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Belong?

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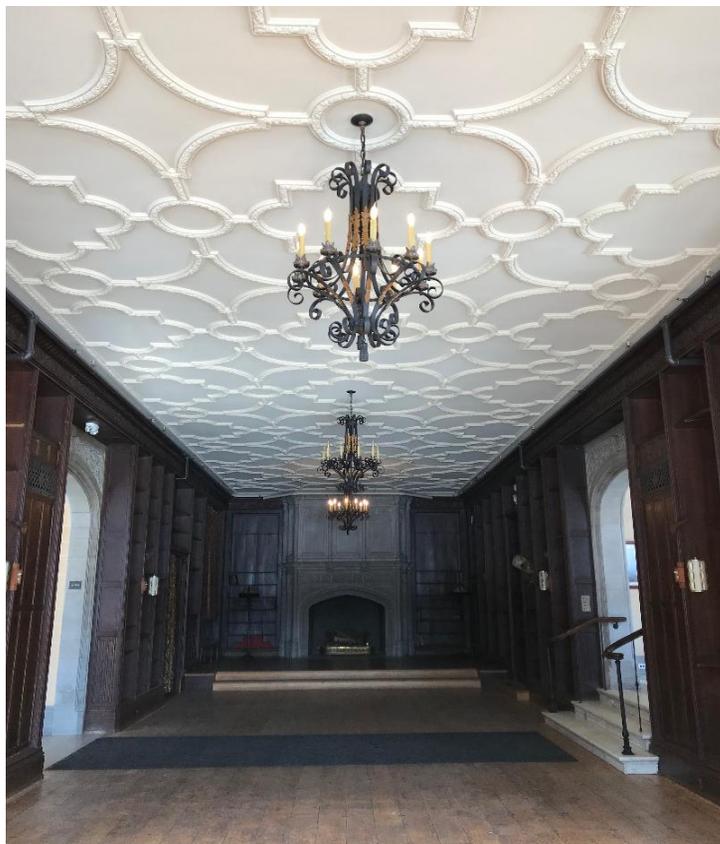
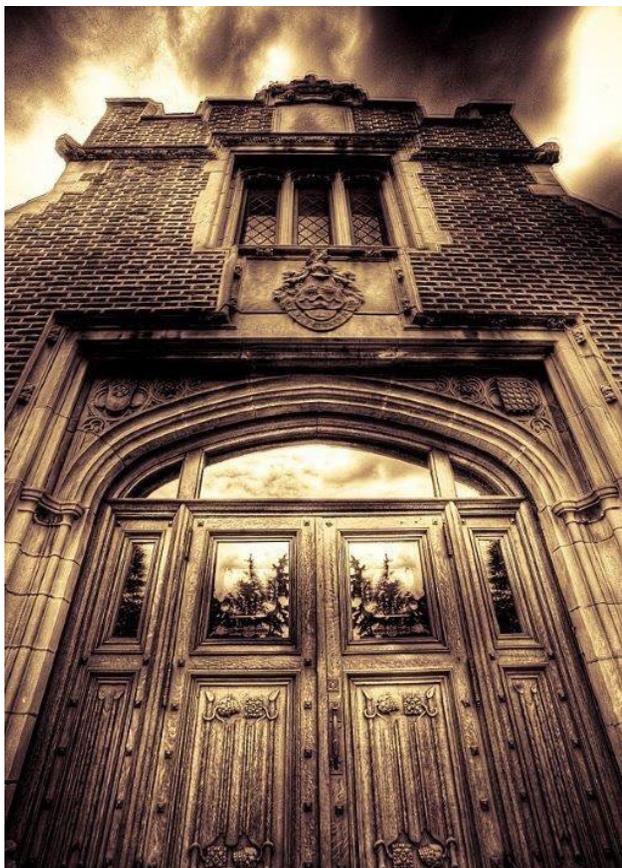
# **R** The Riverside Post **R**

Integrity  Courage

Issue 4, Volume 1

March 12, 2018

## Mayslake Lends Ambiance, Mystique to Riverside Activities



Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oakbrook, Ill. Photos by Luca Vaccarella

By Luca Vaccarella

The Mayslake mansion, which was intended to be a retirement home for coal tycoon Francis Stuyvesant Peabody, serves as a location for the Riverside Center for Imaginative Learning. The historic halls now are filled with youthful creativity and laughter.

