and the wonderful

legendary Chicago priests in keeping with their

devotion to follow the path of Jesus Christ. Fr.

Close brought the Mercy Home for Boys and Girls

to new heights, and changed the lives of many

children who would have otherwise floundered.

migrants. Their work is done, they have earned

their place in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Jobs Speech

Both of these men were the sons of Irish im-

President Obama put everybody to sleep again.

"Pass this bill," "pass it now," is the drumbeat. His

logic, as usual, escapes me. "We'll cut payroll

taxes in half," he's talking about social security

taxes. Why would you cut those taxes if social

security is in so much trouble? Smoke, mirrors,

and plenty of bullshit. It's the credo of the Demo-

cratic Party. Are you tired of the pandering to the

Republicans are trying to get nominated by touting

their records of job creation. HO HUM! Obama

and his band of merry men, like Robin Hood,

want to take from the rich and give to the poor.

Jobs have become the biggest issue. All the

minority groups? To get their votes?

Father Jim Close joined the ranks of many

work she does. It's hard to lose a good friend.

Over the years I sent a lot of people to Jerry

When I first met Jerry, he had five dealerships.



Irish American News

and spend!

#### Illinois Jobs

Thanks to a lack of vision by the Illinois State Legislature, the Governor

hastily raised income tax and corporate income tax, these new taxes have resulted in many companies leaving Illinois and taking their jobs with them. The last number I heard was 89,000 jobs lost since the tax increase.

#### **Casinos**

Look for compromise, predictably, Chicago will get a casino, but it will only hurt the Rivers Casino in Des Plaines, which in turn is taking business away from the casinos in Joliet and Elgin. If there is to be a Chicago casino, build it in South Shore, and take the casino business from Indiana.

#### iBAM! Chicago

Once again, we welcome over 100 Irish authors, musicians, artists, poets, playwrights, dancers, and actors to the Irish American Heritage Center. Once again, I will chair the awards dinner on Friday, November 11, 2011. This is one you don't want to miss, reserve your table now for the Irish Books Art and Music Awards dinner.

#### Belleek

On Friday, September 16, 2011 at the Double Tree Hotel in Rosemont, I gave a talk to the Belleek Collector's Society about the History of the Irish in Chicago. My rationale is the second star in the Chicago flag should have represented the Illinois and Michigan Canal which brought the first big wave of Irish immigrants to the city.

There was a lively question and answer session following the talk. The most humorous question... 'Were the Irish opposed to Prohibition?" "Whiskey, you're the devil..."

#### **Sun-Times** Editorial

The Chicago Housing Authority is aggressively enforcing rules to prevent criminals from ruining life in the developments. Now the Sun-Times editorial board is complaining that the strict enforcement for possession of small quantities of pot is unfair, and a lesser penalty than eviction should be instituted.

There seems to be a trend in society to back off on drug enforcement. Cook County Board

## Tax and spend! Tax Dominican University Brennan School of Business Hosts Former Irish President Mary Robinson

Dominican University's Brennan School of Business will host Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland ('90-97) and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, for its 2011 Ethics and Leadership Lecture on Tuesday, October 18 at 5:30pm. Robinson's lecture will be held at the University Club of Chicago, 76 East Monroe Street, Chicago.

Robinson is one of 12 members of the Elders, a group of world leaders including Jimmy

Carter, Kofi Annan and Desmond Tutu who contribute their wisdom and leadership to

tackling some of the world's toughest problems. Robinson has been honored numerous times for her work in supporting human rights and ethics, including receiving Amnesty International's Ambassador of Conscience Award and the United States Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Seating is limited and advance registration is required by October 11. Attendees may register by calling the Brennan School of Business

at (708) 524-6477 or online at dom.edu/ MaryRobinson.

President, Toni Preckwinkle would prefer that the police issue tickets and offenders pay fines for minor possession of pot, as opposed to prison, owing to the expense of prosecution and incarceration.

Is it time to legalize pot? We could tax it and wind up suing those that grow it, just as we did the tobacco companies. Then we could legalize uppers and downers... OH YEAH!

#### Abuse Update

Cloyne report, Bishop McGee finally spoke out. Bishop McGee resigned last March and Pope Benedict accepted his resignation. The Bishop said he was, "begging on bended knee for forgiveness." He also said, "I fully understand why they (the victims) are angry. I let them down by not fully implementing the guidelines which were available to me."

He still hasn't met the victims publicly, and they call him a coward, and say that he holds the victims in contempt.

Philadelphia USA new Archbishop Charles Chaput, will now head the Archdiocese. While serving as Archbishop in Denver, he moved swiftly in settling a high-profile abuse allegation. The Archdiocese settled 43 abuse allegations against priests for a total of \$8.2 million from 2005 through 2008 under Chaput.

Chaput was also successful in preventing the statute of limitations from being extended for victims of sex abuse. He succeeded in protecting the assets of the Church.

#### Repeal Pension Perk

If you recall Boyle the Kettle of March 2010, when I commented on Dennis Gannon's pension. After only working for the City of Chicago for 17 years, he's receiving a pension of \$158,258. The inflated pension was a result of a 1991 law that allows city workers who have taken leaves of absence to work full-time for unions, to remain in city pension funds. The pension is not based on their old city paycheck, but rather is caluculated using the higher union salaries. House Republican leader Tom Cross announced that he would file a bill to repeal the 1991 law that allows union leaders from Chicago to reap inflated retirement benefits. How about another ride on the taxpayer's "merry-go-round?"



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Well, here we go. Winter is comyou warm and cozy.

First up is the great, Seamus Begley on button box and vocals, joined by Tim Edey on guitar. The name of the album is *Disgrace Notes*. but the important thing is that we arrived. There are few, if any, male singers we love more in Irish music than Seamus Begley. His is one of the great voices on the great Irish album of all time, Beal Tuinne. Shaun Davey and Rita Connolly were such critical players in Beal Tuinne along with Seamus. They join him on this album doing some gorgeous harmony work with his vocals. Tim Edey is terrific on guitar. Begley's fab work on the button box has a constantly wild and almost improvised feel to it. This is only accomplished by the masters. Nobody plays a polka better than County Kerry's Seamus Begley. This album is fantastic. Get it!

Next is Sean McCarthy with Halcyon Days. Sean is the piper for Full Set. He is from Galway and is one of the big factors in that city's thriving trad scene. He's a brilliant uillean piper, to say the least. This is shown in the album we reviewed last month, Full Set. And equally true in this, his solo debut. There are 13 tracks on this, and they are all played with incredible maturity and style. This is a musician to pay attention to and cherish, as is this album. Wow! Newcomer of the Year? Quite possibly.

Cliabhan an Duchais is from ing. But here are five albums to keep Brid O'Donohue. There are six O'Donohues here. Harp, two flutes, fiddles, concertina, and uillean pipes. This is yet another of those brilliant Irish families that seem to exist in Ireland for the sole purpose of bring-We are late to the dance on this one, ing up superb musicians and enter-



taining the world. Alan O'Leary at Copperplate told us about this album and family. They are as good as he told us. In America, the album is distributed by Ossian USA. This is an album of real taste and refinement, and these are traditional musicians in the very best sense of the word. Another legendary family from Erin's shamrock shore. This is just wonderful. This is Irish music.

Year in and year out, there are few singers/songwriters who we love more than Nova Scotia's Dave Gunning. One of the albums of his that we foolishly have not reviewed yet is We're All Leaving. This is not Irish traditional but it is very Irish. Dave Gunning is not a traditional Irish musician, but he is very Irish. like YOU.

He has the sensitivity and soul of a true artist. Man, can this guy write a great song. We saw him for the first time a few years back at Nova Scotia's well-loved and remembered presence at Irish Fest in Milwaukee. He has only gotten better in the meantime and is a major force in Canadian music. He is not as wellknown as he should be outside of Canada, and that is criminal. He is a great artist and a gift.

Certainly there has been a flowering recently of great new groups on the scene. Outside Track. Full Set. Morga. Lots. There is none better than Chicago Reel. The group is out with a brand new album that was launched September 16th at Chief O'Neill's pub in Chicago. We don't have space to go into each individual player in the sextet. What we can tell you is that this group is simply another link in the chain that has established Chicago as the preeminent city in the world, outside of Ireland, for Irish music. This is sensational stuff. We featured the world premiere of the album on our radio show, Ireland Tonight, with a live hour in studio with the group. We had a ball. More importantly, we were stunned by the quality of the music brought to the table by this new force on the scene. We hope Chicago Reel stays together a long, long time. This is something special. Track this album down. Do your work. Superior vocals and instrumentals. Get it!

Speaking of radio shows and techy stuff, be sure to listen to Ireland Tonight every Monday night on WDCB.org or 90.9 fm at 8pm Chicago time. The best in Trad Music. In other words, real Irish music. Check out the Website, irelandtonight.com and go to the Facebook page, Ireland Tonight, and LIKE us! Heck, we

**Traditional** 

MURPHY'S PUR

## Michael J. Murphy Music Scholarship

In August 2009, 11 students were awarded the first Michael J. Murphy Music Scholarship. Each award consisted of up to  $4\bar{0}$  private lessons for either instruments or dance. Five of the students were also provided with instruments, and two dancers were given additional funds toward their expenses.

"WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN GREEN!"



Claire Maloney, age 11, is one of the dancers who received a Michael J. Murphy Music Scholarship. Claire takes Irish Step Dance lessons at Dennehy Irish Dance Studio in Mt. Greenwood on the Southwest side, plays the flute and sings. However, Claire has had some challenges in her life; she was born significantly hearing impaired to high tones. Last year she lost over 60 percent of the hearing she had.

According to the doctors, no one with this much hearing loss should

have the ability to play the flute, Irish dance or carry a tune—but Claire does. She was recently diagnosed with Type I Chiari malformation and is scheduled for surgery this month. There is a chance that this surgery may improve her hearing; however, if it does not and the progression continues, she will eventually become a candidate for Cochlear implants. Regardless of the outcome, Claire will still dance because that is her passion. Her goal is to be a world champion dancer.

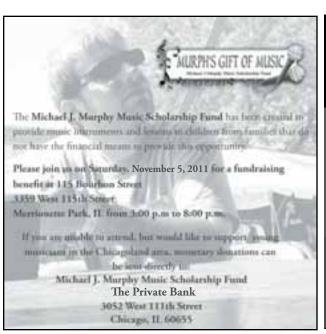
Last month, 36 students were chosen for the second Michael J. Murphy Music Scholarship Award. It has been a very rewarding experience for the Board members to meet these students, such as Claire, and listen to their enthusiasm and recognize the passion they have for music.

In order to continue the mission of providing music related instruction to children whose families are not able to, a benefit is being held on November 5, 2011, at Bourbon Street in Merrionette Park from 3-8pm.

There will be food, drinks, raffles, and of course, great music. The Larkin and Moran Brothers, A Week Back and a special tribute to the music of Mike Murphy performed by his former band, Leave. Plus, there will be performances by some of our current students.

If you cannot attend the benefit but wish to send a donation, please send directly to The Michael J. Murphy Music Scholarship Fund c/o Sharon Duer, The Private Bank, 3052 West 111th Street, Chicago, IL 60655.

Please visit the website at www. murphsgiftofmusic.org to read the story of how these opportunities were started and the person whose life they are meant to remember.







iom



#### You Read It Here First

Hemingway's comment that people go bankrupt slowly at first, but then speed up, is beginning to have a certain resonance in Ireland. Ireland's developing mortgage crisis, about which I first wrote in August 2010, has moved firmly to the centre of the political stage over the last few weeks.

The writing has been on the wall for some time, but the latest quarterly figures have concentrated minds on the problem at least. At the end of June, 55,763 residential mortgages were at least 90 days in arrears (7.2% of the total), with 40,040 over six months in arrears. A further 69,837 mortgages had been "restructured," i.e., some deal had been worked out between lender and borrower, whether switching temporarily to interest only payments, lengthening the mortgage term, or some other form of (temporary) relief for the borrower. In other words, roughly one in seven mortgages are running on empty.

Those affected are not sub-prime borrowers. Cut backs, short time or the loss of one or both household incomes has left thousands unable to meet heavy mortgage commitments entered into when credit was cheap. Selling is not an option as the property market has dried up and any property bought since 2002 is in negative equity. The debt left after resale—even were that possible—would remain as a burden on

None of this is new. I wrote about the potential consequences last year, when the number six months in arrears was around 25,000, pointing out that it was extremely unlikely that any economic recovery would come quickly enough, or be extensive enough, to throw them a lifeline. I asked whether Irish society could deal with 25,000 repossessions, evictions or bankruptcies and forecast the issue would come to a head towards the end of 2011.

The last government was grappling with more pressing macroeconomic problems and confined itself on mortgages to postponing the day of reckoning. It encouraged a moratorium on repossessions and negotiations between the principals, kicking the can down the road in the hope that something would turn up. An "expert group" reported but ruled out any form of debt forgiveness.

Well, nothing

has turned up and we are now edging towards the end of 2011. The number six months in arrears is 50% higher. There is no economic recovery in sight. The number of repossessions and court proceedings remains low, but is increasing. Interest rates have risen. The mortgage issue has now reached the critical mass at which it becomes a focus for public attention.

Moreover, the public mood has changed, battered by three years of belt tightening, with even more to come. The middle classes are now being affected. People who could comfortably cover their mortgage repayments this time last year are now struggling to cope, have exhausted most of whatever financial fat they might have had, and are now worrying about what will happen next. And these are the ones who are actually paying

The public have also realised that kicking out Fianna Fail has solved little. The economic mess remains. The realisation is dawning that after the excesses of the Tiger era we have, collectively, to bite the bullet of harsh fiscal measures to restore the public finances. The issue now is who pays what, in taxes or cuts and what has become very clear is that everyone will seek to hold on grimly to what they have in what is seen as a zero sum game. So far the new government has had broad support but the next three months will see it's mettle tested, when it has to announce further cuts and tax increases.

The options over the mortgage issue remain unchanged from last year. Do nothing and watch the problem grow; it has. Encourage dialogue between lender and borrower to "restructure" the mortgage, in effect a type of temporary placebo, leaving the debt unaltered in the hope that something will turn up; this has been happening—but to what end, apart from staving off repossession (i.e. eviction), and for how long? And nothing has turned up.

Deals of a permanent nature, with the bank agreeing privately to write off some of the mortgage debt (i.e. whatever is left owing after the property has been sold and the debtor squeezed

ing in a small number of cases. This is currently being touted as the least bad way forward. But how realistic a solution is this unless the banks are leaned on, heavily? What is in it for them? Disposing of properties at even 50% below the peak price is not easy, with would-be purchasers finding credit difficult to get.

"WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN GREEN!"

The elephant in the room remains debt writeoff; "forgiveness." The battle lines were drawn on this one last year as well. Those who are paying their mortgages (five out of six), or who have no mortgage, are clearly unwilling to agree to bail out those having problems. Any official endorsement of the concept carries with it the obvious risk of a stampede to take advantage and the sheer impossibility of separating the can't pays from the won't pays. Who would continue to pay if they could avoid it? Overlaying this is the grating cloak of moral superiority worn by many of those not affected.

The government knows it must do something (40,000 repossessions are simply not on). The report of another expert group is imminent, after which some action can be expected. But what? Ministerial pronouncements have concentrated on the need to preserve the family home – but most of the mortgages in difficulty are family homes—maybe not the dream home but the place of abode just the same. There is certainly no talk of doing anything to help those who bought investment properties. Will families be helped rather than young singles or childless couples? These are thorny issues indeed.

There is no neat solution. The cost of the bank bailout—corporate debt forgiveness with a vengeance—has snookered the government financially. One leading player remarked to me several years ago that "We had to get the banks moving again." It hasn't worked. Except in so far as they have been resuscitated to resume their more objectionable practices. If people overborrowed, the banks were equally complicit in overlending. The public perception is that the banks have weaseled out of their co-responsibility.

This is surely the time for some lateral, and tough, thinking. They are our (underlined) banks, bought metaphorically with our blood. The housing market is shot. The property escalator does not function. This paralysis extends beyond those in mortgage trouble. The banks have a key role to play in the economy, granted. But the government has a much greater one and has society as a whole to consider. One thing is certain. The situation will not improve if left to the banks; their dismal history demonstrates this.

of any other assets) are also reportedly happen- A new body with powers to compel the banks to negotiate equitably has been mooted. The government should ensure that any such body is properly empowered and resourced. How the government handles the mortgage issue could be one of it's defining moments.

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# **An Immigrant's** Musings

# Fr. Michael Leonard

#### **Economics v. Egonomics**

know, I have over the past six years had many occasions to visit Capitol Hill. My prime reason in doing so has been to advocate for a change in our immigration laws. Change as somemost resisted item on the agenda."

The sad thing is, even when we know that change can and often is for our benefit, we use up enormous amounts of energy trying to resist the very things and movements that can improve our lot.

When it comes to change, politicians are no different that the rest of the population in their resistance to change. This point was made clear to me in a recent conversation with one of my friend, a person who has worked on Capitol Hill for many years. We were discussing the "cir- election mode. During this period, all cus" surrounding the deal reached to increase the US debt ceiling.

As many of my regular readers ion, much of the debate was driven not by good economics but by negative egonomics. What I mean by that is, true economics takes care of the household (State) and does what is best for all the family (citizens). one once said; "is the most constant And in order for this to happen, the action on the plan and it is also the stewards of the household will make sacrifices for the good of the entire family. Our political leaders have displayed egonomics and by that I mean, they have allowed their individual egos and party political egos to dominate the issues. The result has been a dysfunctional political system, which is failing to serve the households that make up these United States.

A good example of what I'm referring to is the wasted time we have in each presidential cycle. In effect, the final year in each four years term is spent by both political parties in reof their energies are directed towards electing on of their own group. They I made the point that in my opinare quite happy to do this to the detri- 282-8445.

ment of the good of the country. Here we are again approaching a fourth year. We have serious issues that need to be addressed in congress, but will our parties leave aside party politics and do what is best for the country? We shall just have to wait and see.

