

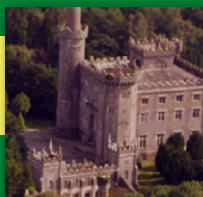
# THE DESERT SHAMROCK

January - February 2014

Arizona's Original Irish Newspaper

• Vol. 25, No. 1 • \$3.00

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**ONLINE  
EDITION****Digital  
Shamrock**
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## Mary McLaughlin All Weekend

By Vicki Champion

Mary McLaughlin's solo recording career launched in 1991 with *The Daughter of Lir*, produced by international producer Jon Jacobs who had worked on many of the Beatles' projects. The lead track Sealwoman headed off Narada's 1995 *Celtic Voices* which reached #3 in the Billboard charts and introduced Mary to an international audience.

She has released four solo albums and two teaching books, sang the theme song for the PBS special *Lost Liners*, contributed to 13 compilation albums on major labels and had her *Gaelic Christmas* album nominated for the international JPF Indie awards

2012 saw Mary back in the studio recording her new album *Sacred Days, Mythic Ways*, an album which brings together her two passions-the ancient songs of sacred Ireland and songs based on Celtic mythology. In addition, Gourd music released

### MARY MCLAUGHLIN CONCERT

Friday, February 7 at 7:00 pm.

Admission \$15.00 Advance;  
\$20.00 at the door

### MARY MCLAUGHLIN IRISH LANGUAGE WORKSHOP

Saturday, February 8, 2014

10:00 am.

Tuition \$40.00

### MARY MCLAUGHLIN SINGING IN IRISH WORKSHOP

Sunday, February 9, 2014

1:00 pm through 4:30 pm.

Tuition \$30

### Irish Cultural Center

1106 N. Central Avenue  
Phoenix 85004Tickets available at the ICC  
or [www.celticmusicaz.com](http://www.celticmusicaz.com)

a retrospective compilation on iTunes called *The Mary McLaughlin Storybook*, drawing on three of her previous albums.

Mary is known for her ability to arrange traditional Irish material chorally as well as her singing, writing, and teaching abilities. In 2007, she founded a sacred Gaelic Choir *Mary McLaughlin's Cór Ainglí* in Santa Cruz, northern California, where she now lives. Mary solos with the 25-piece choir conducted by Kathleen Loveless and accompanied by a band of Celtic musicians. <http://www.coraingli.com>

Mary initially completed a BA and graduate teaching certificate at London University and has both taught in schools and colleges as well as privately, in the UK and the USA. Having initially trained in vocal technique in England with the acclaimed vocal teacher Frankie

► *McLaughlin page 2*

Liz Dunne and her daughter Grace

## The Celtic Artisan Liz Dunne



By Lynn Herdman-Mascarelli

What talented Dublin lady is here on loan to us for a few years? Liz Dunne, a new presence in the Chandler quilting world, has joined us with her four children and husband, Stephen. Being excited about her craft is a physical thing for Liz. When she speaks of it, her face lights up; she is animated and in love with this newfound experience in her equally strange desert environment far from green and rainy Ireland.

Born in Dublin, Liz was raised with seven siblings. Though she claimed to have no real interest in crafting as a young girl, she watched her mother, an accomplished needle worker in hand embroidery and cross stitch,



making elegant draperies and wall hangings. Skillfully, she incorporated lace into her embroidery pieces, lending even more charm to her handcraft. Though Liz admits her interest in the art of the needle was limited, she would occasionally fuss with her mother's precious sewing machine to make doll clothes and that was the extent of her crafting.

But a gift from the mother of a friend changed all this. Expecting her fourth child, she received a beautiful hand crocheted baby blanket. She was inspired to make something to match it and crafting a baby quilt was the answer. But she knew nothing about the making of such things...so how to accomplish this? She was in the middle of moving far from home and off to the States with her husband on assignment for Intel in their Chandler office. With

► *Artisan page 3*

### THE DESERT SHAMROCK

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"THE DESERT SHAMROCK"

## The Desert Shamrock is Back

It's a very exciting time in life for me as I now assume the role as publisher and managing editor of our Celtic community's beloved media voice. The legacy and traditions that Julie O'Mahar Chiesa has poured into its history, and her sister Maureen O'Mahar Rainbolt before her, have benefited Arizona since 1989. Your support in the transition is immeasurable. New look and more topics of interest coming. Enjoy!

Ann Niemann



# Robert Burns Supper

## Plan to go January 25

By Jackie Carro

The Caledonian Society of Arizona will be celebrating the birth date of Scotland's own national poet, Robert Burns, on Saturday, January 25. New this year, the event will be held at The Westin Kierland at 6902 E. Greenway Parkway in Scottsdale. There is a cocktail reception 6:00-7:00 pm, followed by the program, formal dinner & entertainment from 7:00 pm-10 pm.

Once a year, a special occasion takes place around the world. It's been part of Scottish culture for over 200 years where men and women dress up formally to meet with descendents and lovers of Scotland, for a gastro-literary celebration of the life and works of the poet Robert Burns. It is an event that transcends time, geographical borders, political and religious beliefs, to bring people together in a traditional Scottish feast.

Men are encouraged to wear kilts & jackets, trews, tuxedos, suits or blazer with a tartan tie, while women

don evening dresses with tartan sashes or shawls, tartan skirts with blouse or sweater.

The Caledonian Society is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote Scottish culture through art, education and athletics. Each year the Society grants scholarships to aspiring and professional Highland athletes, musicians and dancers alike during what is their most successful fundraiser of the year: The Arizona Scottish Highland Games & Clan Gathering. Given the athletic component in celebrating the culture, and the desire to reach out in the community as a civic organization for this past half century, this year, the Society has partnered with Special Olympics Arizona Chapter and a portion of the evening's proceeds will benefit the athletes of their organization.

Tickets are \$95.00 per person and are available online at [www.arizonascots.com](http://www.arizonascots.com). For more information, contact Don Finch at 480-252-0152 or [Donfinch.one@gmail.com](mailto:Donfinch.one@gmail.com).



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songs and Highland Dancers  
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and location

## McLaughlin from page 1

Armstrong, Mary formalized her training in 1995 by acquiring a Certificate of Vocal Music Education from Trinity College London. In 2010, she went back to Ireland to study for an MA in Ritual Chant and Song at Limerick University where she specialized in the fairy / mythological songs of Ireland as well as Latin plainchant and the Irish tradition of Keening.

Through 2011 she performed in a theatrical/dance production, *Selkie Tides*, based on the Scottish Selkie legends, conceived and directed by Sharon Took-Zozaya. Mary led a small chorus who performed at the Santa Cruz Fringe Festival in July 2012.

Mary McLaughlin is a singer / songwriter / teacher who is steeped in the Ulster Gaelic song tradition of her native Ireland where she was born and raised. Mary records, performs, and teaches workshops in singing skills, performance technique and Gaelic song and culture. She has toured extensively throughout North America teaching and performing at Celtic / Irish camps, as well as guesting at festivals.

# First Annual Limerick Competition

Hosted by the Phoenix St. Patrick's Day Parade and Faire, what better way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day than by writing an original limerick displaying your sense of humor, showcasing a unique point of view, and honoring the great tradition of Irish poetry. In a culture such as Ireland where so much emphasis is placed on storytelling and socialization, limericks are a great way of relating a memorable little story. And that's what this competition is looking for - a memorable limerick that celebrates Irish heritage on St. Patrick's Day.

All contestants must follow the basic guidelines for a limerick which are that in this mini-poem, the first, second, and fifth lines rhyme, and the third and fourth lines rhyme. Here is an example:

*There once was a student  
named Dwight  
Who slept only three  
hours a night  
He dozed in the classroom  
And snoozed in the bathroom  
Now Dwight's college options  
are slight!*

**St. Patrick's  
Day Parade  
and Irish Faire**

No profanity, vulgarity, or inappropriate content allowed; such limericks may not be approved to be considered under the terms of this contest.

There will be two categories for the winners: 18 and under; and 19 and over. All first, second, and third place winners will present their limericks on-stage at the Phoenix St. Patrick's Day Faire on March 15 and published in the May-June edition of The Desert Shamrock. Both first place winners will receive free admission to the St. Patrick's Day Faire.