Peabody, who graduated from Yale University in 1881, made his fortune in the coal industry during the Industrial Revolution. His company was one of the most successful in the nation.

Architect Benjamin H. Marshall built Mayslake in the Chicago suburb of Oakbrook, Ill., as the ultimate retreat and retirement mansion for Peabody. He intended it to be an "escape," and an escape it was, too. The mansion comes complete with a three-story secret passage and bell tower alarm system to warn of impending danger.

There is room for five refrigerators, a central vacuum system, secret safes, a flower arranging room, and enough living quarters to

house the servants of Peabody's wealthy guests as well as his own. The mansion was meant to be the ultimate playground for the rich. Peabody retired in 1921 to Mayslake Estate, which he named after his first wife and daughter, who both were named May. Sadly, Peabody only lived in the house for seven months before he died; he suffered a heart attack while hunting in the woods of the Estate.

Eventually, the Estate was

## Tournaments Provide Friendly Competition

By Patrick Severance

One of the things many families say they like about the Riverside Center for Imaginative Learning is that it is a place where kids can be kids, and more specifically, boys can be boys.

Each year, it seems there are new activities and events that serve this purpose. This past fall a tournament challenge took place between the boys who attend the two-day Tutorial program at the Mayslake Peabody Estate, and the boys in the Tutorial that meets at the Church of the Resurrection in Wheaton.

Three games were played: football, soccer, and ultimate frisbee. Mayslake came out victorious. The Wheaton boys are anxious for a rematch and some in the one-day tutorial want a chance to participate in this type of challenge.

Another tournament was hosted at the Lombard, Ill.-home of the Severance family, which builds an ice rink in the front yard every year. This event was different in that everyone in Riverside was invited to play and it was co-

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## Can Peacocks Fly? Or More Correctly: Should They Fly?

By Adella Miller

Some people think that pets should be allowed in grocery stores or restaurants. I, however, disagree.

The fact is that people just bring in their pets and let them sniff around at all the food. It is disgusting. Grocery stores are trying to prevent this, but what they can't prevent is service animals coming in.

That may sound good and fine except people fake service animals. If someone gets really attached to a pet, a dog for example, they could say it is emotional support. Store owners have to let that person in, no matter how fishy it sounds.

The worst part is that store owners can't ask how the animal aides the person. Unless the disability is obvious, they can't question anything and have to let the animal into the store.

Another thing is that it is way too easy to fake a service animal. There are cards sold at select web sites that are less than \$30.

Oregon is very aware of all this. But they can't prevent it. Oregon has gotten lots of complaints about people abusing the fact that you

can fake a service ID and have their dogs (or whatever pet) walking around Whole Foods or Walmart or any restaurant. Pets like dogs are adorable, don't get me wrong, but they aren't the cleanest of animals. What if the dog has a sudden desire to urinate while in the store? This is just wrong especially to the poor innocent soul who buys the food.

My final argument is that people go even farther than faking service animals; Think about peacocks on airplanes. Yes. It's true. A woman actually tried to bring her "support" peacock into the airplane. "Dexter" the peacock tried to board an aircraft and ride to L.A. He was refused by the police.

Only the very necessary animals like seeing eye dogs and hearing dogs should be admitted. None of the "emotional support" dogs should be allowed in.

My solution is that the animal should have a special harness that is approved by the state. Then the storeowner can tell what type of help it gives. You shouldn't be able to just buy the harness. You would need to call the mayor of the area and he would get it approved (or disapproved if necessary).



Art by Anastasia Kowalchuk

## Pets Belong in Any Public Place

By Anastasia Kowalchuk

Laws state that dogs and other furry friends are not allowed in public establishments. That's not fair and can be extremely inconvenient for pet owners who enjoy playing with their animals.

On the way home from the dog park, someone might want to pick up a gallon of milk. According to existing laws you cannot leave your dog in the car or tie it outside. And of course, you cannot take your dog in the store-- what to do? Some people could argue that you could just walk your dog all the way home. However, would you really want to go all the way home just to drop your dog off when you are right there?

Harm can come to dogs and some other animals when they are not allowed to stay with their humans. Like on November 21, 2017, Belen Aldecosea, while trying to get on her Spirit Air flight, was told by one of the Spirit flight attendants to flush her emotional support hamster down the toilet. It was very hard for her. "She was scared; I was scared; it was horrifying trying to put her in the toilet," Aldecosea reportedly said.