#### If You Were

If you were busy being kind, Before you knew it you would find You'd soon forget to think 'twas true That someone was unkind to you. If you were busy being glad And cheering people who seem sad, Although your heart might ache a bit, You'd soon forget to notice it. If you were busy being good, And doing just the best you could, You'd not have time to blame some man

Who's doing just the best he can. If you were busy being true To what you know you ought to do, You'd be so busy you'd forget The blunders of the folks you've met. *If you were busy being right,* You'd find yourself too busy quite To criticize your brother long, Because he's busy being wrong.

Should you have any comments, questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at: sliabhanoir@yahoo.com or 773-



It was 7:30am on Saturday but I was wide awake and on the move. It was the morning of the Notre Dame home opener. My mom was in the kitchen along with my aunt and grandma finishing all the food for the tailgate. My dad was loading the car with all our gear. My cousins, siblings, and I were watching the tailgaters that were already there. We were so excited! We couldn't wait to go. I couldn't wait to wear my outfit. It was a sequined blue & gold tank top with gold leggings. I also got a new sequined ND headband. I loved it. A few minutes later my dad told us to get in the car. I ran to get into the car. I really wanted to get to the Notre Dame campus. We set up our tent, table, chairs, and food. We went over to visit friends at their tailgate. It was getting hot but my cousins and I kept going in the ACC to cool off. Eventually, it was time for kick off. I didn't go into the game this year but my mom, grandma, aunt, cousin, sister, PC. Wish me luck!

and I watched it in the ACC. We were just about to head to the bookstore but then we saw people leaving the stadium. We soon learned that the stadium was being evacuated due to a severe storm heading our way. We found the rest of the family and headed back to the ACC. It was kind of cool because this was the first time in Notre Dame History that the stadium had been evacuated. We waited around for a while but eventually decided to go home. My parents and siblings stayed until the second evacuation. It was very exciting and definitely one of the most memorable Notre Dame games ever. Despite what happened and the final score, I had a great time.

Less than two months until Oireachtas. I feel so nervous just saying that. I already started team practice. I am learning a new choreography and it is so cool. Also next month I will have the results of my first feis dancing in



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#### Volatility Has Returned

than expected, the US has lost its AAA rating, and consumers are losing confidence. All of these factors combined have caused stock market volatility to return. Investors have shown their concern and caution by pumping \$50 billion dollars into money market funds in early August. It seems as though these 500 or 600 point swings in the stock market are becoming more common or maybe it's because 2008 is still fresh in our minds. During these times of extreme volatility, I recommend investors pay attention to their portfolios risk, not just the return.

Investing and risk go hand and hand. Taking risk is what enables you to achieve that 6%, 8%, or 10% return. volatility. Investing involves risk and Especially in this environment of low interest rates, you need to take some risk to get any return on your money. Risk is not a bad thing. Not understanding risk or taking on too much risk can have grave consequences to investors. Here are a few ways you can manage your portfolio's risk.

#### **Asset Allocation**

This is the question every investor needs to get right; "What is my ideal asset allocation." Your asset allocation will determine how much risk your portfolio is taking and the potential for return. Your asset allocation can be determined based on factors such as risk tolerance, goals, and time horizon. Work with your financial advisor to determine the proper allocation for your portfolio.

#### Diversification

Diversification builds off of asset allocation. We've all heard the simple adage "Don't put all of your eggs in one basket." If you've been an investor for any amount of time, you probably will agree that markets are unpredictable. If your asset allocation says your portfolio should own 50% in stocks; diversification means spreading that 50% across different types of stocks (large cap, small cap, international, consumer stocks, energy stocks, etc.) Spreading your risk across multiple investment classes allows you to minimize the unknown risks and increase the potential for return.

#### Systematic Investing

As I mentioned earlier, predicting the markets is impossible. Everyone

The economy is growing slower tries to buy low and sell high, but doing that with any consistency is another story. Systematic investing can help you minimize the effects of volatile markets by investing at different times and prices or dollar cost averaging. Dollar cost averaging buys more shares when the market is low and fewer shares when the market

> It looks as though market volatility is here to stay, at least for the near future. Investors need to focus on things they can control within their portfolio, like the amount of risk they are taking, and ignore the situations in which they have no control like predicting market movements and over the long term investors have been rewarded for taking that risk. During these times of uncertainty it's a good idea to reevaluate your portfolio and make sure you know how much risk you are taking.

John P. Daly is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER<sup>TM</sup> and President of Daly Investment Management, LLC a fee only Registered Investment Advisor specializing in financial planning and wealth management for individuals and families. Phone: 312-239is the percentage of stocks, bonds, and 1317. Email: john@dalyinvestment. cash your portfolio has. That mixture com. Readers are encouraged to call or email John with questions regarding Investments or financial planning. www.dalyinvestment.com.

#### A Word With Monsignor Boland

The Voice of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of Chicago

Rev. Monsignor Michael M. Boland

Administrator, President and OEO

# Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors

Much of our work at Catholic Charities revolves around food and feeding people. In September, National Hunger Action Month, we conducted a Food Drive at 11 agency locations and 40 area Walgreen's stores. Last year, our Emergency Assistance Programs provided nearly 2.5 million meals to people in Cook and Lake Counties, providing more than 200,000 meals at our nine emergency food pantries to people with critical needs. Furthermore, 2010 census statistics just released show that nearly one-in-six people live in poverty.

Why and how do we manage to feed so many individuals and families in need of food, this basic necessity of life, year-round? A recent comment by Michael McDonnell, Catholic Charities Director of Volunteer Relations and coordinator of the now 10 year-old Evening Supper Program at Catholic Charities, tells a wonderful story of every-day charity.

"As the economy continues to sputter, the Supper has become even more important, not only as a place where one can get a nutritious, hot meal five nights a week, but also as a destination that provides respite and camaraderie for our clients, as well as for our donors and volunteers. I'm often asked the question: 'How do you decide who can come in for a meal?' I always reply that hunger knows no color, creed, nationality, gender, orientation, or social status. If someone comes looking for

a meal, then, by the Grace of God, and of course, human generosity, they will leave St. Vincent Hall with their stomachs full and their spirits lifted."

The Gospel of Charity is lived every day at Catholic Charities' 159 sites and 156 programs throughout Cook and Lake Counties. But it is highly visible at our River North location. Five nights a week, every week, summer, winter, spring and fall, at 5pm, (earlier in severe weather), we open our front doors at 721 N. LaSalle Street to welcome 130 supper guests who are hungry, homeless or living on low incomes. We supplement that with 50 additional "to-go" suppers for those beyond our seating capacity. A coalition of four organizations provide the food and the volunteer servers at the weekly suppers: Holy Name Cathedral hosts and serves two evenings. Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago HELP Initiative, and Catholic Charities each provide one evening's supper each week, assisted by the generosity of 30 restaurants throughout the year. Catholic Charities also partners with numerous parishes who provide the food and the volunteers for our Tuesday Night Supper.

After our supper guests are seated, announcements are made about programs that may be helpful to our guests. Social workers are available to meet with guests weekly, with legal and medical assistance available on a bi-monthly basis. Each night, a supper guest volunteers to offer his or her own

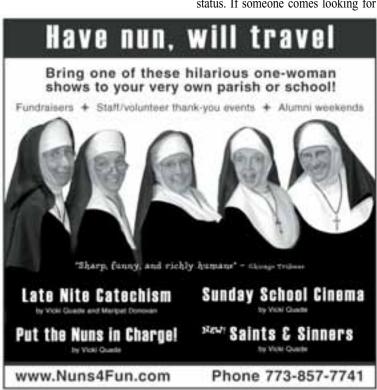
'Prayer before Meals." While homelessness or a transient life-style tends to isolate people, the supper brings them together with others who understand. Most of our guests are male, and most are either homeless or living in rental units, hotels or shelters that do not allow electronic appliances such as hot plates or refrigerators to cook or store food.

Because Catholic Charities is an accredited social service agency, we track our programs in systematic ways. In 2009, we found that the vast majority of guests surveyed were walking from one to five miles or more to the suppers, and attending a supper 4-5 times a week for more than a year. Our 2011 survey showed an increase in the number of guests coming for less than a year, but walking the same distance.

Most of our guests are men in their 50s, followed by those in their 60s and 40s. They are predominantly African-American, with fewer being Caucasian and Hispanic; and they use several Catholic Charities services, primarily emergency assistance, health screenings, and legal assistance, followed by Streets-to-Home, a housing program for previously homeless people.

Over the years, a spirit of camaraderie has developed among the supper guests. Mutual respect is expected. Friends have been made; and we have mourned the deaths of some of our guests. In a recent survey, our predominantly male guests expressed appreciation for the companionship they enjoy with other guests, and appreciation for the volunteers who serve the meals and the Catholic Charities social workers who are on hand. A majority of supper guests do receive food stamps or have requested to speak to a case manager about receiving them.

Generous parishes, parish volun-Continued on Page 35...





www.GalenaWedding.info



month's column with news of the passing of three giants. P/M Alasdair Gillies, one of the finest pipers I've young age of 47. He was followed two days later by Ann Richens of Ohio, one of the brightest lights in the world of Irish dance. Lastly, I regret to report the passing of Mike Rafferty, master of the Irish flute and father of Mary Rafferty. They will be missed and mourned but the marks they made on the worlds of piping, dance and traditional music will never be erased.