Please send all entries to: Maureen Cionci at [cionci@cox.net](mailto:cionci@cox.net). Deadline is February 1. Notification of winners by March 1.

## THE DESERT SHAMROCK

### ARIZONA'S ORIGINAL IRISH NEWSPAPER

Serving the Celtic Community

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## Artisan from page 1

three children in tow, and another on the way, she arrived in Sky Harbor Airport; never knowing the talent inside her would be awakened in the middle of the Sonoran Desert. With her, was the baby blanket, the good woman who made it, not realizing what she had inspired in Liz.

Before she had boarded the plane in Dublin however, Liz had scoured Dublin on a search for the special vintage fabrics she wished to use for the quilt, but bought nothing. Imagine her joy, after arriving here, on discovering **Mulqueen Sewing Centers**, a virtual heaven for Celtic quilters and needle workers, and offering every vintage fabric Liz could ever desire. And even better, she explained, the cost of it all was brilliant...the same fabrics in Dublin would be double in price. Later she would move on to larger projects and make her first full/queen quilt for her daughter; but self-made quilter as she would become, she needed a few tutorials and was eager to learn, attended her first class, Beginner Quilter.

It was already clear that this crafter would quickly establish herself as a quilter, but she knew it

would be through educating herself and getting out there into the quilting scene that this could only be achieved.

In a previous issue, I wrote of another Celtic Artisan, the accomplished long arm quilter, Mary Haines. The long arm quilting machine had caught Liz's attention as well. Here for only four months, she knew what she wanted and studied the process online. Briefly, the long arm is a large machine used to sew together a quilt top, batting, and backing into a completed craft piece. Some are huge ranging from 10 to 14 feet in length (3 metres to 4.25 metres). It consists of an industrial sewing machine, a large table, and rollers on which the fabric layers are placed. Obviously it takes significantly less time than hand quilting or more traditional machine quilting. This is the feature that has made it so popular, but there is debate among quilters and those who claim they would never touch one...it is the traditional nature and value they see in handwork that compels them to hold to their beliefs.

That said...Liz is passionate about what this craft instrument can accomplish, whether it be mid-arm



Liz Dunne at the Rim County Quilt Roundup Show

or long. Her choice was a smaller less expensive machine called a Handi Quilter, the Avante model, since long arms can range from \$10,000-\$40,000, depending on their many features and the computer capabilities in creating countless designs.

Liz spoke extensively about her quilting machine with enthusiasm. It has a central place in her home on the second-floor landing at the top of the stairs. From here she can view her entire house and the children around her, yet still have the space to work her craft. She describes the Handi Quilter as versatile; it is hand guided with a 12 foot frame and gliders; has a stitch regulator and can be moved in a free style manner from edge to edge and back to front. She added this does not mean that one cannot do free motion quilting on a domestic sewing machine if you have the free motion foot attachment. Liz believes anything is possible if one is willing to learn. The Handi Quilter website is literally a school to learn its process. There are Handi Quilter retreats and Handi Quilter Webinars one can attend virtually.

Recently her love of learning brought her to the famous International Quilt Festival Houston; so much is learned at such a unique gathering of like minds. It is here that one of our other featured Celtic Artisans, Kendra Maclean, was inspired to make quilting her business while attending the event with a friend. When I asked what her favorite quilting memory was, she told me of the Rim County Quilt Round Up in Payson, Arizona's pine country where a wide collection of southwestern fabric art was on display. Her joy was made even greater when the quilt she had made for her daughter, Grace, was placed in the exhibit.

It was there Liz met someone who has become one of her quilt idol's, the famous Sharon Shamber, who explains, "I will let my quilts speak for me" and she admits to doing what Liz

is experiencing, "The first year was just a spin of learning and creating a base for future quilts. For a novice, the learning curve is quite steep." Liz understands this; fascinated with Shamber's quilting, she describes her as the best long arm quilter ever, and humbly added, she could "never do what she does...she is amazing!"

Another craft woman who is an inspiration for Liz is Judi Madsen and her Green Fairy Quilts, so delicately executed. Like other devoted quilters, her website offers precuts for others to incorporate into their pieces with delightful names like "jelly rolls, layer cakes, honey combs, honey buns, turnovers and fat quarter bundles, goodness!" She speaks to the business of quilting and marketing and this interests Liz Dunne for her future crafting with fabrics.

She smiled when I asked why she had not taken up the needle and embraced embroidery like her mother. Liz explained her immediate fascination with color and textures, the threads and designs of fabrics placed side by side with each other...for her, the possibilities were endless. It was especially the fabrics that became a passion for Liz, she is particularly drawn to aboriginal and Australian design, native work, indigenous Navajo textiles. She favors fabrics by Moda.

Color is magic for Liz. As a muralist and painter, I was surprised that Liz is particularly inspired by the colorful paintings of certain artists, such as Marc Rothko, an abstract impressionist of Latvian-Jewish descent from Russia. He himself says about painting: "We begin with color!" He employs wide rectangular fields of color and light in his works...and what is more inspiring than that for a quilter? One of his works has "pride of place on a wall in my home," Liz said. "It is simple, but not really."

I asked Liz to recall one of her most difficult experiences on adjusting to life here in Arizona and realized that hers would have been mine in adjusting to Ireland: driving on the wrong side of the road. On one of her first trips to Mulqueens, where she was taking a Baby Quilt class, she quickly learned how to stay to the right and not venture across the solid line, to date, she assures me she is managing nicely.

Finally I asked Liz what her future in quilting might be, what were her hopes and aspirations. She said, "I dream of having my own home-based quilting business when I return to Ireland." How extraordinary that all this began with the gift of a lovely baby blanket and the insight she had to be inspired by such beauty.



# IRISH CULTURAL CENTER



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<p><b>Twice Monthly Ceili</b> Feb 14 &amp; 21, Mar 14 &amp; 21, Apr 11 &amp; 18</p> <p><b>Ceili Workshop</b> Feb 15, June 21, July 19</p> <p><b>February 7</b> Mary McLaughlin Concert</p> <p><b>February 8-9</b> Mary McLaughlin Irish Language Workshops</p> <p><b>February 8</b> Smilin' Irishman Contest</p> <p><b>February 15</b> Arizona Celtic Woman Concert</p> <p><b>February 23</b> Direct From Ireland Full Set in Concert</p>	<p><b>Art Walk</b> 1st Friday of the month 6:00 -10:00 pm Art, Music, Chef Donna Donahue \$10 dinner of the month &amp; Cash Bar March 7, April 4, May 2</p> <p><b>Celtic Crafters</b> 10 am - Call for dates</p>
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# Efforts to Restore Charleville Castle in Tullamore

By Carmelita Lee

Tullamore, Ireland! Chandler, Arizona? Sister cities!

My first excursion to Tullamore was to visit Dudley Stewart, the person trying to save Tullamore's finest monument, Charleville Castle (featured on the home page of the Chandler-Tullamore Sister Cities website). It claims the title of "most haunted castle" in Ireland. Oh, my.

Tullamore sits in the middle of Ireland, an hour's train ride from Dublin. The castle is a short drive from the station. A mile-long lane leads to its entrance, surrounded by 2,000 acres of oak forest, so dense that little light filters through. I wandered through the castle with the Greenes, volunteers at Charleville. I peeked in rooms and down corridors, noting massive doors and windows, winding staircases, turrets and towers, a ballroom (several actually), a dungeon, stained glass windows, and decorative plastered ceiling tiles.

Dudley caught up to me in the throne room, where I chided him that



there were no secret passageways. He grinned, pushed on a panel in the corner and... suddenly... a hidden staircase!

I visited the dry moat around the castle, a defensive structure built as a steep trench which prevents intruders climbing to the top. Only at the moat can one take in the size of the fifty-five room castle, which includes a chapel and stables.

Charleville Castle is an enchanting building, but all is not what it seems. Much of the castle remains in ruins.

Ownership of the castle is a tangled tale. It is managed by the Charleville Castle Heritage Trust, of which Dudley is the trustee. His conservation efforts have been tireless since 1997. The castle was abandoned in 1912 and consequently fell into ruin, including damage to the roof structures in the 1960s (it is rumored to save on property taxes!).

