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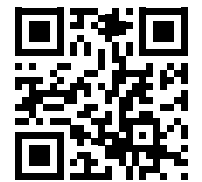
July 2023 | Volume 17 - Issue 7



Pittsburgh Banshee's Goalkeeper Rhiannon Lewis Guards the Net

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ONLINE



annual celtic & irish festival focus issue!



EDITORS CORNER
@Jobjr

JOHN O'BRIEN, JR.

Off to Dublin

Well, we're all off to Dublin in the Aer Lingus Green, in the green... as the *iIrish Express* finally embarked on its oft-postponed trip to Ireland. Brave souls entrusted us with their health, wealth and well-being as we kicked off by celebrating Bloomsday in Dublin.

We will tell you all about that, next month.

See the *What's the Craic?, Taking the Fields of Glory*, and the Annual *Festival Focus* pages within for all craic, and the details too for July. There is so much more inside.

Congrats and Huge Thank You to Blowin' In Columnist Susan Mangan on her 16th Anniversary with us, and Taking the Fields of Glory Columnist Vincent Beach on his 7th Anniversary too, as members of our *iIrish* team! You can meet the whole team on the "Our Staff" page on our new iIrish.us website anytime.

We have been so enjoying the GAA games this summer – especially at the [@Cleveland GAA](https://twitter.com/ClevelandGAA) home field at the [West Side Irish](http://www.westsideirish.com)

[American Club](http://www.americanclub.com) in Olmsted Twp. So many players have put in so many hours to make the field there a field and a place we are all proud of.

Such a project takes many years of smart maintenance to make it state of the art – their efforts began a few years back and continues - they are already showing amazing results. Check out the home men's, ladies and youth games and practices – free and open to the public to watch, to learn and hopefully, to inspire many to join the teams too. Plenty of free parking, kid's playground, restroom facilities and a hotdog or two are available on site. We at *iIrish* are proud to be a sponsor and a member of both the club and the team.

Cleveland will host the 2023 Midwest Championships – for all the detail, see the Taking the Fields of Glory story on Page 20-21 or at www.iIrish.us.

For 36 years, Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival brought the very best music, dance, and culture to attendees each year. The Fest

Continued on facing page



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Cleveland Irish	Francis McGarry
Columbus Irish	Andrew Shuman
Cooking Up a Hooley	Katie Gagne
Crossword Puzzle	Linda Fulton Burke
Éasca Péasca	Marie Young
Fields of Glory	Vincent Beach
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Terry From Derry	Terry Boyle
Wise Craics	Joe McDonough

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The opinions and statements expressed in this newspaper are entirely those of the authors, and do not reflect in any way the opinions of *iIrish*.



About Our Cover:
Pittsburgh Banshee's Goalkeeper Rhiannon Lewis Guards the Net, & exemplifies the thriving Irish culture available to all in the U.S.

Photo by John O'Brien, Jr.

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is back July 14-16 at the Berea Fairgrounds. Check out the lineup and other highlights of this and many other Irish, Celtic and American Festivals in our July Annual Festival Focus section within.


I am starting to get worried – prayers to surgery warriors **Linda Fulton Burke, Bob Carney, and Francis McGarry for a full and quick recovery.**

Irish is made in America. We have always been green and are proudly Irish, all year long.

...
Nuair a stapann an ceol, an damhsa déanann an amhlaidh

(When the music stops, so does the dance)

John



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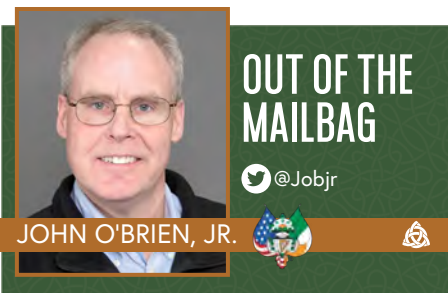
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The Elephant of Belfast

By S. Kirk Walsh
Counterpoint Press ISBN: 978-1-64009-511-3. 320 Pages



This national bestseller has such an unusual storyline, I just had to get it. I

was fortunate enough to meet and spend some time with author S. Kirk Walsh at the Irish Echo Arts & Culture Awards in April; with her warmth, personality, and soft-spoken stories, I knew the book would be great.

It is. In the novel, it is 1941, just after the start of World War II. The zoo where 20-year-old Ms. Hettie Quin is the first and only female zookeeper, is at the center of the story's physical place. The emotional place is many years and hurts in the making.

Hettie is on the deck, waiting with the Zoo Manager and the owner for the three-year old, orphaned elephant named Violet to arrive from India, the newest member of

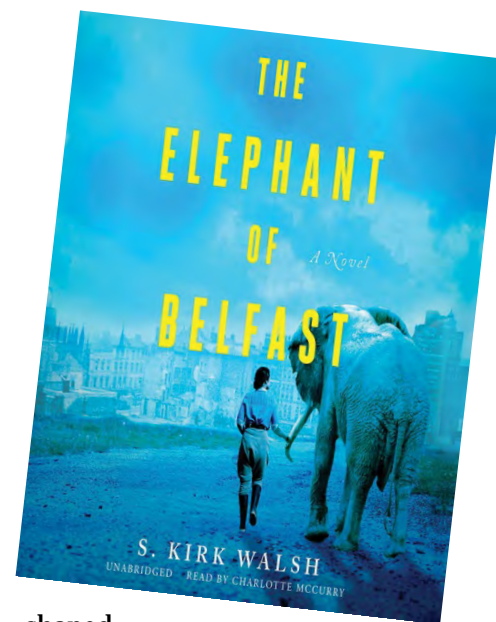
Belfast's Bellevue Zoo. They are all nervous, scared of things going wrong, and hopeful that Violet will be a boon for the zoo.

"As she pushed sweaty strands of hair from her eyes, she took in the sight overhead – a young elephant being maneuvered through the air. A crane and a system of chains and pulleys elevated the animal from the deck of the moored steamship. The elephant's trunk coiled up and then unfurled like an open fist. There was a hollow trumpet call. The crowd – women, men, children, sailors, dockworkers – let out a collective gasp, their gazes following the orchestrated movements of the hoisting operation..."

That is just the beginning of this novel, but not the beginning of the story, nor is the story a work of fiction. It was inspired by the true story, in that time and place, and thoroughly researched and recalled by the author. The Elephant of Belfast was inspired by some of the life of Denise Austin, who was also called "The Elephant Angel," and who was, in fact, the first female zookeeper at the Bellevue Zoo in Belfast.

Hettie was abandoned by her father, lost her sister as she gave birth to Hettie's niece Maeve, would then lose her mother in the Belfast Blitz ... Hettie and Violet work together, survive and find comfort together, as Hettie realizes that, Violet; Ferris, another friend in the story; Maeve; and Hettie herself ... all the survivors central to her life, are now orphans. Yet perhaps they are all closer than many – left alone and drawn together by trials and courage, the IRA, bombs and the breaking hearts all around them.

The Elephant of Belfast is a wonderful story, featuring characters



shaped by our times, our trials, and in the end, our triumphs. The Elephant of Belfast is available through Counterpoint Books and S. Kirk Walsh's <https://www.skirk-walsh.com> website. It is Highly Recommended.

Bláth na hÓige

Self-Titled Album from TG4
12 Tracks, 45 minutes. 2023
Gael Linn Records and most digital platforms.

Gael Linn, Aniar TV and TG4 released *Bláth na hÓige (Flower of Youth)*, a digital album based on the TG4 programme of the same name. The Irish language *sean-nós* song tradition is an integral part of Ireland's musical and cultural heritage.

The hugely successful TG4 series features eight young singers at an emergent point of their musical lives. Here on the digital release, 10 musicians blend beautifully.

They collaborate under the musical direction of acclaimed *sean-nós* singer and musician Sile Denvir, 2023 recipient of Gradam Ceoil TG4, and the illustrious fiddle player Colm Mac Con Iomaire, at Stiúideo Cuan in Connemara, to develop their own understanding of the *sean-nós* tradition. *Bláth na hÓige* emerged from this creative retreat.

Bláth na hÓige was recorded live-in-studio and demonstrates the beauty and depth of Ireland's *sean-nós* tradition, including featuring some of the finest young musicians and singers, who are intent on breaking musical moulds

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to reinvigorate and reimagine an essential aspect of their Gaelic culture, representing all four provinces of Ireland.

Performers:

Colm Mac Con Iomaire: Fídil / Fiddle; Síle Denvir: Amhránaíocht, cláirseach/ Vocals, harp; Séamus Ó Flatharta: Amhránaíocht, cláirseach, bodhrán / Vocals, harp, bodhrán; Caoimhe Ní Fhlatharta: Amhránaíocht, fídil / Vocals, fiddle; Máire Ní Churraoin: Amhránaíocht / Vocals; Étáin Ní Churraoin: Amhránaíocht / Vocals; Cathal Ó Curráin: Amhránaíocht, bouzouki, fídil/ Vocals, bouzouki, fiddle; Méabh Ní Bheaglaioich: Amhránaíocht, bosca ceoil, bouzouki, harmonium / Vocals, accordion, bouzouki, armóin

Piaras Ó Lorcáin: Amhránaíocht, bouzouki, bodhrán/ Vocals, bouzouki, bodhrán; Megan Nic Ruairí: Amhránaíocht, piano, harmonium / Vocals, piano, armóin.

Powerful vocals and stories from the start recall Moya Brennen's beautiful, haunting work in the *Last of the Mohicans*. Solos mix with full ensembles as songs and tunes range from joyful to lament, perhaps even the fading recognition of how much the *sean-nos* tradition has impacted Irish music, worldwide, without the accolades it much deserves. Irish fluency is not required to enjoy, assimilate and be moved by this ground-breaking work. Bláth na hÓige is a marvelous, superb work, an education in the tradition and culture of Ire-



Bláth na hÓige

land, still going strong, but welcoming of a new vibrancy too.

Song Credits/ Teidil chreidiúna

Tracks 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 trad. arranged by Bláth na hÓige / Traiceanna 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 Traidisiúnta, cóirithe ag Bláth na hÓige; Track 3 'Seoltaí Geala' Comp. Proinsias Ó Maonaigh / Traic 3 'Seoltaí Geala' Cum. Proinsias Ó Maonaigh; Track 8 'Slán Leat' Comp. Eilín Ní Bheaglaioich

/ Traic 8 'Slán Leat' Cum. Eilín Ní Bheaglaioich; Track 12 'Amhrán na nGael' Comp. Méabh Ní Bheaglaioich / Traic 12 'Amhrán na nGael' Cum. Méabh Ní Bheaglaioich

Label / Lipéad: Gael Linn; **Produced by / Léirithe ag:** Aniar & Síle Denvir; **Recorded in / Taifeadta i:** Stiúideo Cuan, An Spidéal; **Recorded by / Taifeadta ag:** Jack Warnock; **Mixed and mastered by / Measctha agus máistrithe ag:** Ciarán Byrne; **De-**

sign / Dearadh: Highwire.

Bláth na hÓige will be available on most digital platforms on the renowned

Gael Linn label from <https://Ink.fu.ga/blathnaoige>

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FESTIVAL FOCUS 2023



Shamrock Club of Columbus Brew Fest July 7

Featuring: Jared Denen, Shorty Allen & the Skirt Chasers, Brave the Sea, Bastard Bearded Irishmen.
Shamrock Club of Columbus, 60 West Castle Road, Columbus, Ohio 43207. ShamrockClubofColumbus.com

Shamrock Club of Columbus Irish Music Festival July 8

Featuring: The Pints, Achill Crossing, The Hooligans, The McLans, The Drowsy Lads, Irwin Irish Dancers.
ShamrockClubofColumbus.com

38th Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival July 14-16, 2023

Featuring: The High Kings, Derek Warfield & the Young



Wolfetones, The Bow Tides, New Barleycorn, The Fitzgerald's, The Byrne Brothers, The elders, Molly the Piper, James Kilbane, Andrew McManus Trio, The Prodigals, Brigid's Cross, Brother Crowe, Marys Lane, James Kilbane, The Elders, Ballinloch & More.

Plus: Temple Bar Cultural Hall & Museum; Children's Tir na nOg areas; Croke Park Sports & Cornhole; Festival Merch and loads of shopping opportunities; Outdoor (or indoor, dep. on the weather) Mass on Sunday; Great food, beverage and treats.
clevelandirish.org

35th Dublin Irish Fest August 4 - 6, 2023

More than 100,000 guests enjoy seven music stages, 65 acts, and more than 535 performers. There is truly something for everyone.

Featuring: Dervish, String Sisters, Old Blind Dogs, Gaelic Storm, Socks in the Frying Pan, Goitse, Talisk, Sliabh Notes, JigJam, Red Hot Chili Pipers, Young Dubliners, Scythian, Uncle Bard & The Dirty Bastards, Three Flew West, Drowsy Lads, The Fitzgeralds & Tempest.

More than 90 vendors with T-shirts, hats, and jewelry, along



with kilts, photos and paintings of Ireland and a wide variety of glass and crystal items. Plus, more than 30 food vendors.

Discover the richness of Irish history and culture by tracing your roots in the Genealogy tent, meet authors, and hear literary and historical presentations. Enjoy hands-on fun at the Music and Workshop stages and visiting musical instrument crafters, learning to play the tin whistle, fiddle, flute, and harp.

Meet Irish breeds and their owners at the Celtic Canine area. Children have their own area at the festival featuring crafts and games. In addition, they can visit the Wee Folk Stage, which features entertainment including storytellers, music and dance for the younger crowd.

Save a little green: purchase tickets now. Save \$10 when you purchase a weekend pass online or purchase a one-day ticket online and save \$5. Children ages 10 & under are free. Seniors (60+), military and student guests can purchase a ticket online or at the festival for \$20 (I.D. required at the festival).

For more info: DublinIrishFestival.org, and follow the Festival on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).



Iowa Irish Fest August 4-6

Featuring seven Stages, Irish Cultural Area, ShamRock N' Run, High Nelly Bike Rally; Irish Dance, Music, Language & Culture Workshops; Whiskey Tasting; Celtic Vendors; Food & Drink; Family Fun & Learning Areas; Highland Games; Outdoor Catholic Mass on Sunday; Celtic Cruise Motorcycle Ride, and So Much More, in Downtown Waterloo. IowaIrishFest.com



Lakewood Arts Festival August 6

Lakewood Arts Festival closes Detroit Avenue, between Belle to Arthur Avenues, to bring artists of all disciplines together, along with 15,000 collectors and art lovers. The juried festival hosts over 170 regional and national artists and makers displaying paintings, prints, photography, art glass, ceramics,



Festival Focus 2023



jewelry, sculpture, fiber and more. EAT ON THE STREET food court in front of the Lakewood Library on Detroit will offer a selection of the region's best food trucks.

Festival proceeds fund an annual scholarship for Lakewood seniors continuing to art school. After the Festival, the Board will present \$4,000 to the 2023 recipient. The event also funds grants for arts education and programming in the city. Recent awardees include H2O (Help to Others, middle-school students), The Barton Center (senior arts activities), The Beck Center for the Arts (Saturday programs) and Lakewood High School Art, Theater and Photography programs.

For more info: lakewoodartsfest.org.

and Irish Dancers, retail vendors, great food at reasonable prices, and of course, a beer tent w Guinness, Smethwick's & Bud Light on tap.

Saturday evening's Ceilidh is 6:00p.m. to 9:30p.m., featuring the *Mudmen* from Canada. Mayville Lakeside Park, Mayville, New York. Tickets: 96thhighlanders.com.



