



# iIrish

newsmagazine

January 2023 | Volume 17 - Issue 1



*A Famine Ship in New York Harbor*



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About Our Cover:  
A Famine Ship in  
New York Harbor.

Photo by Ronan O'Sullivan



EDITORS CORNER

@Jobjr

JOHN O'BRIEN, JR.

## Happy New Year

Happy New Year! We end our 16<sup>th</sup> year and spread our wings wide for a 2023 that recovers a semblance of mind, body and spirit. The iIrish expansion plans have been on hold for too long, and, God-willing, Buffalo and Detroit will come under our banner soon. We continue to search for a new home for iIrish's expansion and welcomed our 30<sup>th</sup> staff member into the fold!

If you haven't tried advertising with us, you are only holding yourself back. Our time-tested mission and purpose: there are extensive Irish communities from Cleveland to Clearwater who do amazing things, that no one is talking about. This same lack of appreciation and recognition is what started iIrish in the Greater Cleveland area. Our purpose is to show that work to our readers in Irish America, Ireland, and abroad, hand in hand with those creating those moments that last.

Our Network - We have powerful audiences to offer you - in print and

our other platforms of course, but also in our connections, our reputation and again, results.

### How We Help:

1. Our knowledge - from sixteen years of meeting the needs of business owners like you, and in thirty-six years in making magic happen, like we do at Cleveland Irish Fest. We spend hours every day helping people solve the problem they have. This is what we do. From Print to festivals to books to involvement in a myriad of cultural organizations, we give back and strive to make our world a better place to live, work, shop, and play.
2. Our experience - with this industry - Sixteen years growing and expanding when most have reduced or dissolved. We put that into practice every day. Our experience and our reputation reassure you, and result in ... results.
3. People don't buy things; they buy what things do. We try to trade each day for tangible results that make the world better. Our staff of thirty columnists, web, social media and layout experts and Sales Relationship Managers are our lifeblood, and our brand ambassadors.

That is not just part of our mission, it is part of our legacy - the McGarry Plan, supporting student's lessons in dance, music, and the Irish language, supporting fundraisers financially and with outreach assistance; iIrish allows us to help others that may not be able to help themselves.

We speak for our readers, not at them. We actively support and sponsor Gaelic culture, sports, language, music, and dance throughout our community; to date iIrish has donated more than \$375,000 to local and national non-profits since our 2006 inception. We are not paid to be at these events. We are here because we care about humans and want to help.

John F. Kennedy said that *conformity is the jailer of freedom, the enemy of success.*

**Think outside the box. We are Different. What's in it for You the advertiser?**

iIrish offers advertisers multi-platform access to our audiences of every age in an engaging way, and offers readers access to entertainment, products, business and educational opportunities, and experiences, *in the format that they have specifically requested.*

We preserve, present, and promote our rich Irish heritage; we provide access, understanding, artists and so much more to both our advertising partners, and our readers. We are preserving your presence, your story, and your impact, for the ages to come.

There is so much more inside. Call us to advertise, call us to support our work, and yours. **iIrish** 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

## The Irish in Action

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# Capital Happenings

The winter solstice is behind us and the ceremonial transition from darkness to light has begun. Central Ohio began its transition Scarlet & Gray to Green as we prepare for our annual Irish celebrations. The transition begins with election of new officers, honoring community members, and planning for St. Patrick's Day.

## Greater Columbus Irish Cultural Foundation (GCICF)

On December 9, after a two-year layoff, the GCICF hosted their annual Irish Christmas dinner at the State Capitol. Our host and Foundation Chair, Ed Gaughan, was pleased to present this year's honorees, Bob and Mary Ginn Ryan. Bob is a fourth-generation owner/operator and the President of the Egan-Ryan Funeral Homes. Mary Ginn, according to Bob, is the Owner and General Manager of their family of eleven children and fourteen grandchildren.