Happier news came to us at Milwaukee Irish Fest where the weather was perfect, crowds were lovely and the craic was the best I've ever experienced. Several bands made lasting CDs. First is their new "Irish" release, impressions on the crowd and Outside Track seemed to get the most praise, followed by Goitse (pronounced gwitcha) and the Red Hot Chili Pipers. show off their harmonious talent. They There was so much good stuff there to hear it was hard to know what to listen to first. I sold out of Outside Track's CD, Curious Things Given Wings, early on Thursday but was able to get restocked. Goitse was able to get me a supply of their CD and it was a real pleasure to listen to it. Goitse consists of five young Irish musicians who play trad music Irish Fest and it's always a pleasure to

It is my sad duty to begin this with joy and skill and their self-titled CD conveys their skill and joy in the music perfectly.

Red Hot Chili Pipers have released ever seen, died August 27th at the very a new CD featuring most of the new numbers they played at Milwaukee. Putting their considerable piping skills to the performance of tunes like "Low Rider" and "Everybody Dance Now" was a huge hit on the rock stage. The new CD is called Music for the Kilted Generation. Guaranteed fun.

Another very popular band at Milwaukee was the Screaming Orphans. I've written before about this band of four sisters from Donegal, I loved them then and I love them now. They don't do anything by half and, in keeping with this attitude, they've released two new titled The Jacket's Green. The girls have obviously been working on their harmonies and take this opportunity to do a version of "Down By the Glenside" that would rip tears from a statue's eyes. Their second new CD is their "pop" release, called Lonely Boy, full of their most popular pop songs and finishing with a superb version of "Ghost Riders

Derek Byrne was at Milwaukee

see this fellow. A wizard with a banjo and a fearless arranger/musician who's willing to take chances in pursuit of his musical muse, Derek has put together a band called Paddygrass and released two CDs. The first, called *Paddygrass* Live at the House of Guinness features the band performing a nice fusion of Irish and bluegrass versions of Irish and country songs. I enjoyed it. The second CD, called The Gospel According to Paddygrass features gospel and old time religious music done in the bands unique Irish/bluegrass fusion style. This one was recorded at Paddy's Pub in Milwaukee, a very nice pub to visit when you're in that town. Derek Byrne



never fails to surprise and delight me with his music and these two CDs are both surprising and delightful.

Phil Cooper and Susan Urban, two veterans of the folk music scene who perform together as February Sky, have released a new CD called Time-honored Pathways. With 18 tracks, this CD gives you a generous portion of traditional Irish & Scottish folk songs done in Phil and Susan's solid delivery. One of the best versions of "The Wind That Shakes the Barley" and "Hector the Hero," plus some lovely new smart-ass classics like "Predisposed to the Sound of Bagpipes" makes this a great collection. Phil and Susan play a lot in the Chicago area and if you've never heard them, check out their website at www.februarysky.com for their playdates.

Hopefully there's room to squeeze in one more review. Compass Records has done it again with the release of John Doyle's new CD Shadow and Light. We've all known how good a performer John Doyle is but on this new release

we see how good a songwriter he is as well. Ten of the album's eleven tracks were written by him. For my money, the first track, a little tune called "Clear the Way" is worth the price of admission. It's about the 69th Irish Brigade in the American Civil War and the battles of Antietam and Fredericksburg. A finer crafted ballad I've never heard. If this doesn't become a classic, I'll be much surprised. I admit to being a big John Doyle fan, I'd practically pay money

to hear him read the phone book, but I don't listen to music alone. Everyone I've listened to this CD with loves it as well, though there has been a lively debate as to which track is the finest. Bottom line, it's all great and one of the best efforts in a long line of superb recordings. Definitely worth your time and money.

Thanks for your input. Catch me at pipingitin@comcast.net or at the store 630-834-8108. Slainté.

# Chicago Irish Immigrant Oral History Project

A KARING KAR

Someone said that every death is a library lost. The stories of the oldest members of Chicago's Irish community are priceless and they are slipping away simply because too few appreciate their value.

The Chicago Irish Immigrant Oral History Project has been designed with that value in mind. We hope to capture the memories and experiences of Irish immigrants now living in Chicago.

My name is Dan Buche and I am a scholar of the Chicago Irish, currently studying at Purdue University Calumet, in Hammond, Indiana. As a life-long resident of the Chicago area, the bond I feel toward the Chicago Irish is especially strong.

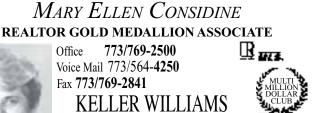
I want very much to initiate an enduring oral history project for the benefit of the Chicago Irish community and scholars everywhere. I am now scheduling interviews with the Irish immigrants of Chicago, starting with the oldest generation. Scholars, students, Americans, and Irish Americans alike should know and understand more about the special role immigrants have played in the post World War II histories of both Chicago and Ireland.

Archival-quality digital recordings of interviews will be collected and transcribed for educational purposes. All recordings and transcriptions will remain strictly confidential until the contributor is ready to donate copies to the Irish American Heritage Center and to Purdue University Calumet. Each contributor will receive a DVD copy of the interview and transcript so that they and their family can relive their memories through the years.

If you would like to learn more about archiving your memories, or those of someone you cherish, please call or email me at any time.

> Dan Buche 219-662-9785 dbuche@purduecal.edu

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#### Irish Books and Plays in Review

Continued from Page 5...

advantages such as improved box office services and more amenities for patrons. But the main advantage is a doubling of capacity.

About the importance of the move, Artistic Director, Kathy Scambiaterra says, "Being part of the Stage 773 Theatre family opens our work to a much wider audience."

Their first production in this new location is Eugene O'Neill's A Touch of the Poet. Many years ago I saw a production of this play and I remember it vividly. I feel it is an under-appreciated masterpiece.

Frank Nall will play the lead character, Con Melody. Melody is an Irishman living in America. Formerly he was an officer in the English army that fought Napoleon.

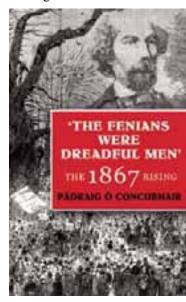
O'Neill's play encourages self awareness and feelings of self worth.

He asks us who we admire, why we admire that person, and who we would wish to be like. He wants us to drop any pretensions, and be who we are.

The play runs through November O'Concubhair. 6th. 773-327-5252 or at www.stage773.

#### Who Dreaded the Fenians?

The story of the Fenians and their goal of a free and inde-



pendent Ireland, is told in this book: The Fenians Were Dreadful Men: The 1867 Rising, by Padraig

During the Great Famine of 1845 to 1850 there was a rising. Of course it failed. The Irish were physically weakened. And anyway, there would have been little chance of success because there were more British soldiers in Ireland than all of India.

However, during this period the Fenian movement began. It's goal was Irish independence, and tellingly it was named for a group of noble heroes in Irish mythology.

The modern Fenians were also unswerving in their goals. This dedication gave them superhuman, heroic strength.

The Fenians were greatly feared by the Queen and nobles in England. And feared too, by their lackeys and treacherous stooges in Ireland.

Despite struggling to protect Ireland from another gruesome famine, bishops condemned the Fenians. But they wouldn't bow to this nonsense, and replied, "The bishops and priests who do the work of the enemy may be bad

politicians and worse Irishmen."

This book is about these modern heroes. Vividly illustrated, the research is careful and thorough.

Mercier Press and DuFour editions. info@dufoureditions.com.

#### The Famine Began a Whirlwind That Endures to Today

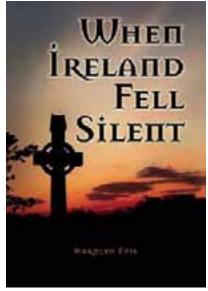
When Ireland Fell Silent personalizes the Great Famine by relating the story of fictional Liam Reilly of County

These are excerpts author Harolyn Enis uses to put the famine into historical context.

"The all powerful English landlord in Ireland could act in any manner toward a tenant without fear of penalty. He could increase rent at anytime and evict tenants at will.

This relationship between landlord and tenant existed well past the years of The Famine and changed very slowly."

1600's and 1700's, "The English tried to stamp out Irish culture by outlawing traditions, dance and music. But, the Irish kept much of their rich cultural heritage alive with an indomitable spirit that refused to succumb."



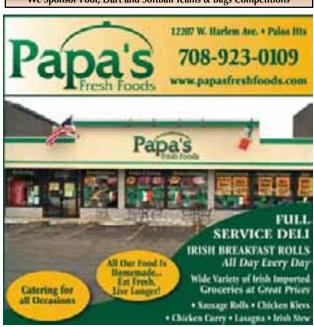
Rose Rock Publishers, rose. rock.pub@att.net. Available at With the Penal Codes of the Amazon, and Barnes and Noble.











#### The Irish Connection

Continued from Page 7...

tradition and Irish heritage alive. What better way to feel like I was back in Dublin than to enjoy two great meals at Irish family-owned gastropubs.

So, for all those friends of mine who think Irish food is just potatoes, cabbage and the occasional corned beef sandwich on St. Paddy's day, here are two Irish restaurants which would make Mr. Peter O'Toole proud. Oh and, Mr. O'Toole, they pour a nice Guinness too!

Colleen Kelly can be reached by email through Travel Film Productions at info@travelfilmproductions.com (Please reference Irish American News.)