21st Kansas City Irish Fest September 1-3

Featuring: The Elders, Gaelic Storm, Red Hot Chilli Pipers, Screaming Orphans, Mundy, Shane Hennessy, Neil Byrne, Aoife Scott, Talisk, The Henry Girls, The Wee Heavies, the Nashville Celts, Carswell & Hope, Ashley Davis, Eddie Delahunt & Friends, Flannigan's Right Hook, St. Andrews Pipes & Drums, Mr. Stinky Feet aka Jim Cosgrove and many more

Plus: The All Irish Comedy Tour w Mick Thomas & Sean Finnerty (Friday & Saturday night). See kcirishfest.com for tickets and performers updates and follow us on Facebook and Instagram. See you at The Crown Center in downtown Kansas City!

16th Annual Celtic Festival and Gathering of the Clans Jamestown Regional Celtic Festival Gathering of the Clans & Highland Games August 25 - 26

Friday's "Kick-off Party" features the "Tuatha Dea" from Gatlinburg, Tennessee, 6p.m. to 9:30p.m. Saturday is Festival Day: 9:00a.m. to 10:00p.m., w eight Pipe Bands, seven Celtic bands, 25 Clans, The Scottish Heavy Athlete competing in seven events, Kid's Area w mini-Kids Version Heavy Games, Scottish

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General Admission Ticket Donation Is \$30

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Check www.96thhighlanders.com in May for more detail

!!! It will be worth the wait !!!

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Band Announcements
Seamus Kennedy Slide
Socks in the Frying Pan
Doolin'
Eileen Ivers
Sharon Shannon
Paddy Keenan
One for the Foxes
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FESTIVAL FOCUS 2023



PITTSBURGH IRISH Festival September 8-10

Featuring: Gaelic Storm, The Screaming Orphans, RUNA, Enda Reilly, Eileen Ivers, The Brigideens, Ally the Piper, The Bow Tides, Bastard Bearded Irishman, Ryan Young, The Low Kings, Donnie Irish, and The Wild Geese, and more who will all be headlining acts on various evenings and stages. Coming back for the third time after being a smashing success at the past two Festivals is The Real Irish Comedy Tour who will be performing on Friday and Saturday night of the Fest.

Returning this year, a fifth stage presented by Five Farms Irish Cream where visitors can watch both professional and amateur bakers and chefs demonstrate the process of cooking and baking some delightful treats, most of which will feature Five Farms!

Carrie Blast Furnaces National Historic Landmark. Tickets are now available now. The complete 2023 Festival line-up, band bios, photos, and ticketing links can be found at pghirishfest.org.



MICHIGAN IRISH Music Festival September 14 -17

The Michigan Irish Music Festival, presented by Family Financial Credit Union, will return to Heritage Landing in Muskegon on Sept. 14 - 17th for four days of outstanding live music, culture, Irish food, beverages, shopping, and entertainment.

Featuring: Seamus Kennedy, Socks in the Frying Pan, Doolin, Eileen Ivers, Sharon Shannon, Paddy Keenan, One for the Foxes, Tossers, Malinda, Moxie Strings, Tallymoore, Colm & Laura Keegan and more.

Look for exciting changes and new activities, continued improvements and a larger stage are on tap at the Grafton Street Area. Whiskey service will be available at three main bars with craft cocktail options, and an expanded craft beer area.

MIMF will feature two cultural stages and the Irish Store and Marketplace return for great "shoppportunities." Wee Ones' activities will be available, as well as a variety of food and Irish fare in our Celtic Kitchen. On Sunday,

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Festival Focus 2023



Catholic mass will be held at 11 a.m. The festival will showcase over 25 musical acts on multiple covered stages, on the shores of Muskegon Lake in downtown Muskegon. MIMF is offering discounted pricing on single-day tickets and four-day passes when purchased online. (Children 12 and under remain free.)

Advance tickets and passes for the Michigan Irish Music Festival. Stay tuned to the MIMF

social media pages and website - michiganirish.org - for updates. ●

Save the Date: Pipes & Ales April 6, 2024

Fundraiser for the 96th Highlanders Pipe & Drums., with Step N Time, and Catch N Release. Chautauqua Suites Hotel & Expo Center. [96th Highlanders.com](http://96thhighlanders.com) ●

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Celtic Festival and Gathering of the Clans

16th Annual Jamestown Regional Saturday, August 26, 2023 9 AM - 9:30 PM
Mayville Lakeside Park, Mayville, New York

Ceilidh Friday evening Aug 25th
6:30pm — 10pm

"TUATHA DEA"
Gatlinburg, Tennessee

Performing Saturday evening
MUDMEN

- ◆ 30 - Gathering of the Clans
- ◆ 8 - Pipe Bands
- ◆ 30 - Scottish Heavy Athletes
- ◆ 30 - Celtic & Craft Vendors
- ◆ Celtic Music
- ◆ All Kinds of Great Food
- ◆ Beer & Wine Garden
- ◆ Scottish & Irish Dancers
- ◆ Celtic & Craft Vendors
- ◆ Old Fashion Fiddle Session
- ◆ Kid's Area w/ Clan Hunt

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More information can be found at
www.96thhighlanders.com

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"CELTIC CREEK" / "STEP N TIME"
"WATERHORSE" / "BALLINLOCH"
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Joseph Plunkett and Grace Gifford

"I am dying for the glory of God and the honor of Ireland"

There were many sad stories that resulted from the 1916 Easter Rising in Dublin, but few are as sad as the story involving Joseph Plunkett and Grace Gifford.

Joseph Mary

Plunkett was an Irish nationalist, republican, poet, journalist, revolutionary and a leader of the 1916 Easter Rising. Plunkett was born on November 21, 1887 at 26 Upper Fitzwilliam Street in one of Dublin's affluent districts. Both his parents came from wealthy backgrounds. His father, George Noble Plunkett, was a biographer and museum director who had been made a Papal count by Pope Leo XIII. His mother was Mary Josephine (Cranny) Plunkett.

Joseph was educated at the Catholic University School in Dublin and at Belvedere College in Dublin. He later attended Stonhurst College in England where he acquired some military knowledge. Plunkett contracted tuberculosis at a young age; the disease plagued him throughout his life. He spent part of life in the warmer climates of the Mediterranean and North Africa. He lived in Algiers (1910-1912) where he studied Arabic literature and language and composed poetry in Arabic.

After returning to Dublin, he joined the Gaelic League

and began studying the Irish Language with Thomas MacDonagh, with whom he formed a lifelong friendship. The two were both poets with an interest in Irish theatre, and both were early members of the Irish Volunteers, joining the provisional committee. Sometime in 1915, Joseph Plunkett joined the Irish Republican Brotherhood and soon after was sent to Germany to meet with Roger Casement, who was negotiating with the German government on behalf of Ireland.

Grace Gifford was born at Rathmines on March 4, 1888. Gifford's parents were Frederick Gifford, a solicitor and a Roman Catholic, and Isabella Burton Gifford, a Protestant. Grace was the second youngest in a family of 12 children. Unlike her brothers, Grace was raised as a Protestant.

At the age of 16, Gifford attended the Dublin Metropolitan School of Art, where she studied under the Irish artist William Orpen. He regarded Gifford as one of his most talented pupils. Around this time, Gifford's talent for caricature was discovered. In

1907 she attended the course in Fine Art at the Slade School of Art in London.

She returned to Dublin in 1908, where she tried with difficulty to earn a living as a caricaturist, publishing her cartoons in *The Shanachie*, *Irish Life*, and *The Irish Review*. For a while, she considered leaving Ireland but gave up the idea.

Despite earning little money, she enjoyed a lively social life. Her friends included Nora Dryhurst, a journalist who worked in London, and Irish writer George William Russell. During 1908, Nora Dryhurst brought Grace to the opening of the new school, *Scoil Éanna* in Ranelagh, Dublin (pron: *skuhl ay-a-na*, St. Enda's School). It was an Irish language secondary school established in 1908 by Irish nationalist Patrick Pearse. It was here that she met Joseph Plunkett for the first time. Her brother-in-law was Thomas MacDonagh who was married to Grace's sister Muriel.

Grace's growing interest in

Continued on page 15



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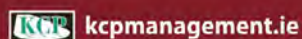
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Plunkett

Continued from page 13

the Roman Catholic religion led to the deepening of Gifford and Plunkett's relationship as she began to discuss Catholic theology with him. Plunkett proposed to her in 1915. Grace accepted and took formal instruction in the Catholic faith. Her parents were opposed to the marriage due to Plunkett's worsening health. She was received into the Catholic Church in April 1916. The couple planned to marry on Easter Sunday.

Plunkett was one of the original members of the IRB Military Committee that was responsible for planning the Easter Rising, and it was largely his plan that was followed. He was also one of seven signatories of the Irish Proclamation.

Shortly before the rising was to begin, Plunkett was hospitalized due to complications of tuberculosis. He had an operation on his neck glands days before.

On Easter Monday, at the start of the Rising, he struggled out of bed in order to take part in what was to follow. Still bandaged, he took his place in the General Post Office with the other leaders of the Rising. He spent most of his time laying on a mattress. Margaret Skinnider recalls that during Easter Week in the GPO he was "pale and weak" and "looked like death."

Following the surrender of the rebels, Joseph Plunkett was arrested and sentenced to death by firing squad along with the other leaders. The execution was scheduled for dawn on May 4, 1916. When Grace heard that Plunkett was to be executed she bought two wedding bands in a jeweler's shop in Dublin and, with the help of a priest, persuaded the military authorities to allow them to marry.

Fr. Eugene McCarthy of St James Church officiated at the wedding, held in Kilmainham Jail Chapel just before midnight



Grace Gifford Plunkett



Joseph Mary Plunkett

on May 3, 1916. The two British soldiers who served as witnesses were John Smith and John Lockerby. One of the soldiers held a candle because the gas lighting was not working. Later they would be given 10 minutes together in his cell, overseen by two soldiers.

Joseph Plunkett was executed the following morning just before dawn, May 4, 1916 along with Willie Pearse, Edward Daly and Michael O'Hanrahan. Plunkett's final words were, "I am dying for the glory of God and the honor of Ireland" The story of his marriage to Grace Gifford followed by his execution contributed to the sway of public opinion toward sympathy for the rebels.

Following Plunkett's execution, Grace became much more politically active and decided to devote herself through her art to the promotion of Sinn Féin policies and resumed her commercial art work to earn a living. She was elected to the Sinn Féin executive in 1917.

As the widow of Joseph Plunkett, Grace played her part in the Civil War that followed, and was arrested in February, 1923, and imprisoned in Kilmainham. She was there for three months and painted pictures of a religious nature on her cell walls, the most famous being the "Kilmainham Madonna." These paintings can be

seen today in Kilmainham.

Grace had difficulty supporting herself, until in 1932 she received a pension from Éamon de Valera's government. Grace Gifford Plunkett never married again and she died alone on December 13, 1955 in Dublin. She was buried in Glasnevin Cemetery with full military honors and Irish President Seán T. O'Kelly attended her funeral.

The Irish ballad, "Grace," written in 1985 by Frank and Seán O'Meara, tells the tragic story of Grace Gifford, and her fiancé, rebel leader Joseph Mary Plunkett. The best known version of *Grace* was recorded by Irish musician Jim McCann of the Dubliners. •

J. Michael Finn is the Ohio State Historian for the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Division Historian for the Patrick Pearse Division in Columbus, Ohio. He is past Chairman and Life Member of the Catholic Record Society for the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio. He writes on Irish and Irish-American history; Ohio history and Ohio Catholic history. You may contact him at FCoolavin@aol.com.

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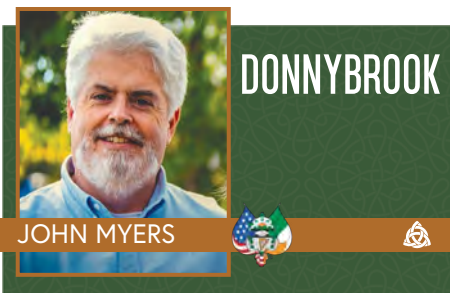
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Whitewash at the White House, and LIV

His Majesty's government is seemingly intent on proceeding with The English Parliament's so called "Amnesty Bill" or "Legacy Bill." While seemingly a positive sounding piece of legislation, it is the underlying purpose for the legislation to bury London's historic role in the state sponsored violence inflicted on the nationalist community in the North of Ireland in the 20th Century.

Even the cautious leadership of the Irish Republic, Irish Foreign Minister Michael Martin said, "It is a matter of regret to my government that the Legacy Bill continues its legislative progress without the support of

political parties in Northern Ireland," ... "I believe that, by providing for amnesties for crimes amounting to gross human rights violations, the Bill, if enacted, would undermine rather than assist reconciliation."

It is imperative that Irish Americans contact members of Congress to make clear this is unacceptable legislation, and the USA will not do a Free Trade agreement with a country looking to sweep history under the rug.

Census

The Irish Central Statistics Office has recently released the results of the 2022 Irish Census. For the first time in the history of the Irish Republic, the population has exceeded the five million mark. The findings were 5.1 million in the Republic and 1.9 million in the Six Counties controlled by Great Britain.

This compares with the 2016 Irish Census, where stats were 4.75 million in the Republic and 1.85 million in the Six Counties. Island wide, that was 6.6 million in 2016, compared with approximately seven million in 2022. This number is still short of the historic high of 8.1 million in the pre-famine, 1841 Census.

LIV or Die

Amnesty International, which was founded by the late Sean McBride (McBride Principles of Fair Employment), son of Maud

Gonne and Major John McBride (executed for his role in the 1916 Easter Rising), labels Saudi Arabia's human rights record as "Dire." It doesn't get much lower than that. The Pro Golf Association's (PGA) recent announcement that it had merged with the Saudi LIV Golf Tournament caught many by surprise.

Irish golfer Rory McIlroy, who had taken a principled stand to avoid the financial payoffs of LIV, said he felt like a "sacrificial lamb" - used by the PGA. Fellow Irish golfer Padraig Harrington, who also had taken a principled stand against LIV, stated, "unfortunately is proves sports washing works."

"Sports Washing" is a form of propaganda to use sport as a cover or to whitewash a dismal record. The families of 9-11 victims, as well as the family of journalist Jamal Khashoggi and a legion of others, will not be swayed by Crown "Prince" Mohammed Bin Salami's blood money. Meanwhile, the owner of a number of golf resorts which had greatly benefitted from hosting LIV tournaments, Mr. D. J. Trump, welcomed the merger, calling it: "Big, beautiful and glamorous."

Independence

On July 4th, we celebrate the blessings of liberty, forged through the vision and courage of the founders during that hot summer of 1776 in

Philadelphia. Let us, with a reflective pause, call to mind the Pre-Amble of the Declaration of Independence: *We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.* And let us recall, with pride, that eight of the signatories were Irish, the first Irish Americans.

White House Continues Push a Return to Stormont

Great Britain's Prime Minister, Rushi Sunak, visited the White House last month. President Biden welcomed the P.M., and in the august East Room, shared the podium for a joint press conference.

While the focus of the presser was on the war in Ukraine and improving trade between the two countries, Biden still lead his remarks pushing London to resolve the impasse in Stormont. The Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) continues to boycott the Northern Ireland Assembly.

This year and a half drama by the DUP risks destabilizing basic governmental services in the Six Counties. Biden has consistently made it clear that return of the N.I. Assembly is high priority to the Biden administration, as well as the complete implementation of the

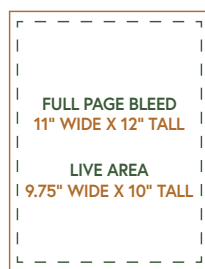
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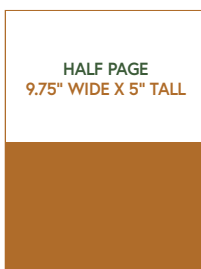
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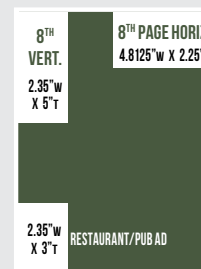
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Welcome Back

As a member of the Irish American Community of Cleveland, I am so happy to see the return of the Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival on the weekend of July 14-16, 2023. It has been three long years since we have gathered at one of the best Irish Festivals in Northern Ohio. The dream of an Irish Festival in Cleveland was made possible by a great man, John O'Brien, and the dream continues thanks to his son in

law, Phil Parente

I was proud to be a volunteer at the first Festival in 1983 at the German Grounds. The first Festival was a success thanks to John O'Brien, his family and a group of friends that were committed to share our rich Irish Heritage. I had the privilege of working with this group as a volunteer for many years.