The Ryans were chosen for their devotion to faith and family and their lifelong contributions to the Irish community and beyond. One such contribution was the founding of Special People in Catholic Education (SPICE), which provides support for children with special needs and has been adopted by many parish schools. Attendees celebrated with a performance by the Shamrock Club Pipes & Drums before dinner, the duo Killashandra while enjoying an Irish themed meal, and were treated to dessert with dancing by the Irwin Academy of Irish Dance.

The GCICF was founded in 1989 to provide funding for and to support appreciation for Irish culture, history, and traditions. The Foundation has contributed to a variety of community activities through the years, including dance scholarships, music events, the St. Patrick's Day Parade, the Irish Life Experience, the annual Proclamation Day charity donation, and a grant



(L to R), Front Row – Vice President Bryan Horn, President Bruce McPherson; Second Row - Financial Secretary Dan Fitzpatrick, Marshall Jerry Tracy, Recording Secretary Kurt Wolf, Sentinel Mike Cosgrove, Treasurer Greg Brown, Standing Committee Chairman Rich Finn

to the Columbus Museum of Art for the purchase of a sculpture created by Irish American Sculptor John Bernard Flannagan. The GCICF also sponsors an annual fall road bowling event.

## AOH, Patrick Pearse Division

The Patrick Pearse Division transitioned from old to new as they installed new officers on December 3. Members attended mass at historic St. Mary church in German

Village before returned to Tara Hall for the installation ceremony. Congratulations to the new officers, President Bruce McPherson, Vice President Bryan Horn, Financial Secretary Dan Fitzpatrick, Marshall Jerry Tracy, Recording Secretary Kurt Wolf, Sentinel Mike Cosgrove, Treasurer Greg Brown, and Standing Committee Chairman Rich Finn.

The Division concluded a successful year with a \$1,000 donation to St. Ladislav St. Vincent

DePaul Society and a \$1,600 donation to the National AOH Freedom For All Ireland Fund.

## LAOH, Countess Markievicz Division

The Ladies would also like to congratulate their new officers for 2023: President Lisa O'Connell-Paccioretti, Vice President Katie Somers, Recording Secretary Christina Motika, Treasurer Megan Kelly, Financial Secretary Cathy Sullivan, Historian Mary Driscoll, Missions and Charities Chair Beth Motika, Catholic Action Chair Brenda Golden, Mistress of Arms Janell Brown, and Sentinel Karen Finn. Cathy Sullivan was named the Member of the Year.

Charity and fundraising have been central to the Ladies' efforts this year. In addition, donations to their LAOH charities, they celebrated the holiday's with their annual cookie sale and a sock drive for a local organization.

## Shamrock Club

Preparations for St. Patrick's Day began early this year. Tickets and table sales for the Irish Family Reunion began in December. Hundreds of families and friends will gather at the Greater Columbus Convention Center following the annual parade to renew acquaintances, share stories, and enjoy music and dancing throughout the afternoon.

There will be plenty of activities in preparation before that. January will begin with the annual Past President's luncheon. The luncheon is a time to honor those who have led the Club and the current President will provide an update on the State of the Club.

Sadly, this year we will be without two of our past leaders, George O'Donnel (1982) and Michael Moriarty (1968). George was a man of many interests, and once made the local papers when he took a Jaguar XKE for a test drive which resulted in a record setting speeding ticket (132), which was only recently broken.

Michael Moriarty became the youngest president in Club history at the age of 29, and he had been a fixture ever since. Michael and his family have chaired the St. Patrick's Day Parade for over fifty years and he rarely missed a Club event. Michael was always singing with the musicians, especially the rebel tunes. Anyone interested in



The Ryans

tickets to the Reunion or a table can contact the Shamrock Club at [www.theshamrockclubofcolumbus.com](http://www.theshamrockclubofcolumbus.com).