How many more animals will be harmed if we continue to bar them from our everyday activities?

Service dogs are dogs that help disabled people perform everyday activities. They are allowed to enter where no other animals are able to go. What is the difference?

One of the reasons given for not allowing dogs in public places such as restaurants, grocery stores, etc. is that they are unsanitary. But service dogs are allowed in and are the same amount of unsanitary. Service dogs are trained better and behave better than regular dogs. I believe that all dogs should be able to have the same level of training as service dogs.

Then there is the question of emotional support. There are so many different and strange animals such as, rabbits, peacocks, mini pigs, birds, etc., that provide people comfort as they go about their daily business. A lot of people are very attached to their pets, and it's right to let them do anything together.

## Imaginative Videos Bring Success to Riverside Fundraisers

By Ava Severance

The Riverside Center for Imaginative Learning is expanding with new programs and more families. As this occurs, fundraising becomes all the more important to ensure this can continue.

On Saturday, April 28, 2018, Giving DuPage will host its sixth annual 5K race, and Riverside will once again participate. Each year, Riverside families go from door to door raising money, and making fundraising videos, which showcase the skills gained by attending Riverside.

The videos are done in every way, from stating that if you raise enough money you'll run wearing a Donald Trump wig, to basing the script on a movie.

Riverside Director Peter Searby came up with the idea of the race videos "to inspire our community to find creative ways to express the story of Riverside to supporters."

The videos bring the families together. For example, one year JJ and Conor Herson made a video with Jackie and Brendan Higgins, and the three boys from the Ruch family made a video with Judah Newsom.

"I love seeing the joy this project

brings to families by giving them an excuse to work on something imaginative together," Searby said.

The videos really help with raising money, and some families use them as their only fundraising tool. Jocelyn Jansen, Riverside mom, thinks the "videos are something people can use to help raise money," and that "it is something they can send to others to explain why they are raising money."

They videos are mainly used to raise money, but there are also competitions and prizes. There is only one winner, and the prizes change every year. This year the award is a free membership to the Morton Arboretum.

"We (the tutors) brainstormed as a team about what prizes the families and students would like, and came up with a mix of getaways, memberships to cool places, and cool stuff," Searby said. He also thinks that the videos are a way "to show gratitude to those families who put lots of effort into supporting our community and mission."

The prizes also help to encourage the families to raise money using their imagination, strive to make the best videos possible and work confidently. "Prizes are a great way to reward people for their efforts," Jennifer Dorn, Riverside mom said.



## Race Joins Families in Run/Walk for Riverside

By Liam Johnson

On April 28, 2018, the Riverside Center for Imaginative Learning will join 70+ not-for-profit organizations in the DuPage Human Race.

This 5K Run/2K Fitness Walk allows organizations like Riverside to keep 100 percent of pledge money collected by their participants. Giving DuPage takes only a percentage of the registration fees.

Last year, Riverside raised approximately \$30,000 and the goal is to at least match it this year. The money raised during the race is used for resources Riverside cannot otherwise afford, which helps Riverside add and enhance programming.

To motivate families to sign up for the race, there was a laser tag outing at Laser Quest in Downers Grove, Ill. Those who registered and created a family page by a certain date were eligible.

"It's an adventurous way to gather everyone who registered for the race early," said Peter Searby, director of Riverside.

Searby hopes that families will see the Race as a way support Riverside and build the community.

"They can (fundraise) by creating videos (to share with others). This year the family that creates the

best video will win passes to the Morton Arboretum for one year. I am hoping our community grows stronger from an experience that is inspiring and fun," Searby added.

Race participant Teresa Jansen, 15, said the key is not being afraid to ask for money. "The worst thing (is) that people could just say "no" and that's not terrible. Thinking of fun, original, and effective ideas for fundraising, especially as a family, can be super fun. So is training and challenging yourself as a runner."

While Jansen enjoys fundraising and knowing she will help Riverside, her "absolute favorite" part is the race itself.

"When it's early in the morning my adrenaline is moving, I'm so excited but also nervous, hoping I'll make it to the end," Jansen said.

All of the Riverside families cheer everyone on, whether their kids participate in tutorial, theatre, or folk music.

"We're there together and Mr. Searby always leads a prayer before the run and reminds us of our race to heaven. It's really beautiful to think of the race like our journey to Heaven and it can also help when you are running," Jansen added.