Due to the success of the early years, the German Grounds were too small, and a new home was found at the Berea Fairgrounds. Attendance continued to grow and many came from neighboring states to participate in a wonderful Cultural Festival.

Unfortunately the pandemic caused the Festival to have to take a break for the past three years. Please welcome back this wonderful Cleveland tradition and honor the many committee members and volunteers that have passed on.

There are too many to name.



Thanks to their hard work, our community has benefited by more than \$770,00 in donations made to local charities.

Since 1983, many local, national and international musical groups have performed. What a treasure to be able to hear Liam Clancy, Tommy Makem, Mick Moloney and so many more giants in the Irish music world. Cherish the Ladies, Eileen Ivers and Liz Carrol, who share their talent in workshops with young Cleveland musicians, and our local musicians Brigid's Cross, Mary's Lane and the New Barleycorn's banter and skill have been discovered and now travel to other festivals.

What is a festival without Irish dancing? Cleveland is privilege to have so many great dancers and dancing schools that have performed throughout our community. Our rich Irish heritage can be found in the cultural area where Cleveland's Irish history is displayed. Thanks to the

Cleveland Irish Players, there has been many theatrical productions. Lectures have also been given on important periods of Irish history.

The Cleveland Irish Festival is for all ages. Bring your children, your parents and other family members to the Berea Fairgrounds the weekend of July 14-16 to enjoy our rich Irish heritage. For more information, please visit the website: clevelandirish.org

Marilyn Madigan is the National President of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians and a Deputy Director of the United Irish Societies of Cleveland. She received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from St. John College and retired from Nursing at University Hospitals of Cleveland.

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Donnybrook

Continued from previous page

Good Friday Agreement. Thank you, President Biden.

Bojo Nomo

The Daily Mail's banner headline quotes former P.M. Boris Johnson, "I've been forced out by a witch-hunt" (sounds familiar?). BOJO stepped down as Prime Minister less than a year ago, but the "Partygate" investigation by the House of Commons Privileges Committee looked likely to recommend censure and suspension of Boris from the Mother of all Parliaments.

Seeing the handwriting on the wall, BOJO submitted his resignation as the MP for Uxbridge and South Ruislip to avoid public reprimand. On the way out the door he was spewing venom at PM Sunyak and decrying the "Kangaroo Court" he was a victim of (also sounds familiar?).

Looking to deflect blame from his lack of personal responsibility for lying to Parliament regarding parties at 10 Downing Street that violated his own governments COVID policies during lockdown, he claims this is The Establishment's effort to punish him for leading Brexit and,

ultimately, to reverse Brexit. Hang on to your dance card though, BOJO is a remarkably gifted blowhard, and one could easily see him finding his way back to Westminster.

Sinn Fein Tops Polls – Again

In May's local counselor elections, Sinn Fein, Ireland's oldest political party, topped the polls in the Six Counties. There are 462 locally elected seats. Last year, Sinn Fein topped the polls for the Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly at Stormont.

This year, Sinn Fein won the most

local counselor (akin to a local city council member) seats, the first time any nationalist party has been at the lead. Sinn Fein went from holding 105 seats, to winning 144 seats, a HUGE gain of 39 seats.

The DUP stayed static with 122 seats, while the Alliance party gained 14 seats, to hold 67. Both the UUP and SDLP lost around 20 seats each.

Meanwhile, the DUP continues its boycott of Stormont, and no N.I. Assembly is in session. It is hoped that this recent huge Sinn Fein electoral victory will create momentum to restore life and activity

to Stormont.

Sinn Fein leader in the North, Michelle O'Neil, stated, "I am now calling on both governments, as co-guarantors of the Good Friday Agreement, the Irish government and the British government, to come together to establish a meeting of the British Irish Intergovernmental Conference to come up with a plan for the restoration of the Assembly." ■

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My Top 10 Healthiest Grains

Regardless of what people on the “keto” diet think, grains are an essential part of a healthy lifestyle. Whole grains provide us with essential vitamins, minerals, and carbohydrates that fuel our muscles and brain with energy. But not all grains are created equal.

There are whole grains (those that still contain the bran, germ, and endosperm), and refined grains (in which the bran and germ have been removed, leaving just the high-carb

endosperm behind).

While refined grains—white rice, fluffy white bread, sugary breakfast cereals, and so on provide almost no health benefits to your body, whole grains tend to be high in many nutrients, like fiber, magnesium, iron, B vitamins, phytonutrients, and more. However, there is quite a bit of discrepancy in the health benefits of various whole grains. Some whole grains (like corn or brown rice) are still lacking in nutrient density compared to others, such as oats and barley.

Barley

Barley is traditionally served in soups, salads, grain bowls, and more. It contains a higher amount of dietary fiber than any of the other grain, plus it has an array of phytochemicals and the soluble fiber beta-glucan. These antioxidants may help to reduce bad cholesterol and build immunity.

A quarter cup of uncooked hulled barley is 160 calories, 34 grams of carbohydrates, 8 grams dietary fiber, and 6 grams protein. It is also high in manganese, selenium, and thiamine (a B vitamin).

Quinoa

This South American grain

typically cooks in just 15 minutes, which makes it a much-loved ingredient for those who meal prep. Quinoa is super nutritious, too: It’s a source of complete vegetable protein because it contains all essential amino acids. It also contains fewer carbohydrates and more protein in comparison to other grains. Quinoa is also high in magnesium, phosphorus, manganese, and folic acid.

A quarter cup of uncooked quinoa is 170 calories, 27 grams of carbohydrates, 3 grams fiber, and 6 grams protein. Mix some quinoa with sweet potatoes, kale, and pesto for a nutritious meal.

Amaranth

Amaranth is a gluten-free whole grain. The protein content of amaranth is higher than both buckwheat and rye. It has phytochemicals and is high in magnesium, manganese, and phosphorous.

A quarter cup of amaranth is 200 calories, 32 grams of carbohydrates, 3 grams dietary fiber, and 7 grams protein.

Buckwheat

This gluten-free whole grain is typically eaten as cereal (kasha), used in Japanese noodles (soba noodles) and in granola, pancakes, or crepes. It contains antioxidants that are associated with the prevention of cancer and heart disease. Buckwheat is also high in soluble fiber: Not all of the grain is digestible, which may help improve blood cholesterol and manage

blood glucose.

A quarter cup uncooked is 160 calories, 31 grams of carbohydrates, 6 grams of protein, and 4 grams of dietary fiber. Buckwheat is also high in magnesium, copper, and manganese.

Teff

Teff is one of the highest protein grains, alongside amaranth. It’s gluten-free, and an excellent source of iron and magnesium. Teff is also a solid source of fiber, iron, magnesium, phosphorus, zinc, thiamin, and vitamin B6, and can provide over 100 percent of daily value of manganese.

A quarter cup of uncooked teff is 180 calories, 35 grams of carbs, 4 grams dietary fiber, and 6 grams protein.

Oats

Oats contain polyphenols, which act as antioxidants and are a powerful anti-inflammatory agent. They are also high in beta-glucan, a type of soluble fiber that helps lower LDL (bad) cholesterol and may reduce the risk of some type of cancers. Oats also may help lower blood pressure. They’re a good source of fiber, iron, magnesium, phosphorus, zinc, copper, thiamin, manganese, and selenium. Oats are naturally gluten-free.

Farro

Farro is a well-known grain in Italy and the Mediterranean. There are two main types: Traditional farro (that isn’t processed) and

Continued on facing page



There are whole grains (those that still contain the bran, germ, and endosperm), and refined grains (in which the bran and germ have been removed, leaving just the high-carb

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I Spy with My Little Eye: Ways to Keep Your Eyes Healthy

By **Sara Beldon, APRN, CNP**



I spy with my little eye something blue! I spy with my little eye Mercy Health providing helpful resources during eye injury prevention month!

Often overlooked, eye health is very important to everyone's overall quality of life. Injuries to the eye can be quite detrimental. However, eye injuries are easily preventable, making it important to stay on top of common risk factors.

Most eye injuries include foreign object entering the eyes, including glass, sand, gravel, boiling water or oil and hazardous chemicals. This type of eye injury is the most

preventable because of the steps you can take to protect your eyes in hazardous conditions, especially in working conditions where flying foreign objects is common.

Other related eye injuries are caused by blunt force traumas. This what we think of when an athlete is hit in the head by a basketball or a baseball. Impact sports like football and wrestling are also places in which blunt force trauma can occur

In workplaces or hazardous conditions, the best course of action is to wear a pair of eye goggles or protective glasses. Depending on the sport, protective eye goggles may be useful.

One misconception is that most eye injuries happen in the workplace or during the day, when the vast majority of eye injuries happen at home. Over 2,000 eye

injuries happen every day.

How to Keep Your Eyes Healthy

- Proactive steps are the best way to prevent eye injuries. Here is a list of how you can keep your eyes in tip-top shape:
- Wearing sunglasses can help protect your eyes from the sun's harmful UV rays.
- Eat healthy foods; diets in rich fruits and vegetables can boost eye health.
- Quit smoking; nicotine increases the risk for conditions such as cataracts.
- Maintaining a healthy weight can reduce your risk of diabetes and other conditions that increase your risk for glaucoma and other eye illnesses.

What to Do in Case of Eye Injury

In nearly all cases, calling 911 is the best option in the case of a serious eye injury. If a blow to the eye occurs, apply a cold compress, and take pain medication to reduce pain. If persistent pain, bleeding, or bruising occurs, call a doctor.

Regular eye checkups with a licensed eye doctor are the best way to keep your eyes in the best shape they can be. It's important to get your eyes checked at least once a year to determine vision changes, as well as to catch major eye illnesses, such as glaucoma and other eye diseases, in their earliest stages – which is the time in which these illnesses are most treatable. ■

Sara Beldon, APRN, CNP, is a board-certified family nurse practitioner, serving patients at Mercy Health – Sheffield Primary Care.

grams dietary fiber, and 6 grams protein.

Wild Rice

Despite its name, this isn't rice, but an aquatic grass seed. Wild rice grows naturally along waterways in almost every state in the U.S. It gives you twice the protein and fiber of brown rice. It also packs whopping 30 times more antioxidant power than white rice. ■

Dr. Peters is the founder of "The Fitness Doctor" (www.thefitnessdoctors.com) and a professor of Health & Human Performance. He has a Ph.D. in Physiology from Kent State University and is a certified member of the American College of Sports Medicine. Dr. Peters is also a graduate of St. Ignatius High School and John Carroll University. If you found this article interesting, read more on his website. He can be reached at fred@thefitnessdoctors.com.

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Top 10 Grains

Continued from previous page

pearled farro (that's processed to make it quicker to cook). The flavor is nutty, chewy, and hearty. The fiber-rich grain can be prepared in salads, soups, or in place of rice.

A quarter cup of uncooked dry farro is 200 calories, 11 grams of carbohydrates, 1 gram of dietary fiber, and 2 grams of protein.

Bulgur

Most people know bulgur as the main ingredient in tabbouleh salad. It's high in fiber and manganese, and is a good source of magnesium, phosphorus, and niacin.

A quarter cup uncooked is 160 calories, 27 grams of carbs, 4 grams dietary fiber, and 4 grams protein.

Millet

This gluten-free Asian grain is used in porridge, to make congee, and stir-fried dishes. Millet is high in antioxidants, high in manganese, and is a good source of magnesium, phosphorus, copper, thiamin, and niacin.

A quarter cup uncooked millet is 210 calories, 37 grams of carb, 4



1. If an Irish farmer told you he was going to purchase a McMahon, what would he be referring to?
2. Who is the author of the poem Easter 1916?
3. Lucky the husband is the first line of what poem written by Turlough O'Carolan?
4. What year was Clan na Gael (the family of Irish People) founded in America?
a) 1857 b) 1867 c) 1877
5. County Louth is the smallest county in Ireland. What county is second?
6. The song The Galtee Mountain Boy mentioned the names of four Irish Patriots; Sean Moylon, Dinny Lacey, and Sean Hogan and? Who is the fourth?
7. The building where monks spend their time writing and decorating holy books was called a _____.
8. True or false: The cottiers and spailpin were the wealthiest people during the great Famine?
9. "Wykinglo" is the Norse name for which town?
10. Brian Boru was killed at the Battle of _____.

1. Spade (or shovel)
2. William Butler Yeats
3. Mabel Kelly were the poorest.
4. b) 1867
5. Count Offaly
6. Dan Breen
7. Scriptorium
8. False - they were the poorest.
9. Wicklow
10. Clontarf



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OUT & ABOUT IRISH AMERICA

Ohio

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HOOLEY HOUSE FRIDAY PATIO PARTY!

7th -Flannel Cleveland, 14th- Mossy Moran, 21st- Jim & Eroc, 28th- Jim Lord. 10310 Cascade Crossing, Brooklyn 216-362-7700. thehooley.com.

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5 POINTS COFFEE & TEA

Always 10am to Noon. **No events sent to us.** 3600 West Park Road. Cleveland, Oh 44111 5pointscafe.com.

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No events sent to us. 4408 Detroit Road, 44113 the-harp.com

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1114 Center St. Cleveland 44113-2406 216. 696.6968. flatironcafe.com

TREEHOUSE

820 College Avenue, Cleveland, 44113 treehousecleveland.com

PJ MCINTYRE'S

1st Matt Zukes, 4th Happy 4th of July! Open @ 9am..Join us for the West Park 4th of July Parade! 14th Crawley & Sofranko, 21st Half Craic'd.

PJ McIntyre's is a Local 10 Union establishment. Home of the Celtic Supporter's Club and the GAA. Book Parties & Events in our Bridgie Ned's Irish Parlor Party Room. 17119 Lorain Road, 44111. pjmcintyres.com 216-941-9311.

MUSIC BOX SUPPER CLUB

No events sent to us. 1148

Main Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44113. musicboxcle.com

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No events sent to us. PUB: 7:30 – 10:30. IACES 22770 Lake Shore Blvd. Euclid, 44123. 216.731.4003 eastsideirish.org

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17th – Bluestone Golf Outing – a great event that sells out quickly, get your foursome set.

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MEDINA / MONTROSE

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7- Christian Kaser 8- The New Barleycorn 14- Doug Kaufman Band 15- RJ Chandler 21- Danny Christian 22- The Other Brothers 28- The Music Men 29- Smug Saints. 117 West Liberty Medina, 44256 sullysmedina.com.



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@
hooley house
montrose
on the 21st

HOOLEY HOUSE MONTROSE

Friday Patio Party!

7th- Company Housing, 14th- Tom Guarino, 21st- Mossy Moran, 28th- The Berrys. 145 Montrose West Ave. 234-466-0060. thehooley.com

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7th- Joshua Robert, 14th- Vince Menti, 21st- Flannel Cleveland, 28th Company Housing. 7861 Reynolds Rd, Mentor 440-942-6611. thehooley.com

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8th -Shindig, direct from Ireland in the pub. Doors open 6:30,

info 216-251-4075; 9th -Annual Family Picnic; 13th -Forever Young Meeting 1P; 20th -General Meeting 7P; 22nd -Steak Shoot 7P, Helen 216-251-4075. Great live music and food in The Pub every Friday. WSIA Club 8559 Jennings Rd. 44138 wsia-club.org. 440-235-5868.