The entire community will gather in February as the Clann Na nGael to recognize all the annual honorees from the Irish organizations. There will be weekly music and events, so check out the organizations on

Facebook or online, and join us when you are in town. Until next time, "May the saints protect you, and sorrows neglect you." ♦

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- 13th - Cosmik Debris
- 20th - Crawley & Sofranko
- 21st - The Other Brothers
- 27th - The Music Men (Music Trivia)
- 28th - Smug Saints

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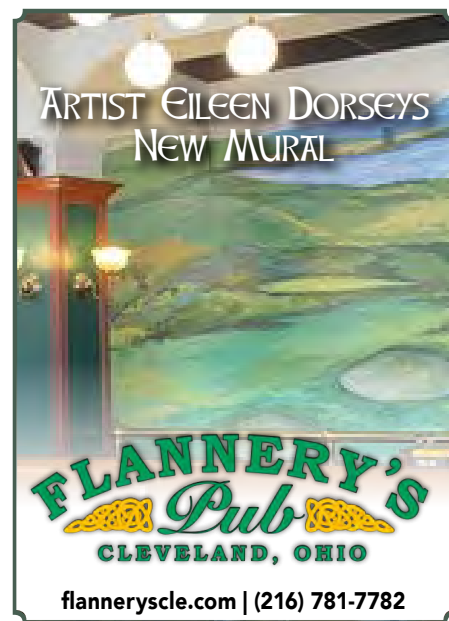
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# Irish Radio



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6pm-8pm: **All Things Irish**  
WOBC-FM 91.5 w/Anita Lock Oberlin

## 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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ILLUMINATIONS

## The Crash at Truskmore Mountain

As this column has previously noted, Taoiseach of Éire (pron: *tee-shock*), Eamon de Valera maintained a curious kind of neutrality during World War II. Ireland was neutral, but de Valera conducted neutrality on his own terms. He secretly aided the Allies whenever possible, while Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt publicly condemned his neutral position.

One of the most secret concessions made by Ireland during World War II was the secret agreement that established the Donegal Corridor. This was a four mile flight path that allowed Allied aircraft to fly a route crossing over the territory of Éire and then on to bases in Northern Ireland and beyond.

On January 21, 1941 Éamon de Valera met secretly with Sir John Maffey, the British ambassador to Ireland. The result was the agreement that granted permission for Allied aircraft to fly across Irish territory. The corridor was located over south Donegal, north Leitrim, and north Sligo.

### Neutral Ireland?

The agreement specified some terms: The planes were not permitted to fly over the Irish Army Camp at Finner in Donegal; the planes were expected to fly at a specified altitude (5,000 feet); and, in order to preserve an appearance of neutrality, the purpose of the flights were to be for air-sea rescue only. In actual practice, however, the rules and geographical boundaries were routinely ignored by the Allies with the full knowledge of the Irish government.

A serious aircraft accident occurred in the Donegal Corridor in northern County Sligo on the afternoon of December 9, 1943. The aircraft, a US Boeing B-17G Flying Fortress was being flown on a flight from Goose

Bay, Labrador, Canada to Prestwick in Scotland.

The aircraft was part of the fourth batch of G model B-17's produced by Boeing. The aircraft bore the name *Queen of the Skies*. On board the aircraft that afternoon were ten crewmen, including the pilot of the aircraft, Second Lieutenant Richard C. Walch, from Minnesota.

The aircraft approached Ireland on course at 11,000 feet. Over the Irish coast, the aircraft encountered unexpected heavy cloud cover. This caused the pilot to decide to land for refueling at Nutt's Corner, County Antrim, Northern Ireland, rather than continuing on to Prestwick. Nutt's Corner cleared the aircraft to descend to 4,000 feet, which the aircraft acknowledged.

As the aircraft proceeded over the Irish coast and visibility became zero, the pilot began a descent to get below the cloud cover, dropping below the 4,000 feet. During its gradual descent to Nutt's Corner, the plane crashed into Truskmore Mountain, in northern County Sligo. Truskmore is 2,123 feet, on the northern borders of County Sligo and County Leitrim.

It is the highest mountain in the Dartry Mountain range and the highest mountain in County Sligo. The crash site was approximately 2,000 yards from the summit.