The DuPage Human Race will take place April 28, 2018, at the Esplanade, 1901 W. Butterfield Road, Downers Grove.





Trinity Irish Dancers prepare for Bulls Show.

## March Madness Means Dance

By Sloane Conway

St. Patrick's Day in Chicago is about river dyeing, family friendly cultural activities, the huge parades, and, of course, bagpiping. But it is also the biggest time of the year for dancing elite, who strap on their shoes in the beginning of March and barely take them off until the sun sets on the 17th.

Irish Dancing is a unique hobby that many families around the Chicagoland area take part in. Trinity Academy of Irish Dance is known not only for their great talents, but also for the way they give back to the community especially around St. Patrick's Day.

For the Trinity Irish Dancers, it is about more than just dancing. They use their talents

for the benefit of others, by performing at nearly 50 nursing homes, in parades, at schools, family events, downtown buildings, weddings, concerts, and the biggest of all, at the Chicago Bulls & Blackhawks games.

Kate Foley, 10-year-old Trinity Irish dancer, along with many others, really enjoys making others happy through her wonderful talents.

"I guess what I love is the fact that we are able to make people happy, while doing something we love with our friends," Foley said.

When St. Patrick's Day starts to gear up, Irish dancers in Trinity's five suburban locations have already been

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## Career Quest: Journey Toward the Right Path



Art by Jackie Brady for Peyton Manning

By Bridget Johnson

Being an artist demands creative and imaginative skill.

When one thinks of art they might think of dance, music, or literature. Most though, likely think of creating images with paints or crafting materials into a masterpiece.

Jackie Brady is a photorealistic artist. She uses acrylic paints to paint commemorative feats on sports equipment for professional sports teams.

She knew she wanted to be an artist since age 7. Growing up in the beautiful environment of the Minnesota countryside fueled her creative passion and imagination, prompting her to become an artist.

"The idea of turning a ...canvas into a masterpiece was always so exciting to me," Brady said. "If you have a special talent, pray about how you can use it to glorify God...you are meant to be a constant work in

progress, a blank canvas that could one day become a masterpiece."

Daniel Mitsui is an artist whose drawings are inspired by medieval religious art. Viewing reproductions of medieval illuminated manuscripts, influenced him to pursue art. He enjoys researching the history, theology, and tradition of religious art. Ink drawing on calfskin is his preferred medium.

"The most important part of my job is...upholding tradition. The challenge is doing it in a way that is interesting and exciting," Mitsui said. "An artist is successful if he makes his art with integrity...choosing projects that have an admirable purpose and doing the very best at his craft."

For those interested in art who may not be sure of their talent, he said: "Don't tell yourself that you can't possibly learn to draw a straight line or carry a tune in a bucket. Those are excuses of

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## Whimsical Paintings

by Justin Miller  
Brookfield, IL

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

## Art Takes Hard Work, Practice

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a lazy man.”

Justin Miller is a graphic designer and part-time artist who uses traditional oil and acrylic paint with a whimsical style. His father was a graphic designer and influenced him to become an artist.

“I decided to pursue painting as a hobby...over alternate options because it gave me the chance to put ideas and visions down in a form that could be shared. Creating unique art that inspires people who view it is important,” Miller said.

He feels a successful artist is “anyone who is pleased with their creativity.” He encourages students, to

remember that jobs sometimes do not meet with expectation. “Be ready to accept change and pursue your interests in different directions,” Miller said.



*Girl on Green by Justin Miller*



*Trinity Dancers wow Bulls fans.*

## Dancers Bring Irish Cheer During Lead-up to St. Paddy's

*Continued from Page 4..*

practicing for months tweaking, and perfecting all of the little bits of their dances, to make sure they will do justice to the holiday. With a stomp, a clap, a leap and a click, “these performances can get even the dullest of audience members caught up in the excitement of Irish dance,” Pat H. wrote on Yelp.

Preparation for these types of performances differs from competition in part because the dances are all meant for groups. Dancers wear their Trinity black dress, which serves as a uniform, whereas in competitions there is opportunity to wear solo dresses.

“For the TPT performances, you have to make sure that you are the same/in line with one another. But in a solo competition, you want to be different and stand out to the judges. It is a different kind of dancing, too. In TPT, you want to all be in unison for the crowd

effect, but in solos, you want to be unique,” said Alexa Peters, a teacher at Trinity’s Milwaukee and Elmhurst locations.