CLEVELAND ST. PAT'S / ST. JARLATH'S GAA

Always defer to the team's WhatsApp group chat or calendar on clevelandgaa.com for updates. New players always welcome. West Side Irish American Club 8559 Jennings Road, Olmsted Township, OH 44138.

Ladies Football 8th - CLE Vs Roc City @WSIA. CLE @ Buffalo Fenians

Men's Football: 8th - CLE Vs Detroit @WSIA; 29th – CLE @Pitt

Men's Hurling: 8th - CLE Vs Akron @WSIA; 15th CLE 2 @ Albany, CLE1 Vs Roc City, 22nd – CLE @Buffalo Fenians

Camogie: 8th - CLE Vs Pitt @ WSIA, 29th – CLE @Pitt

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Irish's What's the Craic? feature will remain free for all current advertisers.

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Erie Street, Willoughby 44094.
Noraspublichouse.net

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Erie Street, Willoughby 44094
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Mon: Open Irish Music Session 7ish; Tue: Open Old Timey Music Session 7ish; Wed: Open Mic – 7:30pm – 9:30pm, sign-up 6:30pm. 127 North Main Street South Bend, IN. 44601. 574.232.2853 FiddlersHearth.com

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GAELIC ARTS SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

pghgaelicarts@gmail.com.



sessiúns:

Gormley's Pub - 2nd Sunday of the month, 5 to 8. 19500 Center Ridge Road, Rocky River, OH 44116

The Magic Tree Pub & Eatery – 3rd Sunday of the month, 5:30 to 7:30 7463 South Avenue, Boardman, Ohio 44512

The 1035 Club 1st Saturday of the month 1-3. 1035 Bridge Street upstairs, Ashtabula, OH 44004

The Harp – 1st Friday of every month, 9pm 4408 Detroit, Cleveland 44113

Mondays: Music lessons w/ Samantha McNamara, followed by 8pm sessiún. Gormley's Irish Pub. All ages, levels, & observers welcome. Info/Contact: McNamaraSchool.com

Otie's Tavern – Tuesdays 7-9. 5344 Center Street, Hilliard, OH 43206

Logan's Irish Pub – 3rd Wednesday of the month, 7:30 414 S. Main Street, Findlay, OH 45840

Plank Road – Thursdays 7 – 10. All ages and experience welcome 16719 Detroit Road, Lakewood, OH 44107

Spoon Market & Deli - every Thursday, 7-9 PM, all are welcome, 144 W Liberty St., Wooster, OH 44691

Dempsey's – Fridays: 8-10. 346 S. High Street Columbus, OH 43215

Irish Language Classes:

Introductory to intermediate level, Tuesdays, 6:15 - 8 p.m. P.J. McIntyre's Irish Pub 17119 Lorain Road, Cleveland, OH 44111

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Tuesdays 8-10 pm Lessons @7:15. Sessiún Musicians, Dance Caller w/ Pittsburgh Ceili Club. Mullaney's Harp & Fiddle Strip District Pittsburgh, PA. pittsburghceiliclub@gmail.com;

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Continued on page 23





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No Events sent to us. 215 East Main Street. Carnegie, PA 15106 rileyspourhouse.com

MCFADDEN'S

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No Events sent to us. Catering, Party Room & More. 211 N. Shore Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15212. McFaddenspitt.com

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No Events sent to us. 2329 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA. 15222 Harpandfiddle.com

PITTSBURGHGAA

No Events sent to us. Contact PittsburghGAA for more info: Secretary@PittsburghGAA.com pittsburghgaa.com

THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS/LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

Division 1

No events sent to us. pghsaintpat@verizon.net

Division 4 (North Hills)

No Events sent to us. aohdiv4.org or Bob Parry (724-933-0427).

Division 21 William R. Murphy (Garfield) **No Events sent to us.**

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In Columbus?

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In Toledo?



Beyond the Pale? In Your Town?

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Submit news, events, releases, memories, milestones, ads and pics for inclusion in the ilrish Out & About Monthly Events List, blurb features or the Coming Next Month Save the Dates List. Due date is ALWAYS the 10th of this month, for the following month.

Irish Radio



WEDNESDAY

1:30pm-3pm: Dianne Byrnes
WEDO 810 AM and simulcast on
Sundays 12:30 - 2:00 pm Pittsburgh

SATURDAY

2pm-4pm: Sweeney Astray
WRUW-FM 91.1 Cleveland

4:00 - 6:00 Toss the Feathers
WCBE FM 90.5 Columbus

SUNDAY

10am-12pm: Gerry Quinn's
Irish Hours WHK-AM 1420
w/ Colleen Corrigan Day & Eddie
Fitzpatrick Cleveland

7:00 - 8:00 Thistle & Shamrock
WGT FM 91.3 Toledo

5:00 - 6:00 The Hooley Hour
WHK AM 1420 Cleveland



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GAA Monthly

Midwest News

Another beautiful day for the Midwest GAA family took place at Cleveland's Memorial

7-A-Side on May 20th. Teams from Chicago (McBride's, Erin Rovers, and James Joyce), Milltown, Cincinnati (2), Detroit, Pittsburgh (Celtics, Banshees)

joined hosts Cleveland (Men-3, Ladies-2) for a full schedule of 28 games.

Presenting the shield and championship cups was the Mulloy Family; presenting the MVP awards was the Dunne Family; and memorializing the day was the Doherty family. Father Pat Spicer joined the faithful at the intermission of the games to remember our departed, especially the Doherty's, and to bless the players for continued safe competition.

The Men's final was a familiar match-up in Cleveland versus Pittsburgh. The Celtics once again hoisted the cup. For the shield division, the McBride's won. On the Ladies' side, Chicago's Erin Rovers top the round-robin play over runner-up Pittsburgh Banshees. The Cleveland ladies were tied with Pitt but lost on the goals tiebreaker.

The week prior to the Memorial 7's tournament, Pittsburgh traveled into Chicago's 9-A-Side tournament. The Celtics compete at the junior level, beating teams from Milwaukee and Chicago to bring back hardware.

The same weekend, the north division of the Midwest men's football competition pitted the Albany Rebels against the Buffalo Fenians in Albany, and Roc City Gaelic against the hosting Syracuse Gaels. The Fenians outlasted the



Father Pat with the Dougherty Family

Rebels by the score of 1-11 (14) to 2-6 (12), while Syracuse handled the new footballers of Rochester by the score of 7-6 (27) to 3-4 (13).

On June 3rd the Cleveland men traveled to Xavier University to take on the Cincinnati footballers. The hosts won comfortably by the final score of 6-14 (32) to 3-11 (20).

Pittsburgh hosted a double header of hurling and ladies' Gaelic Football, when the Fenians arrived. The Pucas supplied their development team but were able to crush the visitors by the score of 9-20 (47) to 0-7 (7).

The Fenian ladies did not fare any better unfortunately; the Banshees ran up the final tally of 8-28 (52) to 0-5 (5). The Fenian men's Gaelic team was able to bring some joy back home after defeating Roc City in Rochester by the final score of 7-12 (33) to 0-5 (5).

The final score update for this month covers the June 10th weekend, where Albany hosted a double header, Cleveland men's Gaelic football hosted the Buffalo Na Fianna, and the Celtics hosted

the Wolfetones of Detroit. The Rebels won soundly over Syracuse in football knocking over 12 and netting 4 (29) to the Rebels 1-3 (6).

In hurling, the Rebels went toe-to-toe with Roc City, only to have the match end in a draw 3-20 (29-AR) to 7-8 (29 - RCG). The young Na Fianna team made their 2023 debut in Cleveland but were soundly defeated by the hosts 5-16 (31) to 1-1 (4). And rounding out the weekend, the Celtics proved to be too skillful for Detroit – the final score, 2-7 (13) to 3-17 (26).

Looking ahead, the Midwest Division has 16 games completed and 30 more to play before the Midwest Finals. Games will continue through June and July, and we will keep you posted.

Midwest Finals Cleveland

As you heard last month, the Cleveland GAA has been selected to host the Midwest GAA Finals over the August 5th-6th weekend and will be back to the Barton-Bradley fields in North Olmsted, site of the 2013 USGAA Finals. Joining the Midwest competition this year will be CLG Acla (Achill GAA), to take



Date	Competition	Team 1	Team 1 Score	Team 2	Team 2 Score	Location
4/29/2023	Football North	Albany Rebels	8-12 (36)	v Roc City Gaelic	1-5 (8)	@ Albany
	Hurling	Albany Rebels (D)	1-7 (10)	v Roc City Gaelic (C)	5-7 (22)	@ Albany
5/13/2023	Football North	Albany Rebels	2-6 (12)	v Buffalo Fenians	1-11 (14)	@ Albany
	Football North	Roc City Gaelic	3-4 (13)	v Syracuse Gaels	7-6 (27)	@ Syracuse
6/3/2023	Football South	Cincinnati GAA	6-14 (32)	v Cleveland SPSJ	3-11 (20)	@ Cincinnati
	Hurling	Buffalo Fenians (D)*	0-7 (7)	v Pittsburgh Pucas (D)*	9-20 (47)	@ Pittsburgh
	LGF	Buffalo Fenians	0-5 (5)	v Pittsburgh Banshees	8-28 (52)	@ Pittsburgh
	Football North	Buffalo Fenians	7-12 (33)	v Roc City Gaelic	0-5 (5)	@ Rochester
6/10/2023	Football North	Albany Rebels	4-12 (24)	v Syracuse Gaels	1-3 (6)	@ Albany
	Hurling	Albany Rebels (D)*	3-20 (29)	v Roc City Gaelic (C)*	7-8 (29)	@ Albany
	Football South	Buffalo Na Fianna	1-1 (4)	v Cleveland SPSJ	5-16 (31)	@ Cleveland
	Football South	Detroit Wolfe Tones	2-7 (13)	v Pittsburgh Celtics	3-17 (26)	@ Pittsburgh





West Park Shamrocks
vs Hawkeye at Nationals

on the intermediate squad of the Pittsburgh Celtics – the showcase game on Saturday.

The Achill lads will also be accompanied by several members of the pipe band, who will join forces with their counterparts of the WSIA to parade the teams and entertain fans. The weekend will have a festival-like atmosphere, with food and beverage trucks, traditional music from the best players between the Atlantic and the Mississippi, sports, youth games (Saturday), the pipe bands, hurling, camogie, Gaelic football, and fine Irish culture.

The weekend is fast approaching –

if you are interested in volunteering, advertising, or sponsoring, please reach out (contact info below). You will be among friends you haven't yet met.

West Park Shamrock Rugby

Taking a sidebar from the usual Gaelic Games to share with you some wonderful news from our rugby cousins. My boys became obsessed with rugby after American football season ended. They watched YouTube for longer than I know to learn the skills and rules. The funny shaped ball was constantly being spiraled through the kitchen, dining room, and living room all winter break.

To get the dang ball out of the house and prevent any further damage, we finally reached out to some of our GAA friends that are also involved in rugby. A few days later, the boys were at indoor sessions with the West Park Shamrocks and absolutely loving it. The coaches, players, parents, and community shared their passion, knowledge, and encouragement with the newcomers.

After a few sessions, the outdoor season was upon us. Well, the youngest of mine is holding out another year for tackle rugby, but I was able to follow the oldest as he joined the 7th-8th grade team. The Shamrock club includes flag rugby for the youngest, modified rules for the middles, and tackle for the 7th-8th graders – boys and girls.

The spring season is 7-a-side and played on the all-weather pitches at St. Ignatius High School. Now, I only followed the 7th-8th grade boys (hoping to have some future write-ups on the rest), but they finished out the regular season 9-0-1 against the likes of Rocky River, Highland, Brunswick, Medina, Cleveland RFC, South Akron, Avon Lake, Hudson, Welsh Academy, Vanguard, Shaker Heights, and St. Francis.

The club then went on to sweep the City Championships and qualify for the State Championships. The boys snuck in a Columbus tournament that they won on May 20th, then were back south in Cincinnati on May 27th for the state tournament. The Shamrocks beat Brunswick, the Eagles of Cincinnati, and their familiar foe, Highland, to win the state title.

Having then qualified for Nationals, they boys were back at St. Ignatius over the June 9-11 weekend. This time, the Shamrocks went 1-1 on Friday, advancing into the Tier 1 group. Saturday's first opponent of Cleveland select players knocked them out of the championship, but they would go on to improve their weekend record to 4-3, including a tournament ending win over Highland.

Final record was 22-3-1 on the season – impressive. Thank you, coaches, administrators, and the West Park community!

Go raibh míle maith agaibh

Thanks y'all, to our readers and supporters. We need your help and involvement but would most like to share the fun of Irish sport and Cleveland community with you. Consider getting involved at any level. Fáilte (welcome)

to all. The Gaelic Athletic Association is Ireland's largest sporting organization and a bit of home for the Irish abroad here in the US of A. Beyond sports, the Association also promotes Irish music, song and dance, and the Irish language as an integral part of its objectives. Cleveland GAA is open to all who want to play competitive sports, meet new people, and join an athletic, fitness-minded club for all ages.

Follow @ClevelandGaelic on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for the 2022 activities for Men, Women, and Youth, or visit ClevelandGAA.com. Email ClevelandGAA@gmail.com.

Vincent Thomas Francis Xavier Beach is a proud Greater Clevelander and emigrant of Michigan. He joined the St. Pat's Gaelic Football Club in 1999 and, with much help, is the current caretaker of the Cleveland GAA. His Irish is a cross of dialects from the University of Cincinnati and An Cheathrú Rua. With his wife, Michelle, he enjoys watching time absolutely fly by as their three children grow. His other hustles are coaching CYO basketball at St. Mary of Berea, coaching soccer in Olmsted TWP, teaching Construction Management at CWRU, and laying down some engineering skills on local water/wastewater projects.

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The Blind Man's Vision

I've been re-listening to a series of lectures by Professor Marc C. Conner from Washington and Lee University, collectively titled "*The Irish Identity, Independence, History and Literature.*" They were originally distributed to coincide with the 2016 anniversary of *The Rising*.

The Irish Renaissance

It's no secret that Ireland has

produced some of the world's best writers, poets and playwrights. Yeats, Shaw, Joyce, Wilde, Lady Gregory, Synge and many others found their voice writing in English about Ireland, it's people and culture in what we call the *Celtic Revival*. A literary component of the *Irish Renaissance*.

It was an interesting concept of taking ancient celtic and Irish motifs and uniting a troubled land and it's people. It eliminated, for the most part, differences in politics and because the stories were pre-Christian, religion, allowing the Irish to become one people and take pride in themselves and their culture.

An Gorta Mór

Regrettably, many writers at the time had to make a choice to write in English or Irish. Your audience would be smaller if you chose to write exclusively in Irish. After An Gorta Mór, the Great Hunger, the number of Irish speakers fell dramatically.

In 1843, Irish was the main language of around three million people in Ireland, but, fifty years



Lady Gregory

writers that did choose to write in the language of their people, rather than the language of "*the strangers.*" Lady Gregory not only learned Irish, but wrote extensively in the language, capturing the tales she was told from those she met in the West.

Her knowledge benefited Yeats in his poetry. When Yeats was approached about writing a compilation of Irish mythology, he declined, but Lady Gregory took on the task and wrote two volumes, "*Cuchulain of Muirthemne*" and "*Gods and Fighting Men.*"

Yeats himself called these books the greatest to come out of Ireland. These were written in English that was closest to the Irish spoken in Ireland for the last few centuries.