The co-pilot, Second Lieutenant William M. Grim, was the first survivor to emerge from the wreckage. Both of his arms had been broken when he was thrown from the aircraft. He found that the navigator and bombardier appeared to have fatal injuries.

He then made his way to the plane to check on the other crew members. It appeared that everybody he could find was severely injured, but because of his own injuries he was unable to assist them.

Second Lieutenant Walch arrived from the cockpit area. He was disoriented and appeared to have a head injury. The need for urgent medical assistance was clear.

Second Lieutenants Richard E. Fox (bombardier) and William F. Wallace (navigator) were killed on impact. The surviving members of the crew were either trapped or so badly injured as to be unable to move. Walch and Grim made their way down to a house at the base of the mountain. A local resident walked several miles to the Garda (National Police) station at Cliffoney,



Typical Boeing B-17G Flying Fortress

County Sligo and was the first to report the crash.

### The Rescue on Truskmore Mountain

From then on, one of the finest examples of unselfish community effort occurred. Residents of Cliffoney and officials and organizations of County Sligo spent the entire night getting the injured crewmen out of the wreckage, down off the mountain and to the Sligo County hospital. One group of rescuers spent several hours digging earth with their hands to get at one crewman who was trapped beneath some of the wreckage.

Members of the Irish Red Cross of Sligo, aided by members of the Local Defense Force (LDF), made many trips up and down the several miles of steep, treacherous mountainside as stretcher-bearers – eight men were required to get each stretcher safely down the mountain.

Help was also provided by an elderly couple, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Rooney, who lived in the cottage at the foot of the mountain. Rooney, aged 75 years, left his sick bed to guide Walch and Grim beyond a dangerous riverbed.

Mrs. Rooney remained up all night, supplied all the ambulances with boiling water for hot-water bottles, gave hot tea to each injured man and each stretcher party and supplied tea to the military party. She refused to take payment for her services and only asked that her stock of tea – about one and a half pounds – be replaced if possible.

Outstanding service was provided by Dr. Evelyn Connolly of Cliffoney, the only physician in the district. She crawled on her hands and knees and was pushed and pulled by two policemen for three hours to reach the mountain top. U. S. Army medical officers later stated that her initial care not only relieved the suffering of the injured but resulted in saving some of

their lives.

She remained in charge of the rescue work all night, lightly clad, in pouring rain and bitter cold. The last of the injured was not extricated and brought down from the mountain until morning.

At Sligo County Hospital, medical care and surgical treatment was given as quickly as the injured airmen arrived. Every physician in Sligo was at the hospital all night. Medical personnel from 28<sup>th</sup> Station Hospital, U. S. Army, Northern Ireland, were dispatched to Sligo on the morning of December 10, 1943. Sergeant Adam J. Latecki (gunner) died of his injuries in the hospital four days after the crash.

The accident report of the US Army Air Forces Historical Support Office concluded, "The accident investigation board believes that the accident was actually caused by error in judgment on the part of the pilot in descending below 4,000 feet. If altitude had been maintained no difficulties would have been encountered. Pilot's altimeter must have been in error somewhat, which cannot be explained, but if the airplane had remained at 4,000 feet (as ordered) there would have been adequate clearance over the mountains." ♦

*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 also Chairman 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](mailto:FCoolavin@aol.com).*

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### FLAT IRON CAFÉ

6<sup>th</sup> - Erin Neal & the Chill Factors, 13<sup>th</sup> - Cats on Holiday, 20<sup>th</sup> - No Strangers Here, 27<sup>th</sup> - Kristine Jackson. ALL music is 7-10pm 1114 Center St. Cleveland 44113-2406 216.696.6968. [flatironcafe.com](http://flatironcafe.com)

### TREEHOUSE

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### PJ MCINTYRE'S

7<sup>th</sup> - Crawley & Sofranko, 14<sup>th</sup> - Marys Lane, 20<sup>th</sup> - Pat Shepard, 21<sup>st</sup> - Bradford's Gate, 28<sup>th</sup> - Iced Cherry. Don't forget T-Shirt Tues: wear any PJs T-Shirt get 15% off bill! Whiskey Wed: ½ off every whiskey in the house. Thurs - Craft Beer \$2.50. 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