Looking for something Irish to do in the

#### month of October?

If the weather is nice, The Gage has fantastic outdoor seating with a view of Millennium Park and of course, it's always warm and cozy inside. For more information, contact The Gage at 24 S. Michigan in Chicago. www.thegagechicago.com or for reservations 312-372-4243.

McGonigal's Pub has live music every Friday and Saturday night. Located at 105 S. Cook Street in Barrington, IL, they can be reached through their website at www.mcgonigalspub.com or by phone at 847-277-7400.

Friday, October 21, 2011 is McToberfest at the Irish American Heritage Center.

www.irish-american.org or 773-282-7035.

#### What A Difference A Week Makes! Notre Dame Rebounds... Squashes Spartans Bv Coleman Clarke

Notre Dame defensive back Robert Blanton, in reclaim their home field number 12 jersey, intercepted the ball to thwart the Spartan drive

In what was a decisive win against Michigan State with a final score of 31-13, Notre Dame dominated; proving themselves capable of competing with the top teams in the country -despite the fact that they should have won by an even greater margin.

This victory was indeed sweet redemption after two devastating losses to teams to inferior talent. In their season opener against South Florida, it took only one quarter for Irish fans to see their high hopes dashed after running back Jonas Gray fumbled the ball inside the South Florida's 5 yard line after a promising 79 yard drive. After that costly turnover, the Irish never recovered and turned the ball over four more times.

Then following the loss to South Florida, in their second game in the season, Notre Dame strutted into Michigan stadium needing a win. Instead they squandered a 17 point lead in the fourth quarter losing the game when Michigan's Denard Robinson stunned ND by throwing a 16-yard touchdown pass to Roy Roundtree with 2 seconds left lifting the Wolverines to a 35-31 win over ND.

Rather than go for the safe field goal attempt which would have put the game into overtime, Brady Hoke, the new Michigan coach, gave his quarterback Denard Robinson, the go-ahead to throw the ball—a gamble that snatched victory from Notre Dame and handed it to the Wolverines.

Despite having dominated in the first half against an undermanned Michigan team, Notre Dame caved in as the Wolverines made a fierce, third quarter try for a comeback. Beset with turnovers for the second straight week, Notre Dame made costly blunders that proved to be fatal.

Notre Dame's loss to Michigan, their first third straight loss to the Wolverines since 1908, was particularly hard to swallow because ND has more talent than the undermanned and outclassed Wolverines.

Then came this sweet victory against 15th ranked Michigan State Spartans, the third game into the season. The Irish needed a signature win against a ranked opponent if they have any hopes of a BCS Bowl invite. They also needed to advantage against a team that had won six straight games in Notre Dame Stadium prior to losing in 2009.



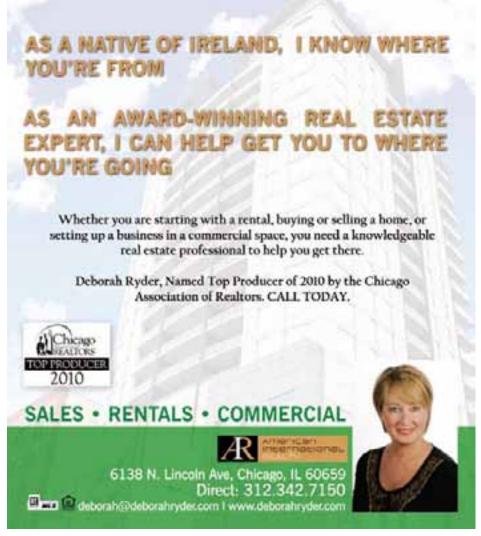
Notre Dame started off strong against the Spartans and actually should have put the game away midway through the third quarter. However, their offense became somewhat conservative and kept the Spartans within striking distance; although the game was never really in doubt in the second half. Irish quarterback Tommy Rees was efficient and decisive running the offense but did throw an interception when he locked in on an Irish receiver in the first quarter. However he also managed to shred the Spartans single man coverage on Irish wide receivers TJ Jones and Michael Floyd. The Irish running backs Cierre Wood and Jonas Gray, tallied 126 yards rushing, while the prolific rushing attack of the Spartans was held to a paltry 53 total yards rushing.

The Irish defense was relentless in their pursuit of Spartan quarterback Kirk Cousins, who is going to have nightmares about Notre Dame Freshman Aaron Lynch, who sacked him once and hurried him into many rushed passes. Lynch, only a freshman, was dominant in this game and collapsed the pocket, wreaking havoc on the Michigan State offensive line.

Another bright spot for the Irish was true freshman George Atkinson, who electrified the crowd with a spectacular 89 yard kickoff return-- the first freshman to return a punt since Raghib "Rocket" Ismael in 1988. The Irish needed this game like as shot of adrenalin for the rest of the season.

They now face the Pittsburgh Panthers at Pittsburgh followed by the in- state rival Purdue Boilermakers, always a pesky opponent. They need to continue moving the ball against these lesser foes, particularly the Boilermakers, who are in a rebuilding mode. These next two games will determine the course of the Irish season. Then again, every game from here on out is a must win if the Irish hope to secure a BCS bowl invite.

Strap on your seatbelts and get ready for what promises to be an exhilarating ride.







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#### Tim Carey: The New-Old Face of Gambling in Illinois

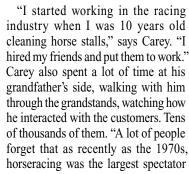
By Dakota Shultz

There is an aphorism by the Irish tracks, lottery, casinos, we have it all." sport in the nation. We had upwards poet and playwright Oscar Wilde that "a cynic is one who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing." And so it goes with the business of politics and the politics of the gambling business in Illinois. To wit: critics of gambling expansion have an expansive (exhaustive?) list of why Governor Quinn should veto the new casino bill passed with bipartisan support by the Illinois legislature last spring. The mob will take over. Families will go bankrupt. The market is saturated. Some suburbs and Chi-(most!) politicians have taken money from gambling businesses (the largest contributions coming from casinos... that opposed the bill). What exactly is the value, if any, in expanding gambling, demand the critics?

Enter Tim Carey, 4th generation president and general manager of Hawthorne Race Course, the 2nd oldest family-owned race track in the nation and the longest running legal gambling business in the history of Illinois. "Everyone is acting like we haven't been here before, like we're in some uncharted waters of public policy, but the plain truth is that gambling has been legal in Illinois for a century. Race

Hawthorne, along with the rest of the of 40,000 people here every day. The

racing industry, has lobbied intensely for years for the addition of slot machines at tracks, which would be permitted in the current legislation. The bill also calls for new casinos in Rockford, Danville, Park City, the south cago. If signed by the Governor, Tim Carey would thusly become the new-old face of gambling in





Tim Carey

world stopped to

watch Secretariat run." But a lot can happen in 40 years. The lottery was

legalized. Numbers players could get in the game at their local grocery store. Then off-track betting and simulcast wagering were legalized. Now dedicated horseplayers could bet races from around the world without

leaving the neighborhood. And then, of course, came riverboat casino-style gaming. Like retail industries all across the nation, gambling was becoming more diversified, more commercial and more wholesale. Racing's slice of the proverbial gambling pie was getting smaller.

"I don't know what my grandfather would think of the industry now," says Carey. "You can bet online. You can watch races from any track on DirectTV

from the comfort of your home, or right on your phone. The very model of the racing business has changed." That traditional model is roughly this: bigger purses attract more horses; fuller fields generate more betting; and more betting funds bigger purses. With the rise of race track casinos, the cycle as been super-charged with purses supplemented by slot machines. "But I do know this: he would say success depends on creating jobs and customers."

So about that value? Economic forecasts vary (as they do in all industries) for what the impact of gambling expansion in Illinois will be. What is sure is that Illinoisans spend \$1 Billion annually gambling in northwest Indiana and Wisconsin. That's money that legislators (all of them) want spent here instead. What's also sure is that to build and operate five new casinos you'll need a lot of new workers (thousands of them). And that too is something that legislators (all of them) want. For racing, what's sure, what's proven in other states, is that slot machines at race tracks will keep horsemen (and their farms and their businesses) in Illinois.

But the costs, the critics bellow! Statistically, the fears about crime, divorce, etc. just don't bear out. Consider Joliet, IL. Home to two (gasp!) casinos and yet crime in every category has gone

down during the last 20 years. Illinois, New York and New Jersey have some of the lowest divorce rates in the nation in spite of having the 2nd and 3rd largest casino markets. "I think my favorite criticism is that the gambling bill was designed to intentionally weaken regulation so that the mob can get in," quips Carey. "My family has had this business for 100 years, regulated and licensed by the state. We're about to embark on the next 100 years with slot machines. Why in the world would I want the mob to be a part of that? Why would I want the mob to be a part of my competitors' business? It's totally illogical. It's cynicism gone haywire."

October and November will be telling months for the future of gambling in Illinois. Carey for one is confident. Politics is a fast-paced game, with often really high-stakes and very hard to understand rules. But I look at gambling expansion this way: there need not be any losers. You have private businesses waiving their arms saying we'll create jobs, we'll invest in Illinois. The bill has broad support in the public and business and labor sectors. Everyone can claim a win here and that's the truth."