Conradh na Gaeilge and Hyde and Pearse

Douglass Hyde and Patrick Pearse also wrote in Irish. Hyde formed Conradh na Gaeilge, or The Gaelic League, an organization that is dedicated to preserving the Irish language and through that, Irish culture and traditional arts. Hyde also became president in 1938 and

later, due to the loss of life and emigration, only 680,000 remained that could speak the language. Many of the Irish speakers from that era were simple working people, some could not read, and others lacked the time or resources to read.

Yeats and Lady Gregory

We did have many great

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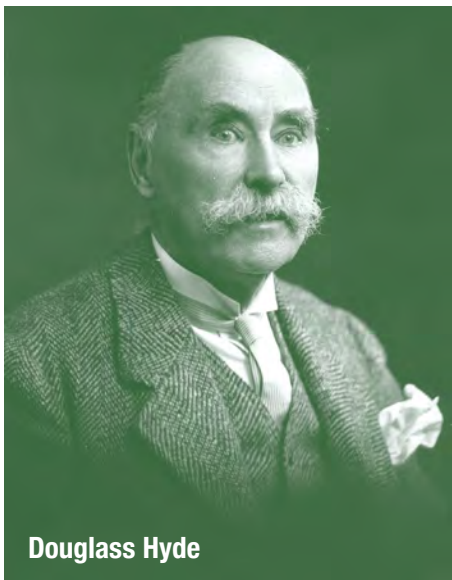


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Douglass Hyde

serve until 194, but never intended for Conradh na Gaeilge to be a political institution.

Pearse, a school teacher, became very active in Conradh na Gaeilge. In 1913 he wrote this about it: "We had one and all of us (at least, I had, and I hope that all you had) an ulterior motive in joining the Gaelic League. We never meant to be Gaelic Leaguers and nothing more than Gaelic Leaguers. We meant to do something for Ireland, each in his own way. Our Gaelic League time was to be our tutelage: we had first to learn to know Ireland, to read the lineaments of her face, to understand the accents of her voice; to repossess ourselves, disinherited as we were, of her spirit and her mind, re-enter into our mystical birthright. For this we went to school to the Gaelic League. It was a good school, and we love its name and will champion its fame throughout all the days of our later fighting and striving. But we do not propose to remain schoolboys for ever." From, "The Coming Revolution."

The Blasket Contribution

Later, writers from the Blasket Islands shared stories of life and death on these remote islands in Irish, with an eloquence usually found in the writings of the highly educated. Tomás Ó'Críomthain's, "The Islandman," told the story of his life there. Maurice Ó'Sullivan's, "Fiche Blian ag Fas," or "Twenty Years A'Growin" is one of my favorite books about island life.

Peig Sayers, a seanchaí of the old oral tradition, encouraged scholars

to come to the Blaskets to visit her. Robin Flower became a good friend visiting often. Peig was unable to write, but another young scholar, Kenneth Jackson, recorded her stories, and in 1938, published "Scealta on mBlascaod" "Stories From The Blasket." Her son, Mike File, collected more of her stories for a second book, titled, "An Old Woman's Reflections".

Máirtín Ó Diréan

Space, does not allow me to share more of the writers that Ireland produced, and admittedly, I discover more almost weekly. The poetry of Máirtín Ó Diréan was one such recent discovery.



Máirtín Ó Diréan

Máirtín was born in 1910 on Inis Mór. At the age of eighteen he left the island and joined the Post Office in Galway. He became very involved in the Irish language movement.

He became secretary of the Galway branch of the Gaelic League while employed there. In July of 1937, he moved to Dublin, where he worked as a clerical officer and later, in the Dept. of Education.

In Dublin, he attended a lecture by the poet and gaelic scholar, Tadhg Ó Donnchadha. He was inspired to write poetry himself in the language he was raised with. His books, collections of his poetry, introduced a new generation and a new voice to modern Irish language poetry in Ireland. Máirtín continued writing until his passing in 1988, including a series of essays about his early life on the Aran Islands.

Below is an excerpt from his

poem, "Fís an Daill," or "The Blind Man's Vision." It is the story of an old blind seanchaí who attempts to tell the crowd in what is presumably a pub, about the ships he sees on the western ocean and the people on board enjoying their voyage.

There is a beautiful rendition on YouTube that is very accessible for learners of Irish of all levels. It is recited very slowly and clearly, and is very easy to follow.

Hearing the language is still one of the best ways to help us with our own pronunciation. I hope you enjoy it and are inspired to explore more of the great writers Ireland and the Irish language have and continue to give us.

"Is dúirt duine amháin "One of them called him a blind old fool
Nach raibh ann ach dall And his story nothing but rambling talk.

Is nach raibh ina chaint ach rámhailí ard But still the face of the blind seanchaí

Is choaic mé gné Was lit by his

beautiful vision.

An tseanchaí léith So I stood up, now seething,

Is í ar lasadh ag fí na háillie Stalked out of the place
Is d'eirigh mé faoi fheirg Saying it's not him,

Gur fhág mé an áit But them who are blind."

Is gur dhúras nárbh eisean Ach iadsan a bí dall." ■

Bob Carney is student of Irish language and history and teaches the Speak Irish Cleveland class held every Tuesday at PJ McIntyre's. He is also active in the Irish Wolfhound and Irish dogs organizations in and around Cleveland. Wife Mary, hounds Rían, Aisling and Draoi and terrier Doolin keep the house jumping. He can be reached at carneyspeakirish@gmail.com.

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Early Beginnings

July 1st is National Postal Workers Day. The United States Postal Service and its workers have a bad reputation, despite the monumental task they are charged with every day. The first postal system in North America was started in 1639. It took mail that arrived in Boston by ship and deposited it at Fairbanks' Tavern. The owner, Richard Fairbanks, sent the mail to its final destination, and was paid for each piece of mail he delivered.

Mail Service

Later, an intercolonial mail service was started and organized delivery between New York City and Boston. In 1683, another route from Maine to Georgia was started and William Penn opened an actual post office in Philadelphia. It was not until 1753 that Benjamin Franklin developed a speedier and more frequent mail service to England and to all of the

colonies that the post office really began to form. He went on to serve as the first Postmaster General when the United States became an independent nation.

Pony Express

Due to the discovery of gold in California in 1848, more and more people started moving out west. By 1860, about 1/2 million people were living there. The telegraph was still at least a year away from being completed and the completion of the railway was still a few years away too.

The Post Office Department had joined with Pacific Mail Steamship to carry mail to California. With this plan, mail was carried by ship from New York down to Panama, then taken by horseback across the Isthmus of Panama, and then put on another ship and taken up to San Francisco.

In the best conditions, this would take about three to four weeks. If

there was bad weather, it would take even longer! Some mail was sent on stagecoaches.

The mail traveled from Missouri to San Francisco. The trip was 2,795 miles and was advertised to take 24 days. Unfortunately, stagecoach mail was often delayed for months. In fact, the citizens of Los Angeles learned that California had been admitted to the Union six weeks after it happened. Hard to imagine in our "on-demand" way of life today!

The Pony Express grew out of a need for faster mail delivery until the telegraph was finished. The responsibility of making the Pony Express work fell to Alexander Majors. He used precision and expertise to ensure success of the project.

Majors was able to buy over 400 ponies, build 200 stations in uninhabited areas, hire station masters, and hire riders. The route took about 10 days and was extremely dangerous.

Every third station was a "home" station, where mail would be handed over to a new rider. About 80 men rode for the Pony Express.

When hired, the men were given a Bible and had to sign a pledge promising not to swear, drink alcohol, or fight with other employees. The price to send a letter through the Pony Express was \$5 at first and then lowered to \$1. That is the equivalent to about \$36 today.

To send a letter anywhere in the country today costs \$0.63 and takes 1-5 days. If you need to send it faster, it costs about \$28 and takes two days. So, think about that when you hear people complaining about the price of a stamp today!

Irish Post

In Ireland, *An Post* as it is called, did not form an organized system until the 16th century, with regular posts set up between Dublin and a few major towns in Ireland. Before there were post (mail) boxes on the street, "post boys" would go through the streets ringing bells to let people know they were collecting letters.

Ireland also used stagecoaches to deliver mail between Dublin and Cork. When the railway finally arrived, it made mail delivery more efficient in Ireland as well. ■

Kids in the Kitchen

Turtle Cookies



Ingredients:

- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 package (12 ounces) semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1-1/2 cups chopped pecans, toasted
- 1-1/4 cups caramel bits

Icing

- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 2 teaspoons butter

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°. Microwave butter on high until melted. Add chocolate chips and milk; microwave until chips are melted, stirring every 30 seconds. Stir in vanilla. Add flour; mix well. Stir in pecans and caramel bits.

Drop dough by tablespoonfuls 2 in. apart onto parchment-lined

baking sheets. Bake until edges are set, 7-9 minutes. Cool on pans two minutes. Remove to wire racks to cool completely.

For icing, microwave chocolate chips and butter on high until melted. Drizzle over cooled cookies. Store in an airtight container.

LITERATURE CORNER

Bronco Charlie and the Pony Express

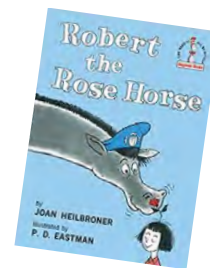
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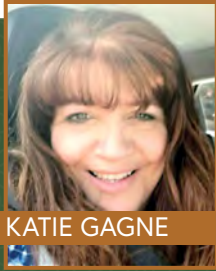


When a Pony Express horse shows up without a rider, Charlie sees his opportunity for his next adventure. Find out if Charlie has what it takes to ride fifty miles to the next station through the Rocky Mountains, in the rain, with the threat of hostile enemies, wild animals, and the dangers of riding at night. For ages 7-10, 48 pages.

Robert the Rose Horse by Joan Heilbroner

Can you imagine being allergic to roses? Poor Robert is a hard-working horse that is allergic to roses. Roses make him sneeze, but not just your average sneeze, his sneezes upend everything in its path and cause Robert to lose jobs. He decides to move to the big city in hopes of finding job security. For ages 2-6, 72 pages.





COOKING UP A HOOLEY

KATIE GAGNE



Summertime Trio

The warmer weather brings about all things outdoors. What is more outdoorsy than throwing something on the grill? As tasty as those burgers, dogs, and ribs may be, sometimes something a little different, and a little lighter, sounds good.

This trio of Salmon, Rice and Peaches makes the perfect weekday dinner because it comes together quickly and is just the perfect combination of flavors. This is also great for using fresh homegrown fruit and herbs.

BBQ Salmon Skewers

Ingredients: Makes 4 servings.

16 ounces of Salmon – choose any variety: I like salmon filets.

4 Limes

2 teaspoons Garlic Powder

1/2 cup of your favorite BBQ Rub

1 teaspoon Black Pepper

2 teaspoons Kosher Salt

8 Bamboo Skewers

Directions:

Soak the skewers in water for 2 hours.

Cut the salmon into 1–2-inch



chunks and place in medium bowl.

Cut a lime in half and squeeze the juice over the salmon.

Toss the salmon with the spices.

Cut the limes into thin slices.

Using two skewers, thread a piece of salmon alternating with a slice of lime until you reach almost the end of skewer: it will be approximately 5 - 6 pieces.

Continue and do the same until you've made four skewers.

On a warm grill, set on medium heat, place the skewers and grill for approximately 5 - 6 minutes on each side.

Serve with BBQ sauce if desired.

Savory Crab Rice

Ingredients: Makes 4 servings.

2 cups of your favorite rice. Prepare according to directions: I used a Jasmine minute rice to save time; too much sunshine to enjoy.

4 ounces of Crab Meat: you can use canned or imitation if you like.

2 tablespoons Unsalted Butter

1 tablespoon Garlic Powder

1 tablespoon White Granulated Sugar
2 tablespoons Old Bay Seasoning
Fresh Herbs of your choice: I used several sprigs of Dill, Lemon Thyme, Lemon Verbena, and Chives.
1/2 cup Spinach Leaves.

Directions:
Place all ingredients in a medium skillet and cook, stirring occasionally, until warmed through. Garnish with a lime slice.

Sweet Grilled Peaches

Ingredients: Makes 4 servings.

4 medium peaches cut into wedges: I leave the skin on when I grill them.

8 Bamboo Skewers

1/2 cup White Granulated Sugar

4 Mint Leaves

Directions:

Soak the skewers in water for two hours.

Thread the peach wedges on two skewers until you reach the end.

Place the skewers on the warm medium grill for seven minutes a side until soft.

Remove the peaches from the skewers, place in a bowl, and sprinkle with the sugar.

Garnish with sugared mint leaves.

These three make a great meal. The salmon and peaches can be grilled at the same time, while the rice comes together quickly. The flavors really complement each other. ■

Katie Gagne teaches English at Trinity High School in Garfield Heights. She is also the owner of her in-home bakery Sassy's Sweets and Oh So Much More. You can contact her at (440) 773-4459 or at mkbluebows@aol.com, or find her on Facebook at @sassyssweetsandmore.

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Father John Murphy and the Rebels of Wexford

"God grant you glory brave Father Murphy and open heaven to all your men

The cause that called you may call tomorrow

in another fight for the Green again."

The above excerpt from the Irish ballad "Boolavogue" salutes the bravery of Father John Murphy, an Irish priest of the Catholic Diocese of Ferns in County Wexford. He is remembered in both history and song for his important role in the Irish Rebellion of 1798.

John Murphy was born in Tincurry, County Wexford, about 1753. He was one of six children born to Thomas Murphy and his



wife, Johanna Whitty. Thomas was a relatively prosperous farmer and blacksmith.

With no proper school for Catholics, John was one of many who went to the "hedge school." The hedge-schoolmaster, Martin Gunn, was paid by the parents. His specialty was languages. John shared this aptitude and he was said to have been the equal of his teacher in both Latin and Greek. As a result, he was tutored by his Jesuit parish priest, Father Andrew Cassin, with a view to entering the priesthood.

Until relaxation of the Penal Laws in 1829, seminaries were illegal in Ireland, requiring priests to complete their training abroad. John completed his initial religious

training with Father Cassin and was ordained by Rev. Nicholas Sweetman, Bishop of Ferns, in June 1780.

Bishop Sweetman sent Father Murphy to the Dominican college in Seville, Spain to complete his theological studies. He remained in Spain for five years, until graduation in 1785. When he returned to Ireland, Father Murphy was assigned as curate of Boolavogue parish, in County Wexford (the term *curate* describes clergy who serve as assistants to the parish priest).

Bishop Sweetman died in 1786. His successor, Bishop James Caulfield, was not popular with his flock due to his strict enforcement of new rules issued by the church. From 1786 onwards, Catholics were ordered to be loyal to the King George III of England, and to turn in any illegal arms in their possession.

This new policy was due to the fear among the church hierarchy that the United Irishmen would unite with France, which was anti-Catholic after the French Revolution. Father Murphy encouraged the members of his parish to follow the new guidelines and he maintained loyalty to his bishop's instructions until the outbreak of revolt in the spring of 1798.

The 1798 Rebellion

The 1798 Rebellion in Ireland was organized by the Society of United Irishmen, a group of political reformers based in Belfast and Dublin. They were inspired by the success of the American Revolution and sought to secure "an equal representation of all the people" in a "national government." The movement included Protestants, Catholics and Irish Presbyterians.

Father Murphy convinced some of his parishioners to hand over their arms on May 26, 1798, on the basis of written guarantees by the magistrate that they would be safe. He trusted the authorities to stand by their word. Handing over their weapons at Ferns, the Boolavogue parishioners were chased out of town by the yeomanry and militia, who fired into their ranks, killing and injuring several of the group.

Also, on the afternoon of May 26, 1798, news reached north Wexford of a massacre of twenty-eight

suspected United Irish prisoners by the loyalist yeomanry at Carnew in County Wicklow. This seemed to verify rumors circulating of a plot to kill Catholics by the Protestant Orange Order.