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### MUSIC BOX SUPPER CLUB

**No events sent to us.** 29<sup>th</sup> - St Brigid's Day Brunch Featuring Nikki Custy, Mary Agnes Kennedy, Caroline King, Samantha McNamara. Doors open @11, Show @12. <https://musicboxcle.com/event/st-brigid-s-day-brunch-jan29/> 1148 Main Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44113. [musicboxcle.com](http://musicboxcle.com)

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### HOOLEY HOUSE MONTROSE

145 Montrose West Avenue Copley, Oh 44321 (234) 466-0060 [1funpub.com](http://1funpub.com)



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## mentor

### HOOLEY HOUSE

6 - Disco Inferno, 13<sup>th</sup> - Post Road, 20<sup>th</sup> - Abbey Rodeo, 21<sup>st</sup> - Phil-n-the-Blanks, 27<sup>th</sup> - Big in Japan. 7861 Reynolds Rd Mentor [1funpub.com](http://1funpub.com) (440) 942-6611.

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

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## columbus

### SHAMROCK CLUB EVENTS

**No events sent to us.** General Mtg., Horseshoe League every Wednesday, 6:30 pm, thru August: [tjbecker59@gmail.com](mailto:tjbecker59@gmail.com) Cornhole League every Thursday thru August, 7pm. Happy Hour every Friday from 5-7pm! 60 W. Castle Rd. Columbus 43207 614-491-4449 [shamrockclubofcolumbus.com](http://shamrockclubofcolumbus.com)

## youngstown

27<sup>th</sup> - AOH - Joseph T. Nalley, Sr. Div. 6 Mahoning County hosting the AOH Irish Invitational Golf Outing. 1<sup>st</sup> flight 8:30 am / 2<sup>nd</sup> Flight 1:30pm. Duck Creek Golf Course, Warren OH. \$85.00 p/person. Hole Sponsors \$50.00 & \$100.00. Lunch Sponsors \$250.00. (330) 550-4469, Mark Klacik.

## INDIANA

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- The Magic Tree Pub & Eatery - 3rd Sunday of the month, 5:30 to 7:30 7463 South Avenue, Boardman, Ohio 44512
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- The Harp - 1st Friday of every month, 9pm 4408 Detroit, Cleveland 44113
- 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

## Traditional Irish Social Dance Opportunities:

- Tuesdays 8-10 pm, set dancing lessons, St. Clarence Church, North Olmsted, OH. 44070
- 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](mailto:pittsburghceiliclub@gmail.com).
- Wednesdays 7-9 pm set dancing lessons: Irish American Club - East Side Euclid, OH;
- Thursdays 7:00 - 9:00 (except Mtg nights) Ceili Dancing. West Side Irish American Club, Olmsted Twp, OH. 44138 info: [manningrince@aol.com](mailto:manningrince@aol.com).
- [CeiliClubCleveland@gmail.com](mailto:CeiliClubCleveland@gmail.com)

## Irish Language Classes:

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- Introductory to intermediate level**  
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745 Pleasant Ridge Ave., Bexley, OH 43209







## Large Undertakings: Small Understandings

It was what I thought to be my last semester as an undergrad. The goal was to add to the GPA, substitute teach for some income, and apply to grad school. *Cultural Anthropology* was the textbook by Marvin Harris and the name of the course.

Harris was a cultural materialist, a scientific approach that sees causality of human behavior and cultural change in survival needs, such as population growth, resource depletion and protein availability. In the end, he conceded he was mistaken on the protein availability, but content, he moved the conversation forward.

*Studying Society and Cultures: Marvin Harris's Cultural Materialism and Its Legacy* by Larry Kuznar is a good discussion of Harris, a graduate of Columbia's esteemed anthropology

program. Under the leadership of Franz Boaz, Columbia anthropology became a safe space for women and scholars of color. It was the first anthropology department in the United States.