Two-time heavyweight champion Floyd Patterson—that's right, the fa-



mous peek-a-boo boxing champion and Olympic gold medalist from the 50s and 60s—married a Tullamore woman in 1965. He enlisted the help of his family to begin the rescue and rebuilding of Charleville Castle. There has been much legal wrangling about this historic building's fate. Patterson's niece bought the leasehold rights, and she works tirelessly with Dudley to secure funding and help, necessary to keep Charleville "working" and the lights on.

Charleville Castle Heritage Trust depends on volunteers and funds

from diverse donors, be they individuals or corporate entities. The Trust has vowed to stand by "the auld heap" through thick or thin. Dudley wrestles with complications as they arise, but keeps his focus on arresting the rot, retaining the authentic, and restoring the architecture, furnishings and paintings, while protecting the existing building. The Trust offers the castle as a community gathering place for music and merry-making, festivals, and classes, for a source of income. One partaker has been our own Mesa Community College.

I asked Dudley what he thought about Tullamore being sister city to Chandler. He said "It's an honor and a joy." He said if a Chandler citizen comes to visit Charleville, he would be pleased to show them the conservation efforts.

He said, "Saving Charleville is saving not only a bit of Irish cultural and architectural heritage, but it is important that these old buildings keep their character and remain as

► Castle page 10

## Kiss Me I'm Irish Run™ March 15

Westgate Entertainment District in Glendale will host the 4th annual Kiss Me I'm Irish Run, a St. Patty's-themed run/walk set to live Irish music, with beer and chocolate at the end!

There is something for all ages and abilities with a 17k run, 8k run/walk, 4k "four leaf clover" run/walk with lucky four leaf clovers along the course to redeem for prizes, and NEW this year an "Irish k" for the wee lads and lassies. Bring the family! Leashed pets are welcome.

All participants get a great big kiss as they cross the finish line—a big Hershey's Kiss, that is! Plus the owner of McFadden's will treat all participants over 21 to a beer. Register early, the first 2,000 to sign up for the 17k or 8k receive a soft-tech performance hoodie.

Proceeds support Prostate On Site Project and Hope for Hunger Food Bank in Glendale.

The run/walks begin at 7 am. Early discount registration is just \$40 for the 17k/8k or \$30 for the 4k until the end of January 2014. To register or for more information, see [www.irishrunaz.com](http://www.irishrunaz.com) or call 480 609 3978.






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- \* The Arizona Colleen & Rose represents the Arizona Irish community as a spokesperson for the year
- \* Judging is based on poise, personality, communication skills, talent, and pride in being Irish
- \* Winner competes in the 55th Annual Rose of Tralee Regionals Selection in Ireland; if advances to Festival, wins 2nd free trip to compete for world tour
- \* For more information contact [azcolleenandroseprograms@gmail.com](mailto:azcolleenandroseprograms@gmail.com) or visit [roseoftralee.ie/arizonarose](http://roseoftralee.ie/arizonarose)

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Sponsored by the Phoenix St. Patrick's Day Parade and Faire Committee

*All contestants ride in the 2014 Phoenix St. Patrick's Day Parade*



# Arizona Colleen Competes for Global Irish Title

By Ann Niemann

Grand Canyon University senior, Holly Nordquist from Phoenix, is the *2013 Arizona Colleen* (Irish maiden), receiving \$1,000 in scholarships and a free trip to Ireland. She carried her dual title as the *Arizona Rose* to compete at the 54th annual Rose of Tralee International Festival Regionals in Ireland.

## Touring the Emerald Isle

Flying into Shannon this past May, Holly, her mom, aunt and uncle toured Bunratty Castle and Folk Village in County Clare, and met with various shopkeepers in Ennis with ties as Phoenix's Sister City, and were hosted at the Cliffs of Moher. Exploring the Connemara region in County Galway, it was lambing season so they had to be extra careful driving on the winding roads. Kylemore Abbey and Walled Victorian Gardens told the story of romance and tragedy. It was Day 4 without luggage but spirits were high, thoroughly enjoying the grandeur of Ashford Castle, located in County Mayo where Holly's fraternal ancestry hails.

Driving along the Western coast to Dingle in County Kerry, the Peninsula has spectacular views of the ocean and is home to Dáithí Ó Sé, TV personality and Rose of Tralee emcee. The group met friends and family of his, eager to share their stories. Visiting the Blasket Islands Visitor Centre, Holly met Pdraig Keane and his family; his grandparents were some of the last born on the Island before the forced evacuation. The Oceanworld Aquarium dissected a squid with Holly having the opportunity to write her name with the ink pouch's supply. Great fun!

They took a day to drive the Ring of Kerry, stopping at historical sites and interesting places like getting lost and stumbling across Ard na Sidhe Country House that has acres of "secret gardens." Skellig Chocolate Factory is a must-see-and-taste place. Next on to Tullamore, Chandler's Sister City, and hosted there with a tour of the remodeled Tullamore Dew's Visitor Centre (Irish whiskey).

## Rose of Tralee Regionals in Portlaoise

Arriving for the start of the Rose Regionals in Portlaoise, County Laois, there were individual and group interviews, talent rehearsals, civic events and receptions, twinned pub appearances, a vintage car parade, and more. Sightseeing



Holly at Phoenix Desert Botanical Gardens. Photo Ann Niemann

included Emo House and Gardens where John Dawson, the 1st Earl of Portarlington began building it in 1790; and a luncheon provided by the owners of Castle Durrow. Three nights showcased 61 Roses from Ireland's counties and around the world. Holly advanced among nine of 14 Americans, winning a second free trip.

## Holly's Biography

With a full academic scholarship, Holly will be graduating this May with honors receiving a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Theatre and Drama, plus all the prerequisites for Nursing. She has performed in a variety of dramatic and comedic roles including musicals throughout greater Phoenix, as well as television commercials, short films, and a music video. She was a member of



Nearly 2 million TV viewers over two nights for Rose Finals. Photo Kerry's Eye



Holly is the White Witch in the GCU production by Belfast-born C.S. Lewis in *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*, adapted by Joseph Robinette. Show runs February 7-9 and 14-16.

For more information, contact Ethington Theatre's box office at 602-639-8880 or email [ethington@gcu.edu](mailto:ethington@gcu.edu). Tickets selling out quickly.

her state champion Desert Vista High School Speech and Debate Team in Ahwatukee, winning many awards primarily in the categories of competitive acting, including being the only female in the duo finals at the 2010 Harvard Invitational. Her travels have included a trip to Rwanda and Burundi where she spent time volunteering with orphaned children. Holly enjoys singing, playing violin, water and snow skiing, hiking, Turbo kick boxing, and running races like the Disneyland Half Marathon. Her last known Irish-born relative is Patrick Scanlon, born in County Mayo in 1827. Her mom's side is Thomas Trimble, born in County Longford in 1806.

## Advanced to International Rose Festival

In August, Holly joined a total of 32 young women from all over the world to vie for the international title. The Rose Tour began in Dublin and from there included the Titanic Visitor Centre in Belfast, scenic and historical sites in Derry, Galway, Adare Manor, and much more, arriving at the Festival in Tralee, County Kerry on the 16th. Events there included over 1,000 attending the black tie Rose Ball, a day parade, meeting dignitaries, a spectacular night parade with 60,000 in attendance, over 1,600 at the fashion show that featured a number of designers including New York based Kerry native Don O'Neill, individual and group interviews with the judging panel, and public appearances at area landmarks. The once-in-a-lifetime experience culminated with the live televised finals watched by an audience the size of Super Bowl viewers in the United States, roughly 2 million over the two nights. Proud parents are Michael and Ann Niemann. Special thanks to Maureen and Jack with Sullivan's Travels for making B&B arrangements, rental car, sightseeing details, bus schedules, and much more for Holly and her family!

## Texas Rose from Arizona wins 2013 Title

The 2013 international winner is Texas Rose Haley O'Sullivan who received the use of a car during



Featured in Kerry's Eye newspaper in Ireland



# BOOK REVIEWS

Reviewed by Brian Hanrahan

## The Linen Queen

By Patricia Falvey

CENTERSTREET BOOKS 2012

Before Ireland's M1 toll road was completed motorists normally passed through the quaint hamlet of Newry in County Down, one of six Ulster counties partitioned into the United Kingdom in 1921. Offering a blend of old-world Irish charm set against a backdrop of modern European architecture, Newry rests in the shadow of the verdant Mourne Mountains, the highest reach of the Emerald Isle.