Concerned by these and other government atrocities, Father Murphy was approached by his parishioners and he committed to leading them in the local rebellion. As one historian said, Father Murphy, "... deemed it better to die like men with arms in their hands than wait to be butchered like dogs in the ditches."

As a rebellion leader, Father John Murphy demonstrated qualities of leadership and strategy for which he had no previous training. He was prominent and victorious in leading the rebels in the Battle of Oulart Hill against the British garrison (May 27); the capture of the garrison town of Enniscorthy (May 28); and, the capture of Wexford town (May 30).

Although Father Murphy was not involved, the news arrived of the May 29 massacre of 350 suspected and unarmed United Irish prisoners at Gibbit Rath in County Kildare. This event further inspired the Wexford rebels and Father Murphy to rebel against crown forces.

Vinegar Hill

The rebels of Wexford were victorious over a superior British force of 400 in the Battle of Tubberneering (June 4). Father Murphy took part in one of the last and largest field battles in Ireland, at Vinegar Hill, Enniscorthy (June 21), where the united 10,000 Irish rebels were defeated by 16,000 British soldiers. The rebels, armed with mostly pikes, lost over 1,000 killed. While this battle did not end the Wexford rebellion, it damaged its ability to resist on a large scale.

Undeterred by the defeat, Father Murphy led a division of Vinegar Hill survivors through Co. Wexford, Co. Carlow, and Co. Kilkenny, where, in an encircling strategy, he led the attack in the capture of Castlecomer. Realizing his forces could not advance further; Father Murphy ordered a retreat back towards Wexford. Father Murphy became separated from his men, and along with James Gallagher, his bodyguard, was captured by



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the yeomanry at Tullow in County Carlow.

The two men were court-martialed on July 2, 1798, found guilty, and sentenced to death. That same day, both men were tortured in an attempt to extract information from them. They were taken to the town square of Tullow, County Carlow, where Father Murphy and James Gallagher were flogged, hanged, and decapitated.

Father Murphy's head was impaled on a spike opposite the Catholic church in Tullow as a warning to others. His corpse was burnt in a barrel of tar outside a Catholic family's house. In order to allow the "holy smoke" to permeate the dwelling, the yeomen forced the family to open all their windows. His remains lie buried in the old Catholic graveyard at Ferns in County Wexford.

Tributes to Father John Murphy include the Irish song "Boo-lavogue" which was written in his honor in 1898 by Patrick Joseph McCall and has since been recorded by many artists. In the town square of Tullow, there is a statue in honor of Father Murphy. The Statue (pictured) was designed by James Walsh of Tullow.

The pedestal is limestone and the statue itself of Sicilian marble. It was unveiled August 5, 1905. The inscription on the statue reads, in part, in Irish and English: "Though they are gone, yet still lives on, their fame, although they have died and true men like, you men, remember them, with pride, they gave their lives for Ireland's freedom – May they rest in peace. Amen." ■

J. Michael Finn is the Ohio State Historian for the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Division Historian for the Patrick Pearse Division in Columbus, Ohio. He is past Chairman and Life Member of the Catholic Record Society for the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio. He writes on Irish and Irish-American history; Ohio history and Ohio Catholic history. You may contact him at FCoolavin@aol.com.

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On this day in IRISH HISTORY JULY

1 July 1690 - The Battle of the Boyne was fought between William of Orange, with an army of 36,000 men, and deposed James II, whose Jacobite forces numbered 25,000. William's victory helped secure Protestant succession to the throne.

6 July 1907 - The Irish Crown Jewels vanish from Dublin Castle, never to be found. No culprit was ever caught.

8 July 1921 - Ryanair begins operations with an inaugural flight between Waterford and London Gatwick airport. It was a modest beginning for what would become the largest airline in Europe and fifth largest globally, carrying 138.9 million passengers in 2018.

12 July 1691 - The Battle of Aughrim was fought just outside Galway village, between Ballinasloe and Loughree. It was the bloodiest battle ever fought on Irish soil, claiming more lives than the combined total of those who died in the battles of Clontarf, Kinsale, Vinegar Hill and the Easter Rising combined. It brought a decisive end to the Williamite War in Ireland.

17 July 1935 - George William Russell, poet and essayist who wrote under the pseudonym, "AE", and was an active member of the Irish nationalist movement, died.

29 July 1871 - Jack Butler Yeats, illustrator and painter, was born in London, the youngest child of portraitist John Butler Yeats and brother of W.B. Yeats.

30 July 1928 - Dr. Pat O'Callaghan, a GP from the city of Cork, became the first athlete to win a gold medal representing Ireland in the Olympic Games.

31 July 1893 - The Gaelic League was established in Dublin solely to keep the Irish language spoken in Ireland. Its founders were Douglas Hyde, Eoin Mac Neill and Fr. Eugene O'Growney.

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TERRY FROM DERRY

TERRY BOYLE



I Think Therefore AI

When the news finally gets away from the rantings of a former president acting like a two-year-old proclaiming his innocence when we all know he's guilty, we begin to see that there are more exciting things at work in our world. If we can ever get beyond the tribalism of Republicans and Democrats, we might open our eyes to a world that is making quantum leaps into a new kind of future, a future that is riddled with hope and danger.

So, while we've been preoccupied with the demonstrations of the madness of a criminal, the technological age we've become accustomed to is beginning to stretch the borders of our imagination. The automatic age that has radically changed our lives is on the brink of a new era, the era of artificial intelligence.

For decades now, the exponential growth of technology has been unsettling to most of us. At first, we feared that robots making cars would lead to greater unemployment, or that computers would eradicate the need for humans, but so far, that has not happened.

It seems inevitable that, whenever we develop some new advancement, it's usually accompanied by an exacerbation of our fear of losing control, fear of self-destruction, or fear of being replaced.

The development of the nuclear bomb raised the stakes of complete annihilation, but it hasn't happened yet. Any

new technological development begs the question if we have the maturity to handle the responsibility of such advancements.

Some suggest that we're like kids with a box of matches. Others, Stephen Hawking among them, fear that we're creating our destruction by developing artificial intelligence that could undo our very existence. I think we've always lived with the fear of destroying ourselves. We see it reflected in every movie that depicts AI as something to be wary of.

From the dark moral of Frankenstein, to the frightening

warning of Terminator, we're seen to be constantly anxious about our need to create, combined with our collective suicidal mentality. Will we in the quest to cheat death create a monster that will ultimately destroy its maker? Will we create an artificial intelligence to protect this world that will deem us to be the biggest threat to this planet?

The tightrope towards the advancement of our species sees us balancing on the edge of the abyss. I don't think we can ever stop ourselves from exploring new ideas, no matter how dangerous they are. We are curious by nature.

The Garden of Eden

The metaphorical Garden of Eden demonstrates how far we are willing to risk our welfare. Though, it's also possible to see that event as an example of Felix Culpa (happy fault) because the fall from grace leads to the future redemption of humankind. So, while it's good to have a healthy fear of knowledge, we cannot stop ourselves from being curious, and curiosity isn't always a bad thing. It has led us to invent things we thought were only possible in science fiction.

We cannot imagine what it would be like to be without our smartphones. In the palm of our



tribalism of Republicans and Democrats, we might open our eyes to a world that is making quantum leaps into a new kind of future, a future that is riddled with hope and danger.

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“Time will tell if we’re on the cusp of a new era of remarkable achievements to better our lives, or if we’re risking expulsion from paradise for the bite of an apple.”

hand lies a computer that can do so much more than we thought possible.

Robots can now perform surgical operations. Robotic advancements have made our lives easier in ways we never could’ve imagined had we not taken a step towards developing our technological knowledge.

However, the next step into a new era comes at a greater risk. We are at the stage where we have developed computers, robots to do things that we cannot. And, even if we could do some of these things, we could never do them with the speed of computer.

The development of AI is more advanced than I thought possible. It was a surprise to me that AI can now read human brain patterns on an MRI and interpret the thoughts of the person. The fact that AI can read our thoughts could seem alarming, after all, it’s not something we can do.

However, this development also means someone who is in a coma can finally be heard and understood. The possibilities for helping those who are unable to communicate their thoughts are far-reaching.

But can this knowledge be misused? Yes, of course, it can.

Weaponized

Could it be weaponized and used against us? Again, yes, it could be, but this is how we’ve felt about every development we’ve ever embraced as progress.

None of us knows where the development of AI will lead us. And, while we are still quite a long way from creating a sentient lifeform, it’s not beyond the realm of possibility.

Are we creating our destruction or finding a new way to survive

the challenges confronting us? Time, as we’re often told, will tell.

Time will tell if we’re on the cusp of a new era of remarkable achievements to better our lives, or if we’re risking expulsion from paradise for the bite of an apple. I’m fascinated by what we’ve been able to do thus far.

The fact that we’ve managed to do so much in such a short time is quite amazing. The idea that we might be able to create a stronger more durable vessel to carry our consciousness is intriguing. To be free of infection and diseases, and lessen our dependence on food and water, seems impossible, but what we’ve done already seemed impossible.

I don’t want to go into this new era as a prophet of doom, nor do I want to be naïve about the possible harm we could do to ourselves and our world, but I do welcome the challenge this new future brings to us. Humanity, like any other species, wants to survive; to do that, it must progress and adapt to new situations.

We are changing our world by polluting it, and if we are to continue, we will have to change to meet the new challenges ahead of us.

AI might be the very thing to help us to find solutions to the risks we face. For all the harm we’ve done, maybe we can counteract the damaging effects with a technology that makes our survival possible.■

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WISE CRAICS

JOE MCDONOUGH



How can Irish people tell when it's summer? The rain gets warmer.

Why shouldn't you iron a three-leaf shamrock? You don't want to press your luck.

Did you hear about the Irishman that drank 100 liters of stout in just 30 minutes? They're calling it a Guinness World Record.

Why can't you borrow money from a leprechaun? They're always a little short.

What's Irish and stays out all night? Paddy O'Furniture.

What does it mean when you find a horseshoe in Ireland? Some poor horse is going barefoot.

What do you call an Irish baker? A ginger bread man.

My grandmother was 80% Irish. Her name was Iris.

Forgive me

"Forgive me father for I have sinned," an Irish girl said. "My boyfriend held my hand twice, kissed me three times and made love to me twice."

"Go home, squeeze seven lemons and drink it straight down," the priest said.

"Will it help?" she asked.

"No, but it will get that silly smile off your face!"

Boyardee

A couple just had their first son. The husband is half Irish and half Indian, the wife is half Chinese and half Italian, both wish to have their son named after their heritage. After much argument, they decided on the name. Ravi O'Lee.

Pride

A man walks into a confessional, "Father Murphy forgive me for I've

sinned."

"Yes my son," replied the priest "What do you need to confess?"

"I committed all of the seven deadly sins in less than 30-minutes."

"Did you now?" asked the Priest. "And exactly how did you manage this?"

"Well", the man started, "I was angry and envious of my neighbor so I lazily seduced his wife and ate all his groceries and didn't share them with anyone."

Father Murphy signed and shook his head, "Well my son, that's only six. You forgot pride."

"Actually Father, I'm pretty proud of this!"

The Telly

Paddy and Murphy are sitting around the airport.

Murphy says, "I wish I'd brought the television."

Paddy asks, "Why? Are you bored?"

Murphy says, "No, the passports are on top of it."

Quick Cure

A man goes into a pharmacy and asks the pharmacist if he can give him something for the hiccups. The pharmacist promptly reaches out and slaps the man's face.

"Now what'd you go do that for?" the man asks.

"Well, you don't have the hiccups anymore, do ya?"

The man says: "No, but to be sure my wife out in the car still does!"

Is there still such a thing?

Maggie was at a business conference. During a break, she

decided to call home collect.

Her six-year-old son picked up the phone and heard a stranger's voice say: "We have Maggie on the line. Will you accept the charges?"

Frantic, the six-year-old dropped the receiver and came charging outside, screaming: "Dad! They have mum! And they want money!"

IOU

Two bankers are in a bank when armed robbers burst in. While several of the robbers take the money from the tellers, others line the customers, including the bankers, up against a wall, and proceed to take their jewelry, wallets and watches.

While this is going on, banker number one puts something in banker number two's hand. Without looking down, banker number two whispers: "What's all this?"

Banker number one replies: "It's that \$50 I owe ya."

Smart Elephant

An Irishman and his son walk into a zoo. One of the signs says, "Feed the elephant a bun to get your age."

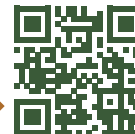
The little boy gives the elephant a bun and it stomps its foot 6 times.

"Wow," says the boy, "That's right I am 6, you have a go dad!"

The Irish chap gives the elephant a bun. A moment later the elephant farts and stomps twice.

"B'jaysus that's right," said the father, "I am farty two!"

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Student Stories: From First-Year to Fadas

By Neila McElfresh

What I find so compelling about Gaelige is the highly figurative nature of the pattern of speech. There are few simple statements in Irish, each word tells a story.



One of my favorite examples of this is *Bóin Dé*, which means

ladybug, but directly translates to *God's little cow*. Another one I love is *seith roín*, jellyfish, or *seal snot*.

Gaelige to me is a beautifully unique language in that every noun has a thought process. Speaking the language offers a window into the development of Irish culture and how that led to the Ireland that exists today.

Entering college, I never would've guessed that so much of my time would be dedicated to studying the Irish language, but I am so grateful that has become my reality. Learning Gaelige has been my favorite discovery since beginning at The University of Pittsburgh, and already a subject that I couldn't imagine not engaging in.

Irish Language Classes

To complement my study of the Irish language, I am pursuing a certificate in Western European studies and a minor in Irish, which allows me to participate in supplemental courses, such as *Irish Culture and Traditions*, *Northern Ireland: The "Troubles"*, and *Irish Film*. These are classes I have both enjoyed taking so far, and look forward to taking in the coming years, as I feel that an understanding of Irish culture and history will

only further develop my understanding of, and passion for, the language.

In March, I was awarded the Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, a \$15,000 scholarship awarded to a select few students who are passionate about embracing their language studies beyond the most basic level of completion. When I accepted this scholarship, I committed to embracing my studies of Gaelige and aiming to reach a professional level of competency.



professor Marie Young, as well as for the world of opportunities this

program. I have also submitted an application to Fulbright's *Summer Gaeltacht Awards* scholarship program, which would cover the costs of this summer course.

I have not heard back yet, but my fingers are crossed! I am so grateful that I began learning Gaelige at Pitt with my wonderful

language has opened me up to. ■

Neila McElfresh is a sophomore, from Pittsburgh, studying at the University of Pittsburgh with a major in psychology and a minor in Irish. She plans to graduate in 2026 and continue her studies in a graduate program for psychology. In addition, she hopes to continue studying Gaelige in whatever route the language takes her.

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Oideas Gael

This summer I will be completing two weeks of the Oideas Gael language courses in Donegal. An important part of learning any language is having the opportunity to be immersed in it. I have yet to have the opportunity to travel to Ireland, and I feel spending time in the Gaeltacht is the perfect way to blend my engagement in both the region and the language.

Additionally, my mother was born in Derry, Northern Ireland, where she lived briefly before moving permanently to the United States. Not only is it important to me that I go to Ireland to study Gaelige, but it is also very special to me that I could go to the country my mother is from.

The Oideas Gael language courses stood out to me in particular, as it is a highly accommodating program for international students and prioritizes a well-versed Irish curriculum. There is an emphasis on an intensive study of the language, but also an intentionalism put towards engaging students in various culture classes.

I feel confident that I will come out of this program with a strengthened foundation in the Irish language and broader conversational skills - a level of competency in the language that is extremely difficult to achieve outside of the region. Going into the next academic year, I will not have to worry about losing language skills over the summer, but gaining more.