Apropos another Wilde aphorism: "the pure and simple truth is rarely pure and never simple." Your move Governor.





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**I**(**I**(**I**) 32 "WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN GREEN!" Irish American News October 2011

# **Healy Law**

#### Martin J. Healy, Jr.

Senior Partner





## Illinois Makes Important Changes To The Workers' Compensation Act - Part II

This is Part II on the recent changes to the Workers' Compensation Act. This month, we will focus on what effect these changes will have, on a practical level for the injured worker. This column will also respond to legal questions relating to workers' compensation and personal injury that are sent to us.

The Healy Law Firm is compromised of eight trial attorneys, two of whom are from Ireland. We are located at 111 West Washington Street, Suite 1425, Chicago, Illinois 60602 (800-922-4500 or 312-977-0100). The firm concentrates in the representation of injured victims of all types of accidents including auto, trucking, aviation, products liability, construction, medical malpractice and workers' compensation.

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

Last month's column focused on important changes to the Illinois Workers' Compensation Act. In this follow-up we are going to take a closer look at the changes and show how they may potentially affect injured workers.

Wellspring

Personal Care

#### **How Arbitrators Are Assigned To Hear Cases**

The recent amendments included a basic change to how arbitrators are assigned to hear cases. In the past in cases outside of Cook County, an arbitrator was assigned to a certain location and all cases with injuries which occurred in that geographic area would be as-

there will be three arbitrators in each larger region. All cases including those with emergency petitions will be initially assigned among that region's three arbitrators. From a practical standpoint, because the arbitrators will now be rotated within each larger region, an injured worker with an emergency hearing may have to travel to another hearing site within the region to appear before his assigned arbitrator. In regions outside of Cook County, the change may require the injured worker to travel hundreds of miles to have their case heard on an emergency basis. The emergency usually involves injured workers who have their case denied and are not receiving benefits.

#### Limitation Of Choice Of Doctor

Under the new Act, the injured worker is required to see a doctor on the employer's PPO list as long as the employer has provided that list to the worker. If the worker signed to that arbitrator. Under the amendments, does not wish to see a doctor from the



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list provided, the worker must advise the employer in writing. Any doctors they see after that will be limited to their first choice of doctor and any additional doctor must be in the chain of referral. For example, a worker gets injured on-the-job. He is provided the PPO list by the employer. He advises the employer in writing that he does not wish to see any doctor on that list. At that point, the injured worker chooses his own doctor. The injured worker is now limited to that doctor and any other doctor to whom he is referred by the original doctor. Previously the worker could seek a second opinion if he had some concerns about recommendation for treatment by the original doctor.

#### Restrictions On Wage Loss Compensation

Another significant change under the Act is a restriction on wage loss differential cases. Under the prior Act, an injured worker who could no longer perform his/ her job due to a work related injury, was entitled to receive two thirds of the difference in wages between what is paid in his new current restrictive position and what was paid in his former position. For example, under the old Act, a carpenter who could no longer earn a union wage of \$37.00 per hour and is now limited to working in the Home Depot for \$12.00 an hour could recover two thirds of the difference tax free for life if the condition continued. Under the new Act, that injured worker will

> receive this compensation only until the age of 67 or five years from the final date of any award if the worker is 63 or older. This will limit the injured worker who wishes to continue to work into the later years.

#### Limitations On **Hand Injuries**

There are now limitations on hand injury and carpel tunnel cases. In most instances, the maximum of recovery on the carpel tunnel case will be 15% loss of the use of the hand unless there is clear and convincing evidence that the injured worker

has suffered a more serious injury. This will adversely affect and limit the recovery of workers who engage in repetitive activities involving the wrist and hand such as machinists, factory workers, secretaries, computer operators and receptionists. If the injured worker has sustained a greater injury, a higher level of proof, "clear and convincing" will be required.

#### **AMA Guidelines**

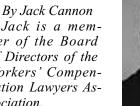
One final change to the Workers' Compensation Act is the use of AMA guidelines. Under AMA guidelines, a physician must assess a percentage loss of use of the injured body part when releasing the injured worker. This was previously prohibited under the Act as it was felt that assessing a percentage loss of use was invading the province of the arbitrator assigned to hear the case. It is our understanding from speaking to practitioners in States already employing AMA guidelines that the AMA guidelines greatly limit the recovery of the injured

Under the new Act, the AMA guideline is one factor that the arbitrator is required to consider. The arbitrator can also consider the age, the nature of the injury, and the type of profession the injured worker engages in as it pertains to their body part. For example, a knee surgery to an insurance executive or banker may not be as inhibiting in the performance of their work activities as that of a cement finisher who is required to be on his or her knees for many hours a day.

#### Conclusion

The new Act is, in no way, considered by any experienced practitioner to be worker friendly. The "reforms" as it was called focused exclusively on limiting workers' rights without focusing on inequities in the system. For example, an employer who wishes to appeal an award against them can file an appeal with the Commission and the interest rate which must be paid on the reward at the current time is less than a 1%. In effect, this allows the employer, or in reality its insurance company, to tie up the case for months or years while the injured worker is sitting at home with no benefits and no money coming in. There is no financial incentive for the employer to settle the case in a timely fashion. This exacerbates the situation for the injured workers at the time the workers are most vulnerable, i.e., when they are hurt. We will continue to keep you updated as to any changes and proposed amendments as the main players in this alleged reform have promised to revisit these issues and ask for new amendments in

Jack is a member of the Board of Directors of the Workers' Compensation Lawyers Association.





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#### The Stone Hearth Staged Reading Series

a Sunday brunch/play offering presented by the IAHC to celebrate the Irish one act play, opened to an overflow crowd on Sunday, September 25. *Lovers (Part Two – Losers)* by Brian Friel, was presented in the Fifth Province Pub before an audience of over 130. It was the first time a theatrical production of this scale had ever been presented in the pub.

Writer/Producer Frank Mahon (The Quiet Man Tales) and professional actress Brigid Duffy, both members of the Heritage Center, volved with professional theatre, and patterned american.org.

the reading series after the Bewley's Café Theatre in Dublin. The Stone Hearth patrons were treated to a full Irish brunch and entertained by the Academy of Irish Music before the 1pm curtain in the pub area.

An all-Equity cast, featuring Joseph Bowen, Brigid Duffy, Caitlin Hart and

The Stone Hearth Staged Reading Series, Kendall Zwillman, under the direction of Charles Gerace, brought one of Friel's early hits to life in a venue where patrons are more accustomed to hearing Clancy Brothers tunes than great Irish drama. But the overwhelming audience approval seems to indicate that the Clancy Brothers will have to share the venue with the likes of Brian Friel, Sean O'Casey and J.M. Synge in the future.

> The Stone Hearth series will present two more plays, A View From The Obelisk by Hugh Leonard, on Oct. 16, and Bedtime





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This modern 'anytime' dish has its inspiration in Irish traditional cooking and is lovely on its own, or with a slice of baked ham or bacon if you have any leftover. (Alternatively, chop up the ham or bacon and add to the colcannon mixture before shaping into patties.) The hollandaise sauce is optional; traditionally the egg yolk (and a good nut of butter) would be enough to moisten the potato.

Remove with a slot-

ted spoon and drain

well on kitchen pa-

per, trimming away

To make the hol-

Place the vinegar

#### **Colcannon Cakes** with Poached Eggs & Hollandaise

Serves 4

450g/l lb. potatoes, peeled 40g/1-1/2 oz. butter

3 scallions, trimmed and finely chopped

50g/2 oz. Savoy cabbage leaves, any ragged edges. shredded

A little salt and cracked, or landaise sauce: coarsely ground, black pepper

A little plain flour, for dusting Oil, for frying

1 tbsp. cider vinegar (option-

4 large eggs, preferably free range

For the hollandaise sauce (optional):

2 tsp. white wine or tarragon vinegar; 2 large egg yolks; 100g/4 oz. unsalted butter

#### To make the colcannon cakes:

Cook the potatoes in a covered pan of boiling salted water for 15-20 minutes until tender.

Meanwhile, over high heat, heat a knob of the butter and one tablespoon of water in a heavy-based pan with a lid. When the butter has melted and formed an emulsion, add the scallions and cabbage with a pinch of salt. Cover, shake vigorously and cook over high heat for 1 minute. Shake the pan again and cook for another minute, then season with pepper.

Drain the potatoes and mash until smooth, then beat in the remaining butter. Fold in the cabbage mixture. Shape the mixture into four balls, dust with flour and press into neat patties.

Heat a thin film of oil in a heavybased frying pan and add the patties, then cook for 3-4 minutes on each side until golden brown.

#### To poach the eggs:

Bring a shallow pan of water to the boil. Add the vinegar, if using, and season with salt and keep at a very gentle simmer. Break the eggs into the water and simmer for 3-4 minutes until just cooked but still soft on the inside.

foam. With the food processor running at medium speed, pour in the melted butter in a thin, steady stream through the feeder tube. Continue to blend for another 5 seconds, then pour back into the pan but do not return to the heat. Stir gently for another minute, allowing the heat from the pan to finish thickening the sauce. Season to taste with salt.

#### To serve:

Place a colcannon cake on each warmed plate and place a poached egg on top of each one. Spoon over the hollandaise sauce and add a grinding of black pepper.