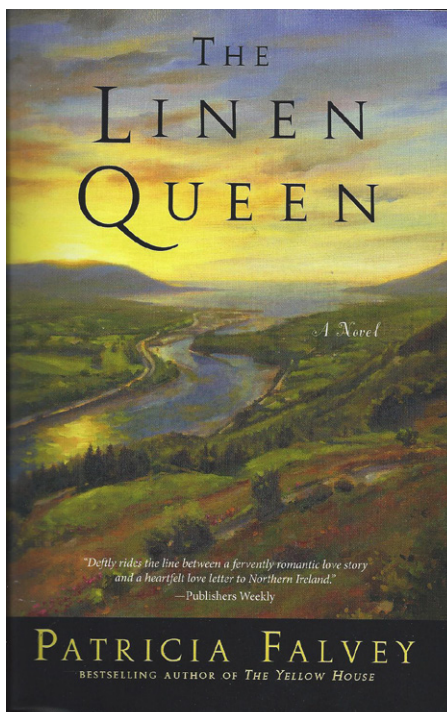
Slicing knife-like between divided Ireland, Falvey's delicate title, *The Linen Queen*, masks an edgy World War II fiction piece set in Newry. In the wartime south, Éire, the Irish Free State, walks a dicey path of neutrality while Northern Ireland, a country whose membership in the British Commonwealth marks it for German bombing strafes, sees citizens living amid blackout conditions on par with Londoners.

It's in Newry in 1941 that readers discover Sheila McGee living a hardscrabble Irish life amid an incendiary Irish family unit consisting of boozy Uncle Kevin, Aunt Kate and a mother who stands ready to remind Sheila that she owes her everything, when in truth Ma's showered her daughter with little beyond life and endless guilt. Ma resents Sheila for being the unwanted but necessary lifeline to subsistence above poor house level. Sheila's Da is long gone, having abandoned wife and child when Sheila was ten.

Feeding a spinning wheel, Sheila spends her workday at Queensbrook Spinning Mill in County Armagh, where her mother toils as a cloth passer checking finished linens for flaws. And it's well that Ma performs checks, because she constantly reminds Sheila of her flaws, both real and imagined.

Queensbrook's female work force toils under primitive conditions, with Sheila spending her workday barefoot awash in linen condensing steam swirling around her ankles. The constant hum of chatter among the workers is at once competitive and bawdy.

When Queensbrook Spinning Mill is chosen to host Northern Ireland's Linen Queen Pageant in 1941, Sheila McGee imagines the possibilities that



the winner's dowry of two hundred pounds might afford. Escape to England is but one for a colleen with that kind of money in her pocket. Sheila wins the crown and money—as evidenced in our book's title—but her life complicates even further.

As war's miasma swirls, Newry becomes a burgh caught between factions, in both fiction and reality. The neutral Free State looms barely a stone's throw distant, but stands accused of running the gamut from appeasement to collusion with Nazi Germany during wartime years.

Note: The darkest of these accusations were largely disproven later. Éire did not re-fuel German U-boats stranded off her coasts, but did imprison both Allied and German airmen captured after bailing out over her skies. Further, 3,600 soldiers from Éire died while fighting for the English army.

Sheila's McGee's plan, her goal, is simple. Find a man with money and escape to England or America, leaving behind a dreary home life and desultory existence at the linen mill.

A local lad, Gavin O'Rourke, is a worthy suitor for Sheila, Ma suggests, but Sheila grouses, "It's not that way between us." And the scent of danger wafts about Gavin and his boat which may be used in smuggling, or worse, republican skullduggery.

Decked out in rustic tiara, a home-made dress with a sash affixed, boasting, "Linen Queen 1941," Sheila's responsibilities find her representing the Ulster linen mills at thrilling events such as the Armagh County Pig Fair.

As wartime skies darken above England, the reach of the Luftwaffe extends to Northern Ireland. German bomber planes headed for Belfast appear over Newry, as citizens turn

***"Falvey's work is historical fiction, but the events surrounding America's use of Ulster as a training base for World War II's invasion of Normandy ring true."***

out the lights and shutter windows. Sheila does her part for civil defense by volunteering to patrol streets, making sure lights in residences are off at night.

Grim wartime conditions halt Linen Queen Pageants in 1942 and 1943. Sheila still retains hold on the title when American soldiers, thousands of Yanks, arrive in 1944 amid preparation and training for a secretive military mission.

Among the American army officers is Joel Solomon, a brooding sort hiding something from his past. But money trumps all, and Solomon has it, to the delight of Sheila McGee.

Falvey's work is historical fiction, but the events surrounding America's use of Ulster as a training base for World War II's invasion of Normandy ring true. To the chagrin of local boys, American GI's arrived in large

numbers bringing chocolates, candy, nylon stockings and money.

They wined and dined the Irish lasses; took them to the pubs and danced. GI's routinely ran afoul of local lads whose jealousy turned explosive.

As quickly as they arrived the American soldiers suddenly disappeared in early June of 1944. When newspaper reports of the huge Allied Normandy invasion hit County Down newsstands, pictures of dead GI's lying on Omaha Beach accompanied the stories, leaving little doubt about the fate of many American soldiers who had trained in Ireland.

Part homespun tribute to Patricia Falvey's County Down birthplace, *The Linen Queen* offers a unique recollection of Ireland's difficult but proud history.

Give Falvey two thumbs up.



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# Irish Tales from Arizona Territory

by Janice Ryan Bryson

## The Puppetmaster

In reading Jan Cleere's book *Outlaw Tales of Arizona*, I came across the story of Irish outlaw Charles P. Stanton, known at The Puppetmaster.

Stanton attended Trinity College in Dublin and studied for the priesthood at Monmouth Monastery in England. He was expelled from Monmouth and departed for America with a bounty of 1,000 pounds on his head. He preferred to be called Lord Stanton as he claimed to be the son of an Irish aristocrat.

Stanton applied for U.S. citizenship in New York City in 1864. It is believed that Stanton was involved with John Slack and Philip Arnold in a diamond hoax in 1872. The two men had salted the Wyoming hills with inferior diamonds and rubies.

Many wealthy people spent millions investing in the fraudulent scheme. No proof exists of Stanton's involvement although it is believed he was involved before heading to Arizona Territory in the early 1870's.

Becoming an assayer and gemologist for the owner of the Vulture Mine near Wickenburg, he continued as an assayer after the mine closed. Stanton often helped himself to some of the gold dust. He settled in Antelope Station, the site of a former rich deposit of gold, that now had farming and ranching as the main source of income to the area.

Charles and Ida Genung, local ranchers, were impressed with Stanton and hired him to tutor their daughters. However, the daughters complained their new teacher was



Stanton's Store

touching them inappropriately and the Genungs were also suspicious of Stanton's many activities.

A post office was established at Antelope Hills and Stanton was elected Postmaster; later accepting the duties of deputy sheriff and justice of the peace. He then renamed the town Stanton although citizens voted six months later to change the name back to Antelope Hills.

Stanton wanted to set up a stagecoach business as he was not doing well with his general store. His two rivals were William Partridge and Yaqui Wilson who ran stage stops and stores for the stagecoaches traveling to and from Phoenix, Prescott and various towns along the Colorado River. Stanton encouraged the already simmering feud that existed between the two men and through his interference; the feud resulted in Partridge killing Wilson. Partridge was sentenced to life in the Yuma Territorial Prison and Stanton was ready to take over both businesses.

However, Wilson had a partner, John Timmerman, who decided to take over the business which did not please Stanton. Partridge's creditors hired Barney Martin to run his business. Stanton decided to hire Francisco Vega, also known as Francisco Valenzuela, and his band of outlaws to help carry out his plans of taking over the businesses. One of Vega's gang killed Timmerman while Stanton watched from a distance.

Martin's barn and home were burned and his second home was also burned. He sold the property for \$5,000.00 and was moving his family to Phoenix. One of Vega's men later confessed that Stanton hired the gang to kill the Martin family on their way to Phoenix and made it look like it was done by Indians. Stanton now held full power over Antelope Hills.

Other events began happening in the area, a rancher's home was burned, another rancher was forced to relocate his cattle to the Tombstone area and Stanton did not

file the yearly paperwork as promised to a miner who was forced to sell out his interest to Stanton. Many young girls who crossed his path were brutally mistreated or disappeared all together.