I feel extremely enthusiastic and hopeful about pursuing this

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Mis Casamigos, Sus Casamigos



It's 1800, and do you know where your children are? Not the tequila, but the year. Casamigos is the go to at The Lounge; particular tastes might as well be refined. There was no 200th Street in 1800.

Clevelanders, if you would even call them that then, were still trying to establish a city, an economy and a society.

That year, Sarah Doan (daughter

of the creek guy) was the first teacher at the first "school" in the Western Reserve, in Newburgh, at 9213 Miles Avenue. She received \$10 a month in produce as compensation. Her summers were off, so people complained, but parents did not complain about the books she used. They did not have them.

Hoosier?

April 28, 1800, John Adams signed a bill to make the Western Reserve a part of the United States. Then Congress, not to be outdone, divided the Northwest Territory two days after Cinco de Mayo, creating the Territory of Indiana. Devoid of that action of Congress, Francis McGarry would never have been the first player in Indiana basketball history to make a three point shot. If you have doubts, ask Campbell.

That year, eight townships were made real: Cleveland (east of the river), Painesville, Middlefield, Richfield, Vernon, Hudson, Youngstown and Warren. Lorenzo Carter was one of the constables for Cleveland Township.

Dr. Moses Thompson was the

first physician in the Western Reserve; he also had a farm and dairy. Cheese was one of the early industries in NEO. So was liquor. David and Gilman Bryant operated a still on the Cuyahoga and Superior. Two quarts a day were produced, mind your "p's and q's."

The first schoolhouse was built in 1801 in Warren. The first applicant for the teaching position, William H. McGuffey (Scots-Irish), failed the teaching exam. Rev. William Wick also arrived and that was the beginning of the First Presbyterian Church. He allegedly introduced club soda to the Gilman brothers and they added it to their whiskey and ginger drink, allegedly.

Lorenzo Carter had a bash that year at his cabin on the 4th of July. The Cleveland elite, 12 women and 20 men, dancing to Samuel Jones' fiddle. They partook in a maple sugar, hot water and whiskey libation. Gilman Bryant, 17, had rubbed a piece of candle on his hair to keep it keeping on and libationed enough to dance with Miss Doan, 14.

Formation of the State of Ohio

The Ohio Compact of 1802 made settlement more enticing to pioneers. They were no longer settlers. The Compact allocated monies for road building and school lands. By April 30, the US Congress authorized a convention in order to form a constitution for the State of Ohio, if voters wanted to join the Union. Arthur St. Clair, Northwest Territory governor, opposed statehood, but he had never been to the Union Club, Chuck's, Mintz's, Homestead, and Maple Lanes.

Zeke Hawley, a constable, conducted the first census in 1802. 67 free males, done. Apparently, that was the only category.

Lorenzo Carter was a boss. He bought almost 24 acres after being licensed to open a tavern, with Amos Spafford. The initial wood building burnt down, huff and puff, then he built a blockhouse: Carter Tavern (aka The Carter). Lorenzo traded with everyone: pioneer, settler or indigenious.

That entrepreneurial spirit led Ohio to becoming a state in 1803. John Shaw arrived that year with Thomas McIlrath. Shaw bought land in East Cleveland.

The McIlrath Tavern was built and was sustainable until 1890. It contributed to Cleveland's early reputation as being "rather loose in principles and conduct."

Then the Shakers got here in 1805. It was the beginning of moral imperatives that would establish social practice as a defense against the other. Although the Irish would not arrive in substantial numbers for another 20 years, the die was cast.

Soon, the Kingsbury's, being supported and surviving solely due to Native American support, was now exclusively Divine Providence. Pioneers replaced settlers and the early partnerships were forgotten.

Furs and Cleveland-made grindstones were traded east for salt, iron, leather and dry goods. John Metcalf, no relation to Eric, established the mail route to Erie.

War of 1812

That route served 57 people in 1810, the total population of Cleveland. Leonard Case arrived in Cleveland, as well as Alfred Kelley, the first lawyer. Then the War of 1812 disrupted the flow, but not before the first library association was formed, as was the first order of the Free Masons.

Urban myth? Verbal history maybe? St. Phil's in East Cleveland had to be built according to what the Free Masons approved. Just what I was told from some old school Eastsiders. That being said, by 1812, over 20 religious organizations had been formed. On June 24th of that year, the first public hanging occurred, "the Indian O'Mic." Say what you say.

William H. Jackson was enlisted in 1812 to defeat the British. He was freed in 1803 from enslavement and is buried in Woodland Cemetery. The war increased ship building on the Great Lakes and Cleveland benefitted economically.

We can discuss Noble H. Merwin building a warehouse in the Flats, or we can stipulate that these folks were here, before us. When us got here, they had established a society and a myth of origin.

Soon, the assistance of the first inhabitants was forgotten, and the settlers were mythicized. Then, the Irish arrived; we arrived.

who dey?



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We were different in many ways. After life in Ireland and then living on the canals, our people learned to celebrate each day and light a candle. Juxtaposed to those settlers who now determined their ability to survive was tied to the Masonic Order and not to the people who fed them when they had no food. As we would chant at Notre Dame, "Here come the Irish."

Our people were seen as "the other," a people fundamentally different from the settlers. Social controls were already in place to make sure the early Clevelanders behaved according to a particular interpretation of the King James Bible. When the Irish arrived, those controls were increased and focused on the behaviors our people displayed.

That is not to say our people were all angels, but we were definitely seen as foreign. The settlers had earned a degree of respect, if not for anything else, for their survival.

This was the beginning of Cleveland's growth, a growth that necessitated the contributions of all present. Next month we will discuss how those early interactions worked for and against the early Irish immigrants. ■

Francis McGarry holds undergraduate degrees from Indiana University in Anthropology, Education and History and a Masters in Social Science from the University of Chicago. He is the Executive Director of Bluestone Hibernian Charities and proprietor of McGarry Consulting. Francis is a past president of the Irish American Club East Side. He is the founder and past president of the Bluestone Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

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Iowa Irish Festival | 17th – West Side Irish American Club (WSIA) Monthly Meeting |
| 5th & 6th –
Men's and Women's Gaelic Football and Hurling Midwest Championships, Host: Cleveland | 18th-20th –
USGAA National Championships, Host: Denver. |
| 6th – Shamrock Club of Columbus General Meeting | 20th – Bluestone Hibernian Mass @ Our Lady Of Lourdes Shrine- |
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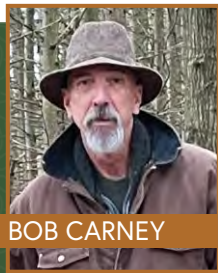
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Lord Dunsany

“Logic, like whiskey, loses its beneficial effect when taken in too large quantities.”

A simple observation from a man who spent a lifetime crafting tales of fantasy and horror for his readers. Edward John

Moreton Drax Plunkett, was born on July 24, 1878 in London to John William Plunkett, the 17th Baron of Dunsany, and his wife Ernle, a distinguished

family that could trace their roots to the 12th century.

I became aware of the works of Lord Dunsany after I read the *Lord of the Rings* in high school, and became a fan of his darker stories more than his fantasies. “He seemed still for a whole minute. And nothing speaking about him but that expression. Like a man that’s seen a ghost, one is tempted to write. But it wasn’t really at all. I’ll tell you what he looked like. Like

a man that’s seen something that no one has ever looked at before, something he thought couldn’t be.” From the short story, *The Two Bottles of Relish*. Many of them are similar to the old *Twilight Zone* stories, just enough truth to make you believe them as long as you don’t apply too large a quantity of logic.

Oliver Plunkett, the Catholic Archbishop of Armagh, who was executed in England in 1681, was an ancestor (He was hung, drawn and quartered for treason and promoting the Roman faith. He was beatified in 1920 and canonized in 1975 becoming the first new Irish saint in almost seven-hundred years).

Edward was educated at Eton and entered the Coldstream Guards in 1899. He fought in the Boer War as an officer before returning to Ireland and taking up residence at Dunsany Castle in Co. Meath. Edward became the 18th Baron of Dunsany that same year, with his father’s passing. The family had occupied the castle since 1190. He was confirmed as an elector for the Representative Peers for Ireland in the House of Lords.

Shaw, Wells and Kipling

In 1904, he married Lady Beatrice Child Villiers, the youngest daughter of the 7th Earl of Jersey. They had one son, born two years later. Lady Beatrice supported her husband in his writing, typing his manuscripts and helping him select works for his collections. They were socially active and travelled between their homes in Meath, London and Kent, and counted the writers George Bernard Shaw, H.G. Wells and Rudyard Kipling in their large circle of friends.

Plunkett was a hunter and a sportsman, and at one time was both the chess champion and the pistol champion of Ireland. He was a British aristocrat, always loyal to the Crown. Not a common trait among writers of the Irish Literary Renaissance. Lord Dunsany knew the main figures of the movement, but associated with other British aristocrats.

The Gods of Pegana

In 1905, Lord Dunsany published his first collection of stories, *The Gods of Pegana*. Another book of

stories followed the next year, titled, *Time and the Gods*, and in 1908, *The Sword of Welleran*. This story was included in an anthology of twelve stories by Irish authors, *Irish Ghost Stories*, published in 2022 by Flame Tree Publishing.

Many of Dunsany’s early stories were fantasies, and became a large influence on the writer J.R.R. Tolkien, horror writer H.P. Lovecraft, and later, George R.R. Martin, creator of *The Game of Thrones*. Lovecraft was influenced after hearing Lord Dunsany on a lecture tour of the United States; his writing style is evident in his early work. Mythological places and characters with strange sounding names caught on with readers and Lord Dunsany published many other collections of stories throughout his lifetime.

W.B. Yeats and Lady Gregory

Dunsany met W.B. Yeats and wrote a play, *The Glittering Gate*, in 1909 for the Abbey Theatre. In 1911, *King Argimenes and the Unknow Warrior* was also produced there. That relationship soured when Dunsany thought that Lady Gregory had plagiarised his work, and others felt that Yeats was envious of Lord Dunsany’s title and station. Many of his short plays were very popular in America, especially the ones inspired by the drawings of S.H. Sime, who had been the illustrator of his early books.

War Service

With the outbreak of World War I in 1914, he became a captain in the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, but he was seriously wounded two years later when he was in Ireland on leave. He had offered his services to Dublin during The Rising and was shot, with the bullet lodging in his skull. After his recovery, he returned to active duty as a trainer at first, but then ended up in the trenches. He finished up the war writing propaganda materials for the War Office.

During the Irish War for Independence he was charged with violating the Restoration of Order in Ireland Regulations when Crown Forces searched Dunsany Castle and found weapons and ammunition there. He was tried by court-martial and convicted and ordered to pay a fine.

In 1921 another play, *If*, an Eastern fantasy, became a big success in London. Then he turned his attention to writing novels, along with five collections of stories that included his fictional character, *Joseph Jorgens*, inspired by his trips and hunting excursions in Africa.

During World War II, he volunteered for the Irish Army Reserve and the British Home Guard. He was active in Shoreham, Kent, which had the distinction of being the most bombed village during the Battle of Britain.

In 1947, Lord Dunsany retired and transferred the Meath estate to his son Randall. He settled in Shoreham, close to his friend Rudyard Kipling. He and Lady Beatrice spent most of their time there and in London, visiting Ireland occasionally. They also travelled to the United States.

In 1957, the couple was dining with the Earl and Countess of Fingall at Dunsany Castle when he suffered an attack of appendicitis. He died at a hospital in Dublin at the age of seventy-nine. Lady Beatrice oversaw his extensive literary legacy until her death in 1970. Randall succeeded him to the barony and was succeeded by his grandson, the artist, Edward Plunkett.

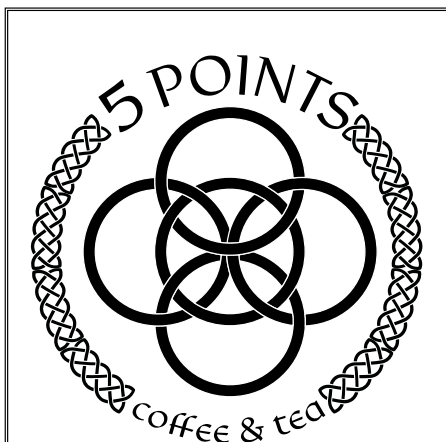
Dunsany Castle

Dunsany Castle is the oldest castle owned by a single family for the longest period of time. It is opened for tours on certain days throughout the year and there are limited tours of the surrounding nature preserve. The wedding scene from the movie *Braveheart* was filmed there. ■

Bob Carney is a student of Irish language and history and teaches the Speak Irish Cleveland class held every Tuesday at PJ McIntyre’s. He is also active in the Irish Wolfhound and Irish dogs organizations in and around Cleveland. Wife Mary, hounds Rían, Aisling and Draoi and terrier Doolin keep the house jumping. He can be reached at carneyspeakirish@gmail.com.

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To Market, To Market

Cherries bring with them a certain frivolity,

a carefree joy like hearing the far-off laughter of a child at play.

Their appearance in deepest summer comes when life is often at its most untroubled.

A bag of cherries is a bag of happiness.

(An excerpt from *Ripe* by Nigel Slater)

Monday morning proved to be most auspicious. My favorite loaf of bakery-crafted sourdough bread waited patiently by the toaster, while I groggily set the kettle to boil.

Suddenly, an image of cherry jam passed by my mind's eye. The robins were singing in the trees and lily of the valley permeated the garden air. Who wouldn't be thinking of cherry jam at dawn in June?

With fingers crossed, I rifled around the refrigerator shelves dismayed by my collection of half-full jars of thick-cut marmalade and Christmas spiced jelly, strawberry preserves and black currant confiture. Seemingly, my appetite for sticky-tart cherry jam would go unsated; unless of course, to my most profound delight, that was indeed a jar of cherry jam hiding behind the bag of dried apricots? Yes, dear reader, sometimes the universe is on your side.

When I was a girl, summer meant stacks of mystery novels and melting orange popsicles. Summer meant trips to the Lincoln Park Zoo and precious weeks of vacation rambling around my Uncle Pat's Missouri dairy farm. June brought stalks of rhubarb



Black and white pudding canapes with local Irish cheese that I made with products from Kelly's Butchers Newport, County Mayo, Ireland.

boiled with strawberries, and July brought cherries.

Growing up in Chicago, I loved visiting all the neighborhood markets. My mother and grandmother had their preferred spots for deli meat and hard Italian cheeses, olives and oranges, crusty homemade bread and strawberry tarts.

On days when my mother was not working as a nurse at the hospital, she and I would grocery shop at three different stores. From a young age, I became slightly obsessed with markets, especially local shops where the produce is piled in eye-catching displays, and vats of briny olives sit beside glass cases filled with prosciutto and spicy cured salumi.

When my mother was working, Grandma Rose and I walked to our favorite markets. It was a treat to stop by the Princess Bakery for donuts and thick, Sicilian style pizza bread; but what I most enjoyed was the fruit: bags of cherries in July and fresh figs in early autumn.

With pastry-chef precision, Grandma Rose taught me how to select the juiciest Bing cherries – dark red and plump. On the way home, Grandma and I would pluck the cherries from their stems and eat them straight from the bag. It was a wonder that any of these ruby jewels found their way into Grandma's lemon Bundt cakes or vanilla biscotti.

Farmer's Market

Part of the beauty of summer is the blooming of farmer's markets. Entire weekends can be devoted to market hopping. When my mother and dad

moved to Crooked Lake, they soon discovered the best shops for savory bean salad and homemade peach pie.

On Saturday mornings, mom and I would wander around the town's farmer's markets and delight in the watermelons and delicate bouquets of field flowers for sale. Our favorite stand was the honey vendor: Dalrymple. With honey as unique as its name, Dalrymple honey is the best I have ever sampled.

