

Salon Diary / By Karen Daly

Polls close, veterans honored at salon



A section of crowd. PHOTOS BY CAT DWYER

Salon producer John Kearns hosted the first November salon of the Irish American Writers & Artists on Election Day at the Bar Thalia. Highlights included Sean Carlson's account of his mother's family in County Kerry bidding goodbye as the oldest sisters enter a convent in Wales. Michele Fulves, a memoirist and solo performing artist read, "So Much to Be Thankful For," from her collection of writings of conscience. Visual artist, translator, creator of hand-made books, Vivian O'Shaughnessy shared with an original poem. Versatile singer Ryan Winter Cahill performed what she calls "morbid folk tunes."

Sarah Fearon worked her standup comic routine, and Malachy McCourt provided more laughs with a discourse on politics.

At the Nov. 11 salon at the Cell, host Marni Rice began with a moment of silence to honor Veterans on their day. Rice, a composer, accordionist and writer performed a French song in memory of her grandfather, a World War I veteran.

Other tributes in prose, poetry and song gave the night an emotional intensity. Award winning song writer/singer John Munnely's "Flagpole," describes an injured, lonely war veteran. Tom Mahon's story, "Not All Heroes Die," and

artist/poet Margaret McCarthy's poem "An Argument in the Kitchen" and vocalist/actor/director Richard Butler's rendition of "Mama Look Sharp" from "1776 The Musical" each uniquely saluted veterans.

Two beautifully crafted essays touched many salon-goers. Stephanie Silber's "Ode to A Familiar" describes a neighborhood's collective reaction to some new residents -- a colony of feral cats. In journalist Pat Fenton's "The Ancient Swirl of Time That Is Always Present over Coney Island," a trip to Nathan's stirs memory of his Galway-born father who went there every winter to be close to the sea.

Frequent contributor John Kearns read from his lyrical story "Backstage" and Mary Lannon read from the witty "Frank N. Stein" soon to be published online at Story. Maura Knowles brought her seven-person cast to present a section of her play with music, "Insult to Injury."

Two new members made their Salon debuts, but definitely not their stage debuts. Accomplished film, TV and theatre actress Peggy Miley performed a brief monologue by Ruth McKenney. Traditional singer Dan Milner performed New York street song, from circa the 1870s, "The Hodman's



Sean Carlson.

Lament," and the love song "When First I Came to Caledonia."

The next Salon will take place on next Tuesday, Dec. 2, beginning at 6 p.m. at Bar Thalia, Broadway, at 95th Street.

The Irish Echo Quiz Answers

1. Brigid
 2. James Cagney
 3. Airline pilots
 4. Minnesota
 5. Jonathan Swift
 6. Code-breaking,
 7. Tipperary
 8. Paris
 9. "Casablanca"
 10. Doberman Pinscher.
- Questions on Page 17.



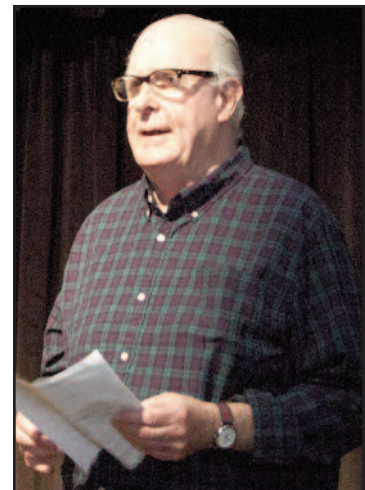
Malachy McCourt.



John Kearns.



Tom Mahon.



Pat Fenton.



Ryan Winter Cahill.



Sarah Fearon.

Muldoon's Picnic

Muldoon's Picnic, an omnium-gatherum of words and music hosted by the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Paul Muldoon with music by the Wayside Shrines, takes place on Monday, Dec. 8 at 7:30 pm, at Irish Arts Center, 553 West 51st Street. Special guests are Tracy K. Smith, Patrick McCabe, and Mark Mulcahy. Tickets at irisartscenter.org or 866-811-4111.

Muldoon, who became the poetry editor for the New Yorker in 2007, won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for his 2002 collection "Moy Sand and Gravel" (2002), which also earned him the Griffin International Prize for Excellence in Poetry, hosts what is billed as a "festive and fun

evening of poetry, literature and music, featuring the best and brightest of New York's literary and music scene."



Paul Muldoon in 2004 photo. PHOTOCALL

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