In 1886, Juan Reval who was serving time in prison confessed to killing Timmerman on Stanton's orders. Although two of Vega's gang confessed to the killing of Timmerman and the Martin family; their word was not enough to charge Stanton with their murders.

Stanton's reign of terror was ended the night of November 13, 1886. He had closed the doors of his store and was drinking with a friend Kelly. Three men stopped at the store asking directions to Walnut Creek and asked if they could camp nearby. They also asked to buy tobacco and Stanton invited them into the store. The men were the Lucero brothers and Stanton had brutally treated their 14 year old sister. When the Lucero's had attempted to seek revenge for their sister by firing at Stanton and only clipping his ear, he had sworn out warrants for their arrest. They could not be located so their frail sixty year old father had been arrested and beaten senseless. One of the brothers shot Stanton and did not miss this time. One of the brothers was killed as they escaped.

No one bothered to investigate or arrested the Lucero's. Everyone was glad to be rid of the Irishman who had created the horrible events in the area and Stanton was buried a mile outside of town in a canyon. In 1895 the town was purchased by George Upton, a mining engineer and the following year the community voted to name the town Stanton once again. In 1959 Upton's niece who had inherited the town after her Uncle's death sold part of Stanton to the Saturday Evening Post as the grand prize in a jingle contest. The rest of the town was sold to the Lost Dutchman Mining Association.

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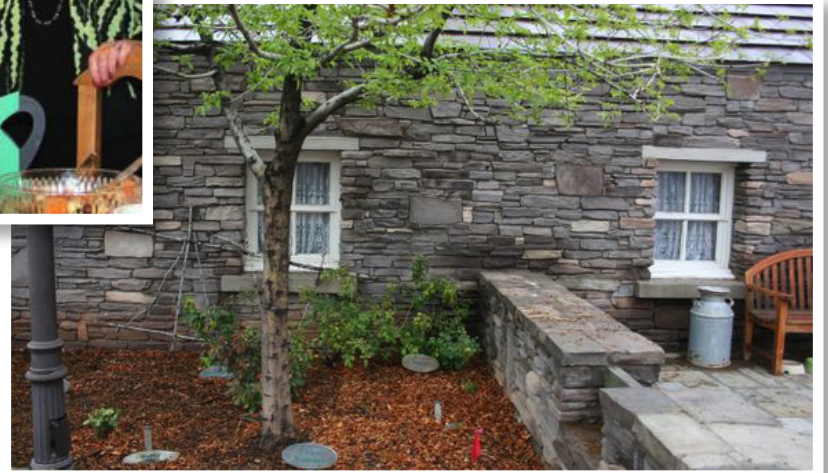
John O'Reilly, 1875  
Bill O'Brien, 1997



Justin O'Brien and Jeff Barnes begin the ceremonial planting of the new Arizona Irish Roses donated by sponsor Bill O'Brien at the Irish Cottage at the Irish Cultural Center. Photo by Paul Ahern



Reception hosted by Sean and Patricia Prior  
Photo by Paul Ahern



Lindy Schubring with mom, Dori. 2012 Arizona Irish Lass, Lindy is now a freshman at Purdue University studying hospitality and tourism management. She is actively involved in choir, a hospitality management student organization, and a church group on campus. This spring, she'll spend a week at the St. Regis Hotel in San Francisco serving as an extern in the food and beverage department.



Tucson-Roscommon Sister Cities Luncheon



Kelahan-Pierson's with mom, Kathleen. 2011 Arizona Irish Lass, Shannon is now a junior marine science major at Coastal Carolina University located in SC. She is the co-founder and student director of the Caudle Reef Initiative, working with the largest artificial reef in the state to develop student led research projects. She is also the current 2014 Miss Coastal Carolina University. 2010 Arizona Irish Lass, Colleen is now a graduating senior at Paradise Valley Christian Prep applying to colleges to major in kinesiology and minor in dance. She continues to excel in Irish dance placing 18th at the Western Regional Oireachtas last November and will be competing in Montreal for Nationals this July.

## HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS



# Colleen in Ireland



Vintage Car Parade with Regionals roommate Ilona Flannigan from Derby, UK



Holly with Eileen, owner of Tralee's Mary Ann's Tea Room



County Kerry Photo Paula Blessman



Diarmaid Griffin at Oceanworld Aquarium in Dingle with her name written in squid ink



Sharing a story at Regionals with emcee TV personality Daithi O' Se



Ciaran Connell and Holly by her photo in Tralee window



Jane Boyle and Aine Butler pictured with Clare Rose Marie Donnellan and Holly's roommate Newfoundland & Labrador Erica Halfyard at the Rose of Tralee International 10k Race in Tralee.  
Photo Kerry's Eye



Hosted by Chandler-Tullamore Sister City



## Colleen from page 5

her reign, designer evening gowns, hair and make-up for appearances, Carlton Hotel stays, in addition to the Newbridge Silverware Tiara, Perpetual Trophy, and jewelry. The prize is valued at more than \$35,000 and includes a world tour to serve as spokesperson for the Global Irish, participating in educational and cultural exchanges, as well as representing children's charities. Haley and Holly are coincidentally both from Ahwatukee and from rival high schools, Mountain Pointe and Desert Vista, respectively. Haley graduated from University of Arizona and moved to Texas as an elementary teacher. The Arizona Rose Centre is proud to have Haley represent our State in her heritage.

### Thank you from Holly!

Holly shares, "Every Rose says this so it may seem cliché but The Rose of Tralee Festival is an amazing experience I will remember for the rest of my life. I've never felt so much pride for my Irish culture or for Arizona as I have representing the community of this beautiful

state. In Arizona, I have gotten the opportunities to participate as royalty in the St. Patrick's Day Parade and even the Renaissance Festival. However, some of the best experiences were performing for the elderly at Sedona Winds and at Sedona Sunrise Center, and for adults with developmental disabilities living at the spectacular, ranch-style campus at Rainbow Acres in Camp Verde.

Aside from the wonderful events in Arizona I felt so blessed to have two almost completely free trips to Ireland. I met wonderful people from all over the world and learned what true exhaustion really is. I've also never been so grateful to wear flat shoes as when I came home. All jokes aside, I had a wonderful time at parades and balls and spending time with wonderful escorts, fellow Roses, elderly folks and children. As my reign ends, I look back feeling truly grateful for the fantastic opportunities I have been presented and I will tell my children about my year as the 2013 Arizona Colleen and Rose. Thank you to the Phoenix St. Patrick's Day Parade & Faire for making this possible!"

[www.roseoftralee.ie/arizona](http://www.roseoftralee.ie/arizona)  
See more photos on Page 9.

## Castle from page 4

much like they were in the beginning as they can. Imagine if you were the sister city to the village around the Eiffel Tower, and you discovered that it was crumbling into a ruin. Would you want to save it?"

Although there is great sympathy from the Irish government about the castle, they have bigger fish to fry, and the European Union has rigorous rules and regulations that the Trust must keep if Charleville Castle Heritage Trust is to be funded by the EU. The key hurdle to European funding could easily be solved. The issue is one of tenure; half of the castle was not released to the original rescue. Now European Commission experts promise that if the whole building could come under the stewardship of the Charleville Castle Heritage Trust, along with long-term custodial rights, then Charleville Castle would be entitled to a grant.

The European Commission is resolute that: "Public money must not be used to enrich the few but it should also not be squandered on the unsavable."

"Our issues are complex," says,

Dudley, "because half of the building is outside of the care of the Charleville Castle Heritage Trust and continues to crumble. Somehow we need to get all of the building (including the coach house, the stables, the chapel and others) under the protection of the Trust. If we cannot, the castle cannot be saved." Dudley and Bonnie concede this is always "the elephant in the room."

"Only people who are not deeply ensconced in the project" says Dudley "can change this situation. Saving Charleville Castle is now really in the hands of our friends around the world, people like those who reside in our sister city of Chandler. Do we want Charleville Castle to crumble? No! Please ask your fellow citizens to back Charleville Castle Heritage Trust's push to take the crumbling half of the building into its care." As Dudley ended our conversation he said, "The task ahead will become much bigger but the resources will become easier to attract and the end result a marvel."

Volunteers are welcome. Donations are welcomed.