## and egg yolks in a food processor with a pinch of salt. Blend until just combined. Gently heat the butter in a heavy-based pan until melted and just beginning to

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## Saint Patrick **High School** Class Reunions

Saint Patrick High School Alumni who graduated during years ending in "1" or "6" (from 1966 to 2006) are invited to a

reunion celebration at the school on Sat., October 15th. The evening will begin with cock-

tails at 5pm. Register online at stpatrick.org or by calling Marybeth Nowak, 773-282-8844 ext. 268 or mnowak@stpatrick.org. The cost is \$55 per person.

# A Word with Msgr. Boland

Continued from Page 27...

teers, donors, a coalition of organizations, and restaurants from all over the Chicago area have been the key to 'feeding our hungry neighbors" through the Supper Program. Major holidays are well-staffed by volunteers. Some are employees from local restaurants that are closed for the day, but who want to experience the spirit of the season by helping others! Well-organized, overseen by a committee of Catholic Charities staff, and fueled by a fantastic spirit of charity from everyone involved, the evening suppers at Catholic Charities feed bodies and souls, creating health, hope and human dignity.

To learn more about Catholic Charities or to volunteer, please visit www. catholiccharities.net.





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dusty streets of Port au Prince in Haiti

# Raised on Songs and Stories **Shay Clarke**



#### Michael Londra's Beyond Celtic

since his 2006 album Celt. His awe- Irish singers of our time" and he has some tenor voice has been described achieved international acclaim for his as moving, uplifting and exhilarating; live shows on every continent, but what his style has been called modern, tra- I can tell you is that he is just as much at

I have been a fan of Michael's voice He is considered "one of the greatest ditional, Celtic and classical crossover. home singing with the children on the or in Simon Lamberts Pub in Wexford as he is gracing the stages of some of the world's greatest concert halls. There is a lot more to this Prince of Wexford than a beautiful voice. Michael describes himself as a

'self employed wandering minstrel" and "a complete tinker" and if you follow his adventures on Twitter or Facebook you will know exactly what I mean—his energy is boundless and even though he calls Chicago his home and he lives the "Life of Reilly," he is certainly one of the hardest working entertainers I have ever come across, balancing projects and performances with apparent ease as Michael is one of the most relaxed people that I have ever met.



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family owned and operated www.celtichomeandhearth.com Celtic project was recorded live for PBS at the renowned California Theater in San Bernardino, California on March



18th of this year after a years preparation and has produced a CD and DVD due for release on October 11th. The show has aired over 200 times across the US this summer on PBS nationwide and showcases Michael at his best, he is joined by Celtic super group De Danann, featuring Irish legend Frankie Gavin and the internationally renowned Ruth and Joyce O'Leary of Sephira. Add in some world-class Irish dancers and a 16-piece orchestra and the production sensibilities of Steve Skinner and you have a show that rocks.

Michael says, "I am a tenor and a folk singer. Part classical crossover, part pop and I've picked these guest artists because I knew what they could bring to this performance. They are musical heroes and major influences on me." He describes the night as the best night of his life and fair play to him as he brought it off in spectacular fashion. Contemporary songs like "Brand New World," "All My Life," and my favorite, "The Road Not Taken" are balanced by Irish classics "Black is the Color" and "Danny Boy" and the album literally abounds with favorites.

Frankie Gavin's De Danann gives us "My Irish Molly," "Sweet 16" and they

knock it out of the park with a rollicking set "Wild Irishmen."

Ruth and Joyce O'Leary of Sephira are nothing short of brilliant on "Miserlou" and as I listen to the album for the 6th time since receiving it last night, I am finding more favorites as Michael sings "The Flower of Magherally" and "Star of Cartagena." There are 18 gems on this must have album that sparkles from the first note to the final beautiful rendition of "How Are Things in Glocca Morra."

Michael Londra will be airing his amazing new show throughout the US in the fall of this year and in the spring of 2012 including a special December January run at San Francisco's Marine Memorial Theatre entitled Celtic Yuletide. The run will be marked by a re-release of Michael's Christmas CD/ DVD Beyond the Star.

Michael is the creator of Radiocelt, one of the top ten international radio stations, as well as producer and star of the touring show Celtic Fire. In addition to his musical career, Michael Londra finds the time to represent Concern Worldwide as an ambassador for this Irish based global relief organization, using his performances to bring greater awareness to hunger and poverty in Haiti.

Michael's YouTube version of 'Danny Boy" has amassed nearly 5 million views and you should check out his website to learn more about this remarkable Irish Tenor. There are tour dates, videos and even some music there, but buy the album Beyond Celtic and the DVD will make a great Christmas gift.

Congratulations Michael and all concerned in the making of Beyond Celtic. It is a credit to you all.

Michael Londra's Beyond Celtic is available October 11th on the Razor & Tie record label.



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how can we contribute to this publication? As commercial real estate brokers, our business impacts your "bottom line" and as fellow Irishmen (well half of us at least!), we'd like to support each other. Many people do not realize that often times your real estate, whether you own or lease space, accounts for the second largest debit on your company's balance sheet, with salaries being first. So... after wining & dining the editors, we found ourselves with a monthly column. Over the next year we'll try to hit upon each element of owning or renting your business space and how to navigate the real estate process. We welcome column suggestions or comments.

Before we get started, we'd like to formally introduce ourselves. Kevin O'Donnell is President and founder of O'Donnell Commercial Real Estate, Inc. In addition to the obvious Irish name, Kevin has the stereotypical personality (outgoing, social, and fun-loving)... thus a "shoe-in" for his sales career. He has spent the past 25 years in commercial real estate throughout the Chicagoland area, both with national firms and, of course, his own most recently. He resides in the western suburbs with his wife and two kids, where he is heavily involved in the community and organizations such as CASA Kane County and the Greater St. Charles Education Foundation.

Susie Farmer is Vice President with O'Donnell Commercial where she focuses on both brokerage services and the firm's marketing. Although she can't claim an Irish heritage, the freckles on her face are often mistaken for the map of Ireland... and of course she celebrates with the best of them on March 17. She recently became a mom and spends most of her free time doting on her first born. She resides in the south suburbs with her husband and son, and is also actively involved in the community.

With this inaugural article we'd like to start with the basics. But before we possibly bore you completely, we'd like to give you a look at what is to come from this column and how it can truly affect your business. Throughout the upcoming months we'll touch on things like furnishing your office space in a cost effective manner, the appropriate timeline for a custom build out, how to find small office space outside the home for a more productive work environment, and even your "real estate" on the web (aka: search engine optimization and social media marketing). But for now, it's back to business...

Commercial real estate is the selling, purchasing, renting, or

leasing of office, industrial, retail, medical, or investment spaces/buildings. Our firm solely practices commercial transactions, rather than offering residential services as well. We view these industries as completely separate entities and in order to truly master the commercial market, we place all our efforts and knowledge towards this industry.

Our main focus is representing business After frequent reading of IAN, we began to think to ourselves... owners and managers in the purchase or lease of commercial real estate space... also known as tenant representation. Here is a brief run-down of questions we most commonly get:

#### What is tenant representation?

Most simply put, tenant representation is a *FREE* service for buyers or renters looking for office, medical, industrial, retail or land sites. Tenant representation is when a buyer or tenant (renter) engages a commercial real estate broker to exclusively *locate*, re- Farmer President, Vice President, susie@odcre.com. search, analyze, and negotiate commercial space for them.

#### How is this service FREE?

Similarly to residential real estate, when looking for a home there is no fee paid to the Realtor by the prospect homeowner. When a house is found, the fee is paid by the current homeowner. This is true for commercial tenant representation; the current landlord or owner pays the fee. Therefore there is NO fee to the buyer or tenant.

Why should my business use a tenant representation ser-

The most important reason to enlist a commercial real estate broker is so that you (the buyer or tenant) have a knowledgeable advocate in your corner, whose top goal is to get you the best site at the most advantageous price and terms. Most of the time, commercial properties are represented by an agent who works for the owner (just like a Realtor would list a house). This person's goal is to get the best deal for the owner, so they most likely will not have your priorities in mind. However, when you have your own broker, this person will be able to represent you and what is most important to you.

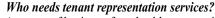
The second reason to use a commercial real estate broker is the fact this person is informed, not only about the industry but also the present market. Their sole job is keep abreast of current *market trends* (things like "going rates" and "comparable purchase prices"). The commercial real estate industry can seem like another language full of "nets, grosses, CAMs, TI's" and other odd terminology. A commercial real estate broker will guide you through the entire purchase or lease process with full confidence.

Finally, the process of purchasing or renting/leasing space can be time and energy consuming. It shouldn't be your job to use your time or energy on this process, as you should put that into your own occupation. By using a commercial real estate broker, you aren't taking up yours or your staff's valuable resources learning the process.

October 8 @10pm

Music





Any type of business, from healthcare practices to manufacturing plants and attorneys to charitable organizations, that is looking to rent or purchase new space, renew their current lease, or renegotiate their current lease terms should use tenant representation.

#### When should tenant representation services be enlisted?

As soon as a business starts to think of leasing or buying, they should procure the *FREE* help of a commercial real estate broker. Ideally, this time should be four to twelve months before your current lease expires/renews depending on your situation.