### Cultural Anthropology

Alan Sandstrom was the professor for *Cultural Anthropology*. He planned to go to Mexico the following semester on sabbatical to continue his studies on the Nahau people of central Mexico, descendants of the Aztecs. Professor Sandstrom shared that with the class and invited any student who wanted to visit while he and his family were in Mexico.

At his next office hours, I let him know I was going to visit. "Francis, what is your plan?" "Well, I am going to pack a bag and hike to Xalapa, Mexico."

Alan asked, "What about the weeks of hiking in the Chihuahua desert of northern Mexico?" At his next office hours, Alan asked, "What is your plan now?"

"Well, I am going to put a kayak in the Ohio River and kayak to the Mississippi and then the Gulf, to Veracruz."

"Ok, Francis, better than walking. You must have a fair amount of kayaking experience?" "Professor, I have never kayaked in my life."

At his next office hours, "I am taking the Greyhound." "Best answer so far, Francis."

I was able to visit Alan and Pamela Sandstrom on my trip to Boston for the Columbia v. Harvard game. It can be a short drive to Berkshires. They just published what will probably be their last book on the Nahuas, *Pilgrimage to*

*Broken Mountain*.

The *Nahua Newsletter* is still in circulation, where I got my first publication. That was before the Newsletter was banned by the California Department of Correction. Apparently, the Mexican Mafia was learning the Nahuatl language as a means to strengthen their cultural identity and take care of some things. I got a copy of *Aztec Philosophy* by James Maffie and the advice to "take it small."

### The Culture of the Cleveland Irish

Maffie argues that philosophy is not merely a function of western civilization. If one steps back from the ethnocentric lens, metaphysics and philosophy are universal. The Aztecs had, and did, philosophy. That got me thinking about the Irish and the Cleveland Irish. How did these canal builders create the neighborhoods, the parishes, the culture of the Cleveland Irish?

In 1940 on the Eastside there were Irish neighborhoods. We have shared that census data, take it small. East 99<sup>th</sup> (Bizzy, Wish, Layzie, Krayzie, and Flesh-n-Bone) was home to Ireland-born Thomas and Mary Fearon at #605, the Kellys were next door at #607, the Coynes were at #609, the O'Connors were at #655, the Donahues were at #711, Mary McGlynn was at #726. The McDonalds were near the corner on St. Clair. On East 101<sup>st</sup>, the McLeod brothers were at #623 and #625, the Morgans were at #636, the Flanagan's were at #647, the Laffey's (Mary J, John, Mary E.) were at #650, the Connellys were at #661, the Brennans were at #668, the Byrnes were at #700, the Dorseys were at #702, the McKennas at #710, and the Dagg's were at #766.

There were more Coynes on St. Clair, closer to East 102<sup>nd</sup>, who lived next door to the Hastings. McGarrys lived on East 102<sup>nd</sup>. Also on St. Clair, just around the corner from the Byrnes, were Jay and Nellie Bender. What are the odds?

A decade later, the Fearons were still at #605, the Kellys were still at #607, Coynes at #609 and Mary McGlynn was still lodging at #726. There was more movement on East 101<sup>st</sup>. The Laffey's were at #650, the Seltzers were now in #766 and the McKennas moved as well. It should be noted that the Mooneys and McGuinns moved in on East 101<sup>st</sup>.

Others moved, but some not that far. The 102nd McGarrys were now on East 108th and one of the Dagg's relocated to East 118th.

Those who replaced those Irish folks were American-born and eastern European, Russian, Hungarian, for the most part, even a few people from "Jugoslavia."

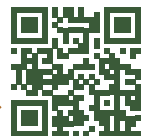
The 1950 census does not depict a flight or mass exodus. In fact, the gradual intra-neighborhood migration was unexpected. The neighborhood was organic. It added new inhabitants and lost some to other neighborhoods and others to larger migratory movements in America. A city does not stop moving, and Cleveland was/is no exception.