You can visit <http://www.sponsor.ie/charity/charvillecastle>. In Ireland? E-mail Dudley at [dudcastle@gmail.com](mailto:dudcastle@gmail.com).



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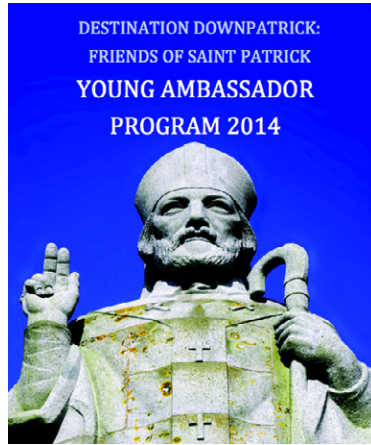
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The Young Ambassador Program is organized through the Friends of Saint Patrick - Arizona Chapter and the Saint Patrick Centre, Northern Ireland. It is designed to promote a greater understanding of the shared cultural heritage of Northern Ireland in North America.

Women and men, age 20 to 25, must complete an Application on the website ([www.saintpatrickcentre.com](http://www.saintpatrickcentre.com)) between January 15 and March 17, 2014. Applicants are expected to have a basic knowledge of the history and culture of Northern Ireland, which they can build upon during their time there. Following an interview process, the successful candidate will travel to Downpatrick, County Down for 15 days in June 2014. They will explore various aspects of the history and traditions of Ireland and develop their own cultural dissertation. When they return home, they will complete the dissertation and following a successful review will formally be made a Young Ambassador.



The aim of the Young Ambassador Program is to establish a network of informed and influential individuals throughout North America who can actively represent Northern Ireland throughout their lives. Northern Ireland provides an incredibly diverse platform to learn about many social and cultural aspects of contemporary and historical life in Ireland, as well as, developing a model for community reconciliation, which is relevant to many cities in North America. Young Ambassadors will develop a meaningful and ongoing relationship with Chapters of



Friends of Saint Patrick, the Saint Patrick Centre, and organizations linked to the Program. They will continue to represent them, when appropriate, throughout the rest of their lives.

Accommodations and travel will be covered through the program, but food and drink costs will be the responsibility of the successful candidate. Check out

2013 Young Ambassador Kelsey Kelleher's amazing trip at <http://www.slideshare.net/kelleherkelsey/friends-of-st-patrick-version-to-send-out>.

For further information, please visit [www.saintpatrickcentre.com](http://www.saintpatrickcentre.com) or call Glenda Walker at 602-277-1376 (after noon). New members of the Friends of Saint Patrick are welcome.

## THE KELTIC KITCHEN

By Katie Caufield Ginder

### Shrove Tuesday Pancakes

*Diadaoibh a chaire!* (Hello friends!)

In Ireland, Fat Tuesday is known as Shrove Tuesday. During Lent, a time of abstinence, rich foods such as eggs and butter were not allowed. As a result, families would use up their decadent foods prior to the start of the Lent season. Pancakes were one popular way to use up any remaining eggs and butter.

Shrove Tuesday pancakes have almost a crepe texture and are not as thick as our traditional American hot cakes. Typically just served with lemon juice and sugar, these pancakes would also be delicious with honey, maple syrup, or homemade jam.

#### Ingredients:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 4 large eggs
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1/4 stick butter (2 oz. melted)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/4 stick melted butter (for frying)
- freshly squeezed lemon juice (1 lemon)
- 1/4 cup sugar (for serving)
- 1 tablespoon powdered sugar
- 1 lemon, cut in slices

**Preparation:** Preheat small skillet over medium heat.

In a small mixing bowl, combine first six ingredients and mix well.

Melt a teaspoon of butter in the skillet and then add enough pancake batter to coat the bottom. Heat for 1-2 minutes and then flip over and cook for another minute on the other side.

Once pancake is cooked, place in foil and cover until remaining pancakes are cooked.

When all pancakes have been prepared, roll each pancake and then sprinkle lemon juice and sugar on top of each pancake. Garnish with sifted powdered sugar and serve with lemon slices.





# Music REVIEWS

Reviewed by Gary Woodside

*Dia duit! Gary is ainm dom.* I will be reviewing new CD releases from Irish/Celtic artists. Being Scottish and Irish on my da's side, I thought it would be fun to rate these by the number of pints you can enjoy while listening. I will be starting with one pint and working up to five pints, by having one pint just to get through it or having a few more and truly enjoying the musical journey. Let's get started, shall we?

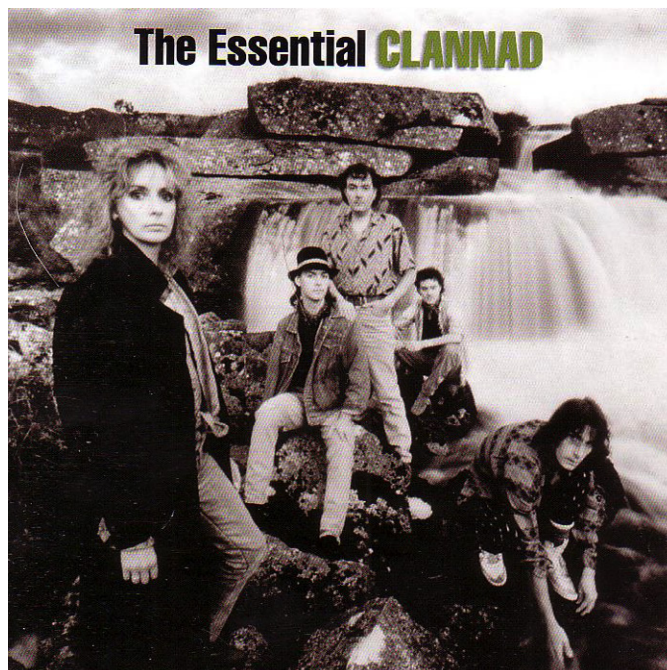
Well, what do you know? I'm back!! Did you miss me? I took a bit of a vacation there with all the holidays and such and the launch of my new website, CelticMusicAZ.com, but I am happy to once again be bringing some reviews of some new(?) music.

This time out, I was given a couple CDs that I have actually been having a bit of a difficult time reviewing, each for different reasons.

The first one is *The Essential Clannad*. This is a two-disc collection that was released in 2012 and consists of 30 tracks spanning this legendary band's amazing career. So where do I go from there, right? What more can be said about this internationally renowned and award winning group? Can you say, "Grammy"? Well, here it goes.

The name Clannad is fairly synonymous with the introduction of Irish music and the Irish language into the mainstream and pop music in general. I knew this band had been around forever, and after reading their bio, I realized why I thought that. They actually have been around forever, at least for me. Formed in 1970 in Gweedore, County Donegal, it is pretty wild I get to review a band actually older than myself. My familiarity with Clannad has been little more than the occasional track showing up on my Pandora Irish station and their appearances in movie soundtracks. I knew that Enya was once in the band and related to some of the members, and that was pretty much it. I didn't realize she was related to all the members as they are all family. So, for those of you who don't know, Clannad consists of twin brothers, Pádraig and Noel Duggan; their niece, Moya Brennan; and her two brothers, Pól and Ciarán. I think that certainly explains some of the band's longevity.

I popped in the first disc of this



set and was immediately surprised. I wasn't hearing anything that I would have necessarily considered Celtic or Irish. You are initially presented with a number of New Age and Jazz infused Pop songs with big production and polish, some songs even sounding like the big Pop Rock hits of the 80's MTV style. (I know that might be a confusing comparison for some, but MTV actually used to play music videos. All music. All the time. Crazy, huh?) Upon reading the liner notes, the first disc is indeed made up of songs from the mid 80's and early 90's. These include the theme songs for the movie "Last of the Mohicans" and the "Robin of Sherwood" series, as well as popular duets with Bono, Bruce Hornsby, and even Steve Perry. All the tracks showcase Moya's beautiful voice and have the full sound and wonderful arrangements that show why this group has so many awards and so much recognition worldwide. My favorite on this disc is probably "A Bridge (That Carries Us Over)."