We hope that you'll meet us right here next month where we'll start diving into various topics of the industry in order to provide useful information for your business. In the meantime, you can find us on Facebook under ODCRE, or check out our blog on www.odcre.com.

Kevin J. O'Donnell, President, kevin@odcre.com; Susan N.



Congratulations to Mary Kate Cooney, daughter of Marty and Hiedemarie Cooney of Cooney's Funeral Home, who married Mike Lydon of Tourmakeady Co. Mayo on September 23, 2011 at St. Andrew Church.

#### Online This Month

Due to the large quantity of columns this month and the lack of extra space a few columns will be online only.

#### Horoscopes

They will be back next month for your reading pleasure!

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# For The Republic



#### Chris Fogarty

"WHEN PLUNDER becomes a way of life for a group of men living in society, they create for themselves, in the course of time, a legal system that authorizes it and a moral code that glorifies it."—Frederic Bastiat, (1801and author.

across America cannot all be blamed on the pols

**Example 1:** At the first Repub debate the greatest applause, with

cheering, was not for an answer, but for Brian William's question to presidential Candidate Perry: "As Governor of Texas you have presided over 234 executions, more than any governor of modern times. 1850) French economist, statesman, Have you..." DROWNED OUT BY SPONTANEOUS APPLAUSE AND AMERICA HAS CHANGED. CHEERS FROM THE AUDIENCE. The new cruelty revealing itself "Have you struggled to sleep at night with the idea that any one of those might have been innocent?" Perry: "No sir, I've never struggled with that at all." When Perry went on to

refer to "ultimate justice" he got the night's loudest applause for an answer. This debate was held at the Reagan Library in Simi Valley, California, the community that exonerated the policemen filmed clubbing Rodney King. Excepting a few ghouls who've always congregated outside prisons to celebrate executions, America never used to celebrate them. Now it does, and to be politically-viable to the approximately half of America that votes Republican, aspiring candidates must be stridently pro-execution.

Example 2: At the second Repub debate Ron Paul got the night's greatest applause by giving the impression that a medically-uninsured 30-yearold man who falls ill should be denied life-saving treatment. In fact, Paul's Ayn Randian reply contradicts his actual decency as a medical doctor who never turns away needy persons. He'd better keep his decency a secret. The mob's spontaneous applause and shouted "YES"s was for DENYING life-saving help to a fellow human being; not for any decency.

Example 3: Social Security is under attack. Though actuarially-sound and requiring but minor future adjustments all Repub candidates want to

20s and 30s Repubs had me convinced that SS wouldn't exist when I'd retire so I didn't contribute to my SS account during my years as an employer. Consequently, I now receive less. Despite its 76 years of stellar performance Perry calls it "a Ponzi scheme." Bush tried to hand SS moneys to Wall Street just prior to the 2008 Crash that would have vaporized it. Repub presidential candidates want to end SS as we know it while many Dems, including Obama, express willingness to accommodate the Repubs.

Example 4: Americans traditionally opposed torture, on principle, and led creation of the Geneva Conventions against Torture. Water-boarding is torture; our government has executed Japanese who water-boarded prisoners. The Red Cross has just found that most American teenagers approve of water-boarding or sleep deprivation as sometimes acceptable. Most also approved of killing captured enemies where the enemy had killed Americans. Forty-one percent say it is permissible for American troops to be tortured overseas. Younger people polled significantly more in favor of torture than older adults.

Example 5: With U.S income

1929 and the total federal tax burden at its lowest since 1951 the drumbeats are louder for tax reductions for the wealthiest that would widen the rich/ poor gulf. Nevertheless, five Repub candidates are promoting a capital gains tax rate of zero; a \$trillion gift to the super-rich. They insist that raising the current 15% capital gains tax rate and 35% top individual tax rate would crash the economy. They don't know history: in the Eisenhower era of prosperity (when I first entered business) the top tax rate was 92% (to pay for WW2 and Korea). Reagan was the first President to wage war without paying for it via taxes. He thus ballooned the national debt by a record amount. All subsequent presidents, especially the Republican ones, have followed Reagan's destructive policy. Billionaire investor Warren Buffett recently wrote in an op-ed, "I have worked with investors for 60 years and I have

October 2011

WHAT TO DO: Believe in the fundamental sanity of Americans; the nation will right itself. The impending suffering it has wrought, and the struggle to cope, will impose their own reality. The tea-party-deceived poor won't continue suicidally demanding an end to Medicare and SS. The coming valley of suffering will make torture and unprovoked wars much less desirable. The cruelty will abate.

yet to see anyone - not even when

capital gains rates were 39.9 percent in

1976-77 — shy away from a sensible

investment because of the tax rate on

the potential gain."

**HUNGER-STRIKE COMMEM-ORATION,** its 30th anniversary, will be commemorated by those who respect the Ten and their goal of Irish freedom from Britain. It's at the Irish Legend restaurant, 8961 So. Archer Ave, at 7 P.M. October 8th. The tragic past recurs: Maghaberry prison abuse by the Brit jailers has caused republicans to resume the Dirty Protest and the possibility of a Hunger-Strike. Many prisoners are ready and willing volunteers. Torture and other crimes can make life too painful to live, and the Brits in Ireland just cannot resist being themselves when in control.

**€BILLIONS** of Ireland's petroleum wealth given to multinationals by crooked pols. See www.shelltosea. com.

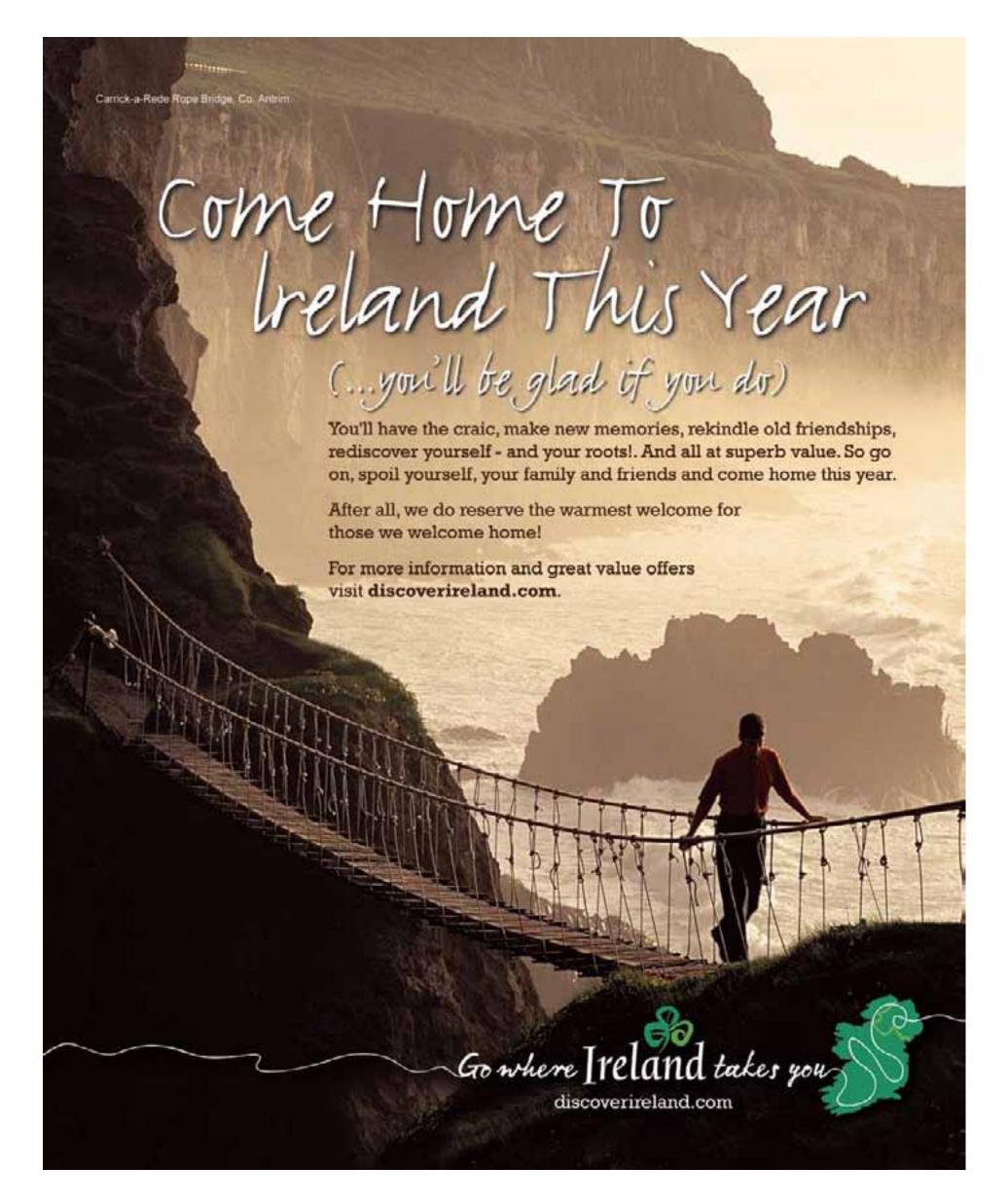
WHICH BRIT REG'T starved your relatives? See www.irishholo-

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

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