Trinity is not the only Irish dance outfit in the Chicago area. The Maiden Street Irish School of Dance also is busy making the rounds in March, although they have a smaller organization. Their events begin March 8th and run through the 18th, with shows almost every night. About 80 of their dancers take part in the Chicago parade, while about 20 usually perform at shows.

“For some it is the first show experience; for others it has been years of work. For me it is wonderful to see them all come together. It is incredible to see the older dancers helping the younger ones along to have a successful show season. It always starts out a little rough, but soon enough the kids are like pros pulling off the most amazing shows!” Dolan said.

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# Evening Theatre: Jeeves and Wooster Take on Riverside

By Conor Hernon

What do you get when you cross a serious butler and a silly goofball? Jeeves and Wooster!

The Tutorial apprentices from the Riverside Center for Imaginative learning took to the stage to perform episodes from *Jeeves and Wooster* by P.G. Wodehouse on March 9, 13, and 14.

Every year apprentices perform two skits: one in the fall, and one in the spring. Usually in the fall they do Shakespeare (with fun twists), and in the spring

they present P.G. Wodehouse plays for what they call the evening theatre.

They used to perform in variety shows where the Mayslake one days, two days, and the Wheatons (the three groups of tutorial) joined together on stage but the evening grew too long.

"We broke it up and made it more intimate with smaller crowds, and focused on each sections' own dramatic portrayal of stories. We also wanted to connect. We didn't want to have a million different dramatic (skits)," said Peter

## Mayslake Inspires Stories; Films

*Continued From Page 1...*

passed on to the Franciscans, which utilized it until 1991. It sat empty for 10 years before being acquired by the DuPage County Forest Preserve District, which began restoring it to its former glory. The work of bringing it back to its original splendor is ongoing, but during the process many programs take place in its rooms.

In 2015, another innovative man began a mission to find a natural setting retreat that would make the Riverside

Center of Imagination a place for boys to explore and learn.

"I had been praying, praying a lot, for the right place," Peter Searby, Riverside director, said. Google maps led him to Mayslake.

"It's a gorgeous mansion, has the architectural style that I love, has a chapel dedicated to St. Francis, and is surrounded in nature," Searby said.

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**2018  
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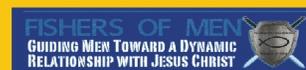
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## 'Little Princess' Shines Despite the Darkness



By Isabella Overdorf

Are you looking for a great book with a mistreated heroin, a stolen inheritance, and an intriguing plot?

Francis Hodgson Burnett, author of *The Secret Garden*, has given us a book with all of those marvelous occurrences and many more in *A Little Princess*. She shows us how beautiful the imagination is by using the example of a little orphan girl.

Sara Crewe, a rich little girl who has travelled from India to England, is the main character of this book. She is not like most rich young people of 18th century England, though. She loves to imagine, she is kind to everyone, and she is always the first to step in when someone needs care or friendship.

Burnett makes you feel as if you are really there with Sara, from the moment you open the cover, to the very end of the book.

Sara is sent to boarding school in London, and there her father leaves her for the last time. She begins as the star pupil, then becomes the scullery maid at the death of her father. Though she is forced to live in the attic, she keeps up her spirit by "supposing", or pretending; and in the process lifts her friends' spirits as well.

Sara never lets her friends down. Though Sara's mistress and her friends' head teacher, Miss Minchin, is quite cruel to them, Sara never lets them lose their hope, and she helps them to find the good in everything.

One time, after a long day of work and mistreatment, Sara says to them at their humble feast: "Somehow, something always happens, just before things get to the very worst...The worst thing never quite comes."

*A Little Princess* is the perfect book for any time of year, for all ages, no matter what circumstances you are in.



Francis Hodgson Burnett

## Could More Riverside Tournaments Be in the Works?

Continued From Page 1...

hosted with the folks from Spirit Hockey.

"It was inspiring to see so many people there. I was kind of surprised actually by the numbers. That's what first caught my attention," Peter Searby, Riverside director, said.

Searby believes Riverside and Spirit Hockey are likeminded organizations.