From the track listing, Disc 2 seems to be where the Irish lives. In fact, the second song, "Theme From Harry's Game" is the only British hit single that was sung entirely in the Irish language. It has appeared in quite a few different projects, most notably in the American film "The Patriot Games." The rest of CD 2 continues the theme of big production New Age sound, with the very nice exception of a more stripped down sound in versions of "Buachaill Ón Éirne" and "Tá Mé Mo Shuí," as well as, "Fadó," which again showcase Moya's beautiful voice. I would definitely say that the second disc of this set is my favorite.

In March of this year, the group released a live DVD/CD of their 2011 performance from Dublin's ancient

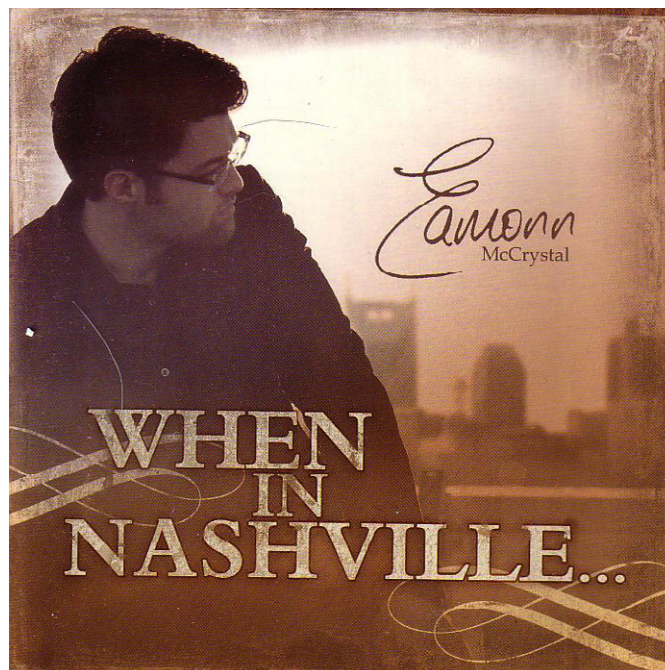
Christ Church Cathedral and a list of shows which proves this group is still going strong after 40+ years!!

So, essentially, this is the essential Clannad collection of their mid 80's to mid/late 90's catalog. I would have to give this "essential" release at least 3 pints, because it essentially takes that many to get

through all 30 songs!! You might be so relaxed by then you might want another!!

The next disc I was given has also proven to be a bit challenging for me. From my rock & roll background, this isn't something

► Music page 15



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Sarah and Krissy Hines



Taryn Howells, 2013 AZ Irish Lass,  
competed in Great Britain Championships

## Mad Hatter Tea Party

Photos  
Katie Brooks



Holly and Cameron



To see more of Holly's adventures,  
check out the Fashion Show & Tea  
Fundraiser posted at  
[www.azcolleen.org/galleries](http://www.azcolleen.org/galleries)  
for photos and video clips.



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# CALENDAR

## January - February

### ROBERT BURNS DINNER

The Caledonian Society of Arizona  
Saturday, January 25 • 6-10 pm  
The Westin Kierland, Scottsdale  
Tickets: \$95; [www.ArizonaScots.com](http://www.ArizonaScots.com)

### ROBERT BURNS DINNER

The Tucson Celtic Festival Assoc.  
Friday, January 31 • 6-10 pm  
Z Mansion, Tucson  
Ticket deadline January 24  
[www.tucsoncelticfestival.org](http://www.tucsoncelticfestival.org)

### IRISH ROVERS IN CONCERT

Monday, February 3 • 7 pm  
Musical Instruments Museum  
Theatre  
Tickets: \$47.50-\$57.50  
[www.mim.org](http://www.mim.org); 480-478-6000

### MARY MCLAUGHLIN – EVENTS

February 7-9  
See ad on Page 16

### ARIZONA IRISH LASS SELECTION

Saturday, February 8 • 2-5 pm  
Irish Cultural Center, Phoenix

### TARTANIC IN CONCERT

Friday, February 14 • 7:00-9:00 pm  
Presented by Chandler-Tullamore  
Sister Cities  
Chandler Center for the Arts  
Tickets: \$18; \$15 CTSC Members;  
\$20 at Door [www.chandlerirish.org](http://www.chandlerirish.org)

### GREAT IRISH TOAST

Friday, February 21 • 8 pm  
The Surly Wench  
424 N. 4th Avenue, Tucson  
Music by Keltic Cowboys  
Info: Betsy Coyle at [coyle2@cox.net](mailto:coyle2@cox.net)

### FULL SET IN CONCERT

February 21 • 7:30 pm  
Coconino Center for the Arts  
2300 N. Fort Valley Rd., Flagstaff  
[www.livingtraditionspresentations.com](http://www.livingtraditionspresentations.com)  
Information: 928-779-2300

**ARIZONA COLLEEN AND  
ROSE OF TRALEE SELECTION**  
Saturday, March 1 at 5:30 pm  
Tickets: \$40  
[www.azcolleen.org](http://www.azcolleen.org)

**SHARON CORR IN CONCERT**  
Sunday, March 2 • 7 pm  
Musical Instruments Museum  
Theatre  
Tickets: \$42.50-\$47.50  
[www.mim.org](http://www.mim.org); 480-478-6000

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE & FAIRE,  
PHOENIX**  
Saturday, March 15  
[www.stpatricksdaysphoenix.org](http://www.stpatricksdaysphoenix.org) for  
full schedule

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE  
& FESTIVAL, TUCSON**  
Saturday, March 15  
Festival 10 am - 5 pm • Parade 11am  
Armory Park, Downtown  
[www.tucsonstpatricksdays.com](http://www.tucsonstpatricksdays.com)

**KISS ME I'M IRISH RUN™**  
Saturday, March 15  
Westgate Entertainment District  
6770 N. Sunrise Blvd, Glendale, AZ  
5:30 am packet pickup; 7 am start  
[www.irishrunaz.com](http://www.irishrunaz.com)

**COLLEEN IRISH TITLEHOLDERS  
AT CELTIC WEEKEND**  
Sunday, March 16  
Arizona Renaissance Festival

**GLENMORANGIE SCOTTISH  
GATHERING & HIGHLAND GAMES**  
March 21-23  
[www.ArizonaScots.com](http://www.ArizonaScots.com) for schedule

**2014 YOUNG ARTISTS & AUTHORS  
SHOWCASE**  
Competition deadline March 1  
Reception:  
Friday, March 21 • 5:30-7:00 pm  
Presented by Chandler-Tullamore  
Sister Cities  
Vision Gallery, 10 E. Chicago,  
Chandler  
[www.chandlerirish.org](http://www.chandlerirish.org)



Full Set in concert - February 21

## ARIZONA CELTIC DIRECTORY

### The Irish Cultural Center

The mission of the ICC is to provide a link between the people of Arizona and the people of Ireland and other Celtic cultures. The Academy of Irish, The Celtic Studies and the Celtic Concert Series are major programs of the ICC. The Center is available for private rentals - call direct: 602-258-0109; info: 602-392-7850; [www.azirish.com](http://www.azirish.com)

### Los San Patricios de Arizona (St. Patrick's Battalion)

The Los San Patricios de Arizona was organized to honor the 150-year old bond of friendship existing today between Mexico and Ireland. Each year this organization celebrates with a dinner Fiesta saluting those couples of Irish and Mexican heritage. Contact: Wm. Howard O'Brien, Phone: 480-951-1152, email: [WHOCO@cox.net](mailto:WHOCO@cox.net). John Reilly, Captain 602-242-1555 Hector Corona el Teniente 602-237-4685

### St. Patrick's Day Faire, Phx

Fun for the entire family, it showcases Irish music, step dancing, Irish and Celtic arts and crafts plus the traditional Irish foods and beverages. For details, visit [www.phxirish.org](http://www.phxirish.org) or call Mary Moriarty, Chair at 602-258-0109.

### St. Patrick's Day Parade and Faire Committee

Formed in 1983, the Committee has the responsibility for organizing the annual Phoenix St. Patrick's Day Parade, The St. Patrick's Day Faire and the Colleen programs. It is entirely volunteer and meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:00pm at the ICC, 1106 N. Central Ave. Call Harry Sexton, President at 602-863-9198.