A self-proclaimed connoisseur of honey, I have tasted nectar from the Cotswold's in the English countryside and honey procured from bees that have supped on Alpine flowers.

During one memorable pilgrimage with my daughter to London's famous Borough Market, I spent nearly an hour sampling rich Italian honey infused with lavender essence and exotic Seville oranges. Truth be told, as glorious as this honey was, it still did not rise above the pure, meadow taste of Steuben County's Dalrymple Honey.

There is an art to shopping at local markets and farm stands. The best markets balance beauty and efficiency, quality and value.

Newport

One of my favorite markets is the award-winning, third-generation Kelly's of Newport Artisan Butchers in Newport, County Mayo, Ireland. The glass meat case is pristine and encompasses the whole of the entryway. Giant lamb chops the size of Fionn Mac Cumhaill rest aside ropes of homemade Irish bangers.

Even patrons who follow a vegan lifestyle can find interesting products at Kelly's. While Kelly's is known throughout Ireland for their quality artisan-crafted meats, puddings, and sausages, I was delighted, upon my last visit, to see plant-based puddings and sausages.

The product did not disappoint and was equally as delicious as Kelly's traditional meat offerings. Kelly's also houses a wonderful selection of European wines, Irish cheeses, jams, and local honey.

Located at the heart of charming Newport, Kelly's Butchers is steps away from the Greenway cycling and fitness path. On your summer holiday to Ireland, be sure to include Newport as part of your stay. Pick up a selection of Irish farmhouse cheeses, a bottle of French wine, and enjoy a memorable picnic along

the Greenway or at the park that overlooks Newport's iconic Seven Arches Bridge and the Black Oak River.

For a few precious months, summer serenades us with simple pleasures. Step lively through fields of clover and enjoy the gifts of the season in markets near and far.

Memories of sunny blueberries and vine-ripened tomatoes will sustain us through the cold months to come. So, dust off your favorite straw basket and visit a market or two. Once emptied, that jar of delicious cherry jam you found at the farm stand will make an enchanting vase for a handful of freshly picked autumn blooms. ■

Susan holds a Master's Degree in English from John Carroll University and a Master's Degree in Education from Baldwin-Wallace University. She may be contacted at suemangan@yahoo.com.

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LISA O'ROURKE



Murphy's Law!

Every erstwhile late, bedraggled individual has, at some point, embraced Murphy, the god of personal misfortune. I envision him, circa 1850, hat askew, standing in his potato field with a fist raised heavenward, cursing his bad luck.

I think that this is a common image of Murphy, the mythical unfortunate who bore fate's cudgel and then lent his name to mishap. Murphy's Law is a quiet blanket of comfortable discomfort for cynics around the world.

Flat tire on the way to the airport? That's Murphy's Law of course, and aren't you the bigger fool for

not planning for it. It has been the operational guidance for all of us SNAFU-type realists forever - or so I thought ...

Since my image of Murphy was old-fashioned and screw-ups are ageless, this had to mean that this was an equally old expression. After all, Murphy's Law is the from the pragmatist's canon of hard luck, stating succinctly, that whatever can go wrong, will go wrong.

It sounds like a negative assumption, but maybe it is there to encourage people to strategize for when plans take a turn; leave time for that flat tire or wreck on the freeway. Sure, sometimes things flow like a twelve-year-old on a water slide, but at other times, they work like a government office.

Be prepared, because as it turns out, Murphy's Law is omnipresent, although not as old as we might assume. Not only is it relatively new as far as phrases in English go, it is not particularly Irish either.

I was a little shocked to have my vision of Murphy turned upside down when I learned the truth about him. Like many idioms, the Murphy legend sprang from war and not potatoes.

It was at the tail end of the WWII, when many of the US's top engineers were still actively engaged in the process of honing this country's technical capabilities, trying to harness the boundaries of science in the hope of defending the country and expanding our capabilities. Both world wars pushed all kinds of people to work harder and more creatively. Those engineers, sequestered in deserted posts, were not ready to give up on projects like breaking sound barriers, and building planes and jeeps quite yet.

There was a group of men in California, at the legendary Edward's Air Force base, who were just those type of engineers. They realized that phenomenon like accidents that happened during the war, may have been connected to the lack of cohesive understanding of the effects of g-force on a person, specifically, how much force a person could tolerate.

This was the beginning of the modern space program; these were the men with the "right stuff." It was with that group at Edward's and through the g-force experiments, that Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier.

But, back to Murphy, he was one of those innovative engineers at Edward's. Murphy was working on a measurement device that would attach to an experimental speeding sled and calibrate the amount of pressure a person would experience. On the day of a significant experiment, the device was wired incorrectly, and the test failed.

Murphy was disgusted, he had worked hard and quipped on his way out the door, something to the effect of "if a guy could get it wrong, he surely will." It was quickly repeated by Murphy's colleagues and used as a reminder to test and prepare ahead of a big day: Murphy's legend was born.

A little digging will show that this was not the first time that a failure occurred and humanity was given a poke about the necessity of planning and preparation. It was written about and cautioned against before 1947. But Murphy is who it stuck to and it is he who is invoked when the unforeseen makes an ostentatious appearance. Why that is, is anyone's guess.

That he was associated with the military probably influenced the spread of the expression, since the



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military does have a consequential effect on everyday lingo. OK, so along with “Fighting Irish,” the Irish have dominion over disaster. The Irish have big shoulders and a good sense of humor, which allow them to deflect national slights like being the mother of misfortune.

Plus, misfortune ties right into another purported Irish pastime, drinking. I did say purported. Never believe that the Irish drink more than any other nationality, they just look like they enjoy it more. Two things, misfortune and celebration, inspire a lot of trips to the pub.

A casual Google of Murphy’s Law would lead a person to believe that misfortune was ahead of celebration if you were to judge by the number of bars named Murphy’s Law. There must be hundreds of bars spread across the US. More research may be required on this point.

There is one of those bars in particular that I have been in, and it is a famous one; Murphy’s Law, in Boston’s Southie. It is said to have been frequented by Southie’s most notorious son, Whitey Bolger.

Old IRA posters and graffitied slogans in the back of the bar lend some authenticity to the claim. It is called one of Southie’s favorite dive bars and that is a fair description, complete with pool table and darts.

If you can’t make it to Southie and want a look, it is featured in a climactic scene in the film *Gone Baby Gone*. The dramatic scene of the bar robbery in that film happens in Murphy’s.

Rudyard Kipling famously extolled the virtue of indifference to luck in the poem *IF*, “If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster and treat those two imposters just the same;” then, to paraphrase, that is part of becoming an adult. And he is right. Luck is a fickle friend, but planning and preparation have their own rewards. ■

Lisa O’Rourke is an educator from Akron. She has a BA in English and a Master’s in Reading/Elementary Education. Lisa is a student of everything Irish, primarily Gaeilge. She runs a Gaeilge study group through the AOH/Mark Heffernan Division. She is married to Dónal and has two sons, Danny and Liam. Lisa enjoys art, reading, music, and travel. She likes spending time with her dog, cats and fish. Lisa can be contacted at olisao7@icloud.com.

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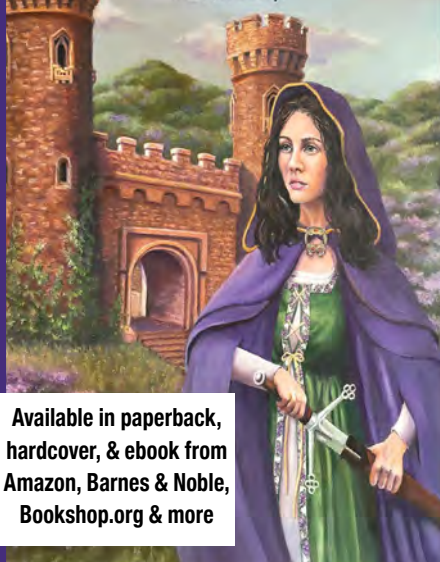


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OFF THE SHELF

TERRY KENNEALLY

The Queen of Dirt Island

By Donal Ryan
Viking Publisher

ISBN 9780593652930 2023 244 pp.

One of this column's favorite Irish novelists' latest book is full of heart and spark, but with a self-imposed problem. The book I am referring to is The Queen of Dirt Island, by Donal Ryan.

Before getting to the self-imposed problem, let's start with the story. The Queen of Dirt Island tells the stories of four generations of women over 3 1/2 decades in the town of Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, running from 1983 to the day

before yesterday.

At the start of the book, there are only three women: grandmother Nana, mother Eileen (Nana's daughter-in-law), and Eileen's daughter Saoirse, who is born on the first line of the first chapter and who's father dies in a car crash on the next page. This leaves Mary and Eileen and Saoirse dedicated to looking out for one another.

Soon however, other relatives come out of the woodwork and soon we meet the dead man's brothers, Paudie and Chris - "one a jailbird and the other a simpleton." Then there's Richard, Eileen's brother, who is in dispute with her over the land of their home.

Eileen is the self-styled Queen of Dirt Island, the place thus named the "envy and spite" of the locals,

who resented the success the family made of their bit of land.

It's a family story and families don't have single plot lines, but as we go through the book, it becomes increasingly clear that Saoirse is the heart of the book. In some respects, the story involves her discovering more and more family connections she didn't know she had, and most of whom have no good news to deliver.

And then, midway through, after Saoirse has become a mother herself at the age of 17, the ground shifts again. It's this regularity that's part of the problem. For reasons unclear, Ryan has set himself an artificial restraint with The Queen of Dirt Island.

Each chapter is precisely 500 words long, and takes two pages. This sort of restraint is the province of the French Oulipo school of writing; it's a method of limiting how you write in order to discover what it is possible to say. The problem is that once Ryan has decided that each chapter must have exactly the same word count, all scenes must fit that length, whether or not that violates the natural rhythm of the story.

Despite these structural deficits, his work is about a family where all the women want others to be happy, but nobody is quite sure how. The Queen of Dirt Island is the sixth book this column has reviewed of Donal Ryan and as with the others, a TOP SHELF read. ■

Terrence J. Kenneally is an attorney and owner of Terrence J. Kenneally & Assoc. in Rocky River, Ohio. He received his Master's Degree in Irish Studies from John Carroll University and has taught Irish history and literature.

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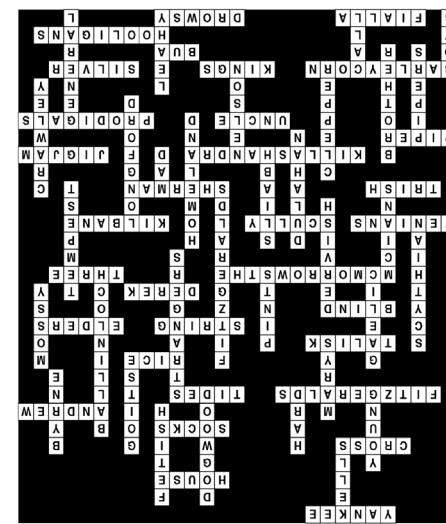
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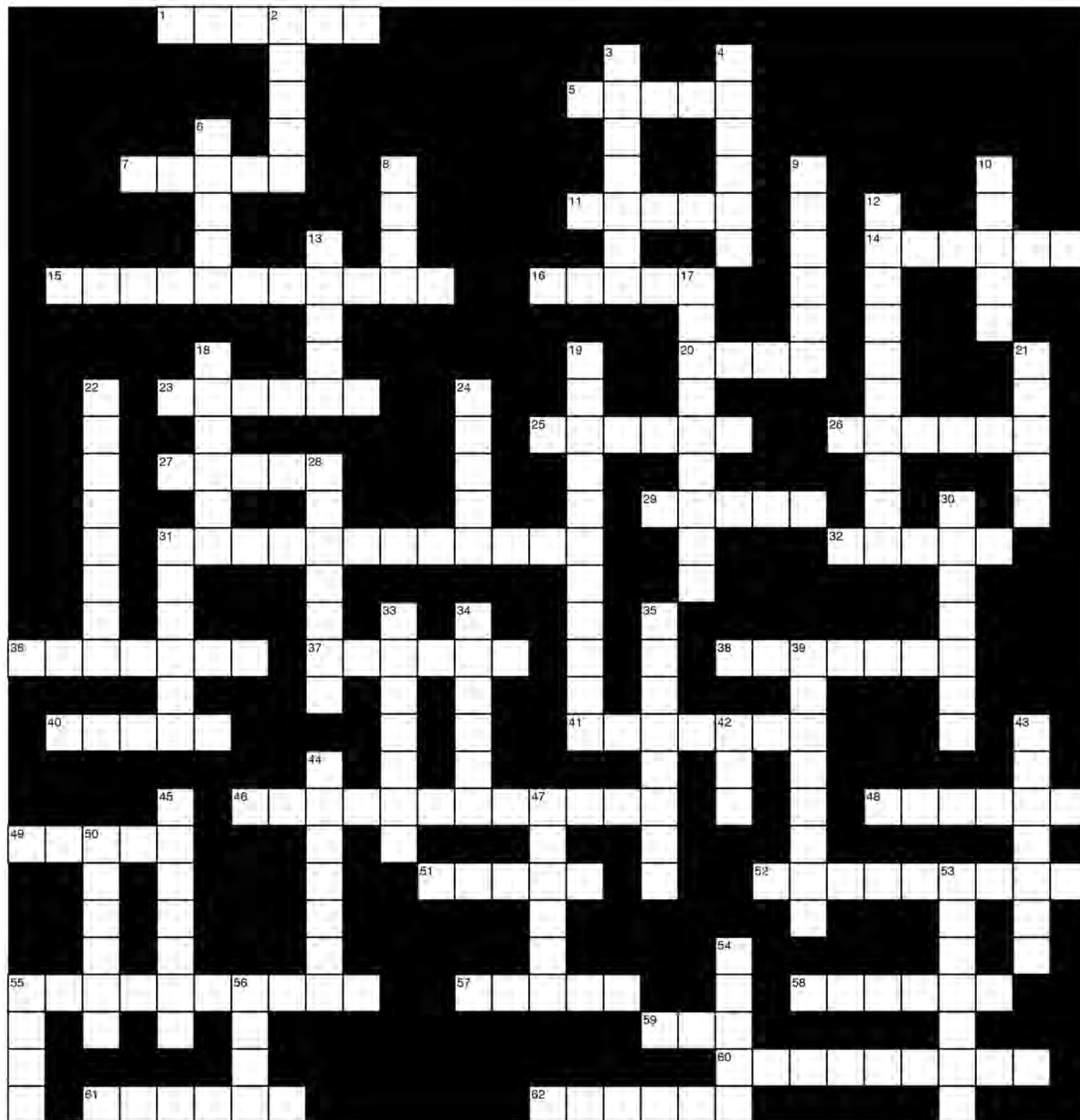
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- 37 (S) _____
 38 James _____
 40 _____ O'Brien
 41 _____ and Clepper
 46 (K) _____
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 49 Ally the _____
 51 _____ Bard & The Dirty Bastards
 52 The (P) _____
 55 The New _____
 57 The High _____
 58 Dublin _____ Band
 59 Beir _____
 60 The (H) _____
 61 (F) _____
 62 _____ Lads

DOWN

- 2 The _____ Band
 3 _____ Road
 4 Irish Fiddle _____
 6 _____ Dubliners
 8 The _____ Tackers
 9 (G) _____
 10 The _____ Brothers
 12 (B) _____
 13 _____ Lane
 17 No _____ Here
 18 _____ Storm
 19 The (F) _____
 21 _____ Moran
 22 (S) _____
 24 The (P) _____
 28 (D) _____
 30 (T) _____



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- 31 The (M) _____
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 35 (H) _____
 39 Ladies of _____
 42 _____ Maudlin
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