"They're both rooted in a sense that the ordinary things we do in life...can be rooted in the greater story of what it means to be human. No matter what we're doing, everything is, in a sense, a pilgrimage or journey towards Heaven, whether you are playing hockey or storytelling. That's a big connection," Searby said.

For the hockey tournament, the kids were separated into two groups—those age 5-10 and those 11 and older. Unfortunately, Searby couldn't play because of a strained

fifth metatarsal, which essentially means the side of the foot with the pinkie toe.

"The doctor said that I had strained a tendon in my foot. I stink at skating but if my foot was better I probably would have gone out there," Searby said.

The challenge and the hockey event may be just the beginning for Riverside where tournaments are concerned. Searby said it might become a tradition since the kids have so much fun.

"I want to do something called the Great Games," Searby said. "We could play the most ridiculous, weird games... like (there is) a huge ball and two teams that are trying to push the ball towards a goal, but the ball is massive."

Then there is the "Tour de Riverside," which would be a 10-mile bike race around a forest near Searby's house.

No firm plans for either of these have been made, as of yet.



Hockey tournament takes over Severance's yard.



Conor Hernon, Seamus Doyle, Brendan Higgins, Liam Johnson, and Gia Severance

## P.G. Wodehouse Skits Usher in Spring

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Searby, director of Riverside.

There are three groups inside the Tutorial program, the first years, the second years, and the third years. Normally each group will perform a different segment from a different play.

Last fall they performed King Lear, Much Ado About Nothing, and Coriolanus. But this spring all three skits will all be about the same thing, Jeeves and Wooster.

Jeeves and Wooster is about a rich guy who doesn't know what to do with his life (Wooster), and his valet (Jeeves), who often helps Wooster out of tight spots.

Even though the Tutorial is solely for boys there are often actresses invited to help the boys perform the skits, which are usually some sort of romance/comedy.

"The plays are a lot shorter, and there are less people, so most of the time you're on stage. I do like the evening theatre, especially because it includes girls. It's not really unusual, since the normal theatre program also has boys, but it can get a little awkward, having two or three girls and about ten boys," said Ava Severance, one of the actresses performing this year.

## Mayslake Sets the Scene

Continued From Page 6...

Searby said he feels a connection to the mansion. "The place is full of stories, symbols, fireplaces, and secret doors. All (illustrate) how space can inspire."

In the rooms of the estate,

Riverside students work with the architecture, which inspires their stories and filmmaking. The storybook-like doorknobs, secret staircases, and windows to the natural world spark Riverside apprentices' creativity and spur their imagination.

## Embrace the Irish (Music) for St. Patrick's Day

By JJ Hernon

March is the month of St. Paddy's Day, which means food, beer, more food, funny hats, and most important, Irish music.

A lot of Chicagoans have an Irish heritage, or wish they did, and come out to hear Irish music, from traditional bands to celtic-folk blends, to celtic rock. When Irish musicians have the chance to share their love with the community, they can earn some extra cash.)

Looking at the calendars of some of the biggest venues for Irish music in Chicago, there are a lot of big names coming over the next month. For example, The Great Whiskey Project, which specializes in celtic-folk, and some traditional Irish tunes, are coming to the Irish-American Heritage Center on March 17.

The fun often stretches past the actual day. Trad-great Altan will be at the Old Town School of Folk Music on March 23.

But in the minds of many, Lunasa is the hottest traditional Irish music band on the planet. They play gigs all over the country, with tunes ranging anywhere from the slowest slow airs, to highly exhilarating reels.

When Lunasa played in Chicago earlier this month, it was part of their 20th Anniversary tour and also marked the release of a new album. Cas, which means

twist or change in Irish, is actually a mix of tunes (instrumental) and songs sung by the likes of Natalie Merchant, Mary Chapin Carpenter and Tim O'Brien.

Many musicians dream of being able to make their art their full-time job. However being part of this big and successful of a band is not all fun and games.

"I think if you were in a family situation and had to keep leaving go on tour (it would be hard) to make things work. But I am a single guy so touring and traveling is all very exciting still for me. I was married and did have a family situation. It was difficult," said Crawford.

But getting to travel around the world and do something you love is also pretty fun.

"If you can find something that you do that you love and make it your job, it is not work.. I'd be doing this anyway. I'd be playing music even if I had another job; I'd be playing music all the time. I'm just lucky that I can do that every day," Crawford said.



Lunasa fiddler Colin Farrell and flute player Kevin Crawford.