### St. Patrick's Day Parade, Phx

It is one of the largest parades in Arizona! Celebrate being Irish with the whole Valley. For details, call John Corcoran, Chair at 623-939-1183. [www.stpatricksdaysphoenix.org](http://www.stpatricksdaysphoenix.org)

### The Arizona Colleen Programs

The Arizona Colleen and Rose of Tralee Selection, Arizona Irish Lass and Little Miss Shamrock programs select young ladies of Irish descent to participate as spokespersons at area events. Prize packages for each competition. The Colleen wins a trip to Ireland and \$1,000 scholarship. For details, visit [www.azcolleen.org](http://www.azcolleen.org) or call Mary Corcoran Wnek (623) 221-2325

### Irish Foundation of Arizona

Formed in the 1970's to bring together the Irish people of Arizona. The group sponsors social events throughout the year. New members are welcome. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm at the Irish Cultural Center, 1106 N. Central Ave. For additional information call President, Anna O'Hara 480-345-9517.

### Frieinds of Saint Patrick Centre Arizona Chapter

The nonprofit organization was formed in 2011 to promote positive relationships between Arizona and Northern Ireland. Through education, cultural exchanges and charitable events, the Chapter nurtures St. Patrick's legacy in America and Ireland. For future information check [www.saintpatrickcentre.com](http://www.saintpatrickcentre.com). New members are welcome. Meetings are held quarterly at the Irish Cultural Center, 1106 N. Central, Phoenix, AZ. Contact Glenda Walker at 602-277-1376



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# THE IRISH in NORTHERN ARIZONA

by Kathleen Walters



Flagstaff has lost one of its most active and beloved Celts. Richard Ferguson—valiant fighter, lover of all things Celtic, enthusiastic student of life, spokesperson for the victimized and bullied, beloved friend—lost his eight-year battle with cancer April 10.

When we interviewed Fergie three years ago, we called him “Flagstaff’s Ultimate Celt” in recognition of his involvement at the center of Northern Arizona’s Celtic community. A co-founder (with this writer) of the Northern Arizona Celtic Heritage Society, a member of the Society for Creative Anachronism, a Jacobite Re-enactor, founder of Post 2000—the William C. Dunlop Chapter of the Scottish American Military Society, founder and instructor of Flagstaff’s Scottish Gaelic class—Richard was always the go-to man when anything needed doing in Flagstaff’s Celtic community.

Richard’s English, Scottish, and Irish ancestors were among the first white people to settle in Illinois, arriving there in 1820. Born in Idaho, Richard spent the first five years of his life in Illinois, before moving with his family to Tucson. He always felt that his roots were in Illinois, and that, according to his wishes, is where his remains are to be buried.

Although he had no idea if his branch of Clan Ferguson was Irish or Scottish, Richard was always fascinated by genealogy. His grandmother finally told him of their Scottish heritage, and he then discovered Clan Ferguson at the 1995 Phoenix Highland Games. He soon became Regional Convener for the Clan and was elected Clan Vice President, a post he held until his death.

A chance meeting with world-renowned geneticist Bryan Sykes in Flagstaff led Richard into the area

of DNA testing (proving his Scottish Ferguson lineage once and for all), and he became one of the volunteers and informants, pictured in Sykes’ popular book DNA USA.

Richard took great pride in promoting Celtic and Scottish history. He recently told us, “Teaching Scottish history is important in America, even though we are a homogenous culture. It’s still important to identify with your heritage, to have a sense of where you come from, whether you’re Hispanic, African, Scottish, Irish or Italian. No matter what your ethnicity, you need to hang onto your heritage or it will be lost. I am American first, Scottish second. Ethnicity is important.”

Richard traveled several times to Scotland and studied Scottish Gaelic on the Isle of Skye. He had plans to visit every area of the world affected by the Scottish diaspora, and only last year visited Galicia in Spain. Why Galicia? “To check out the Celtic connections,” he said. “If it weren’t Celtic, I wouldn’t be going.”

We asked Richard how he wanted to be remembered. “I don’t really care,” he quipped, “just as long as I am remembered.” But he also hoped to leave something significant for his children and their



children—primarily the Scottish work ethic and frugality. For the rest of us, he will always be known as one of the primary forces of the Celtic Renaissance in Northern Arizona.

Richard had a Facebook page, although he didn’t post much other than photos when he was traveling. His last entry, posted January 2, 2013, states, “This year will be spent improving my relationship with the Universe, striving for understanding and just feeling better about my role in The Big Picture. Have a rewarding year.”

Richard “Fergie” Ferguson was the Ultimate Celt—a fierce warrior who stood up for his beliefs, a devoted family man, and the best friend anyone could ever have.

## Music from page 12

that I would normally listen to. *When In Nashville* by Eamonn McCrystal is actually a 2011 release, but I still wasn’t familiar with this artist.

My first impression was that this was some Irish kid in Nashville, it must be a country record with a possible Irish twist. Well, that is not the case at all. Being not sure what to make of it, I went online to get more information on this young man. Wiki says Eammon is “an Irish Pop tenor and TV/radio host based in Los Angeles, California.” That helps to explain a bit. This probably isn’t going to be an Irish or Celtic music release, and I was right.

*When in Nashville* is a collection of familiar pop hits recorded with the big Nashville sound accompanying Eammon’s amazing voice and the production of Grammy award winning producer Kyle Lehning. The only hints of traditional “country” music is the occasional slide guitar and fiddle. I would put this release more in the Adult Contemporary genre.

I was thinking this might be similar to a Micheal Bublé type thing, but after listening through this collection, it is more like a Pop and modern Broadway style

or something. Eamonn’s voice and performance is beautiful and clean and technically superb, but by the end of the disc, I kept thinking “Disney movie soundtrack” (with maybe a little Helen Reddy thrown in from the 80’s K-tel records commercials). Those being some of my only comparisons, because of my lack of familiarity with this type of music. But, I know what I like and I can tell what is done well, regardless, and this is certainly done well.

My favorite moment on this disc is the Beatles’ song “Things We Said Today.” It is a little overdone just by the nature of this album, but it is still a great song and has a nice sound. The other highlight of the album is the final song, “You Raise Me Up,” which has been done by a ton of other acts, most notably Josh Groban, and is the closest thing to a Celtic moment on this disc since it was written by Secret Garden and was supposedly inspired by and based upon the “Danny Boy” riff.

All that being said, I give this disc a couple of pints, or maybe couple glasses of wine...a nice Chardonnay possibly? Definitely not my cupán tae, but very nice release all the same.

Any artist who would like to be featured, please contact me at [www.celticmusicaz@gmail.com](mailto:www.celticmusicaz@gmail.com). *Slán go fóill!!*



## Irish Network Phoenix\*

480-382-2462

**Business** - trade leads, discussion, speakers, best practices etc... with other professionals... all of which have a common bond... Irish Heritage or interests.

**Irish Heritage** - We celebrate our Irish Heritage through activities and involvement with the Irish Cultural Center.

**Social** - It would not be an Irish-related group if we didn't include some social activities as well.

**Get Social**



\* Formally known as E.R.I.N.



# Irish Language Concert and Workshops



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Tickets - \$15 in advance/\$20 at the door.

**Irish Language Workshop** - February 8th from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Tuition - \$40

**Sean-Nós: Singing in Irish Workshop** - February 9th from 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Tuition - \$30

**2-day workshop pass - \$60**

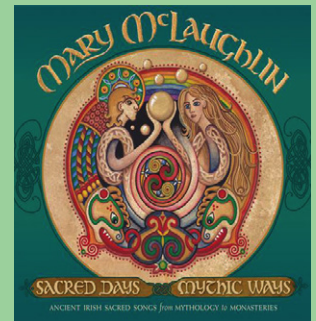
For more information email: [SpeakIrishArizona@gmail.com](mailto:SpeakIrishArizona@gmail.com)

or call: 623-680-1711

To purchase tickets online visit:

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

**Buy tickets now, space is limited**



The Irish Cultural Center  
1106 North Central Avenue  
Phoenix, Arizona 85004



## 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Arizona Colleen & Rose of Tralee Selection

**Saturday, March 1, 2014**

O'Carroll Hall, St. Paul's Catholic Church  
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**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Irish Cultural Program including Dinner, Irish Music & Dance

**SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY SEANACHIE**

\$40 Dinner, Dessert & Show

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Doors open at 5:30 pm ~ Cash bar available

Dinner at 6:00 pm

Program at 7:00 pm

**Buy tickets today at [azcolleen.org](http://azcolleen.org)!**  
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