Small scale hermeneutics, or "take it small," reduces the geographical context from wards and neighborhoods to streets and their intersections. This has only been done temporarily in part for these families and households in this particular spatial analysis. Like the depth of thought of the Nahuas, families made decisions based on cultural materialism but not limited solely to depletion of resources. Understandably, population growth appears to play a more considerable role in migration, in regards to when and in regards to where.

There are insights to be gained when we reduce the data volume and the data variables. It allows the researcher to interact with the names in the census and the names can be people and not just data. It is interesting when you know most of the names in their current personal manifestation. "Take it small." The best answer so far, Alan and Pamela. ♦

*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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## Stargazing

Paint at night those stars in a frosty sky, one brighter than another. Sirius, Orion, Great Bear accustom eyes to deepest pitch that delivers the Milky Way. The more it's scanned, this sprawl grows fathomless. Too late to catch low in the south – as if the sound made walking the lane just now frightened it away – a star falling seconds later another, lit trajectory scorching headlong over the western rim. Yet, up above the heavens are crammed with constellations like so many freckles jostling for place.

("Night Sky" by Catherine Phil MacCarthy)

At the turn of the winter solstice, light is slowly brought back into the world. The air is still cold though, and darkness encroaches on our light. Some people sink deeper into the loneliness of the night, while others find beauty beneath the stars that shine in the winter sky.

Forever a child, I am enchanted by the stars and the everchanging faces of the moon. I can still hear my mother reciting, "I see the moon and the moon sees me, God bless the moon, and God bless me." During any given season, my father would haul out his telescope, ignoring the light pollution of Chicago, and we would stand in our small, fenced-in yard looking up, high into the night sky – a mysterious world filled with possibilities.

Born prematurely, I had to spend my first few months of life in an incubator. As I grew stronger in my isolated nursery, my mother could not hold or touch me. She could only wait and pray and trust that I would soon be allowed to go home, to start my life in this world.



My mother always told me that I began my new life in her arms on the day that the men landed on the moon. Standing outside in the warm July night, she held me close and whispered softly, telling me about the wonders of our world. No matter the season, that night energy has never left my heart or memory.

### Orion

Much like the stories my mother would tell me of my infancy, the night sky has long captured the imaginations of storytellers and poets. Orion, the mythological hunter, leads the stars in winter. Best viewed in January and February, one can readily identify Orion's Belt, three of the brightest night stars that form a line.

Gemini, the twins, and Taurus, the bull, are two other winter constellations. It is said by some astral story seekers that Orion either hunts his neighbors, or kindlier, carries them through the winter sky, if only for a night.

Imagine living in ancient times when the world was completely winter dark and great pictures of light formed in the night sky, changing with every season. Ancient people looked to the sky to mark time. In the Boyne Valley of County Meath, Newgrange is a Neolithic burial mound. Each year at sunrise on the Winter Solstice, a single ray of light shines through a box-like shaft at the center of the main chamber. The light lasts only for seventeen minutes at dawn but remains as testament to the intelligence of the ancient people who survived by marking time in a world without light.

### Dark Sky Park

While Newgrange is archaeological proof of the industry of the ancient Irish people, other seekers look to the

sky to weave stories that bind the myths of Ireland to her history. Naturalists and educators involved with Mayo's International Dark Sky Park compare the constellation of Orion to the legend of Daithí Bán, a legendary giant who wandered Mayo's Nephin mountains.

They say that he was a hunter, like Orion, and met an untimely death through trickery. His image is held sacred in the great constellation of Orion, forever the hunter who guards the night sky.

Mayo's Dark Sky Park is located between the Nephin mountains and the Atlantic coastline. Encompassing Ballycroy National Park, the Dark Sky Park is Ireland's first international night park that touts the darkest place, free of light pollution, in Ireland to view the stars, planets, and phases of the moon.

The Wild Nephin mountain range is unpopulated and one of the most isolated, untouched ranges in Ireland. Within that area lies the Bangor Trail, a path worn by shepherds since the early sixteenth century. This untouched land speaks to the history of a place illuminated by natural beauty. Visitors to the Dark Sky Park can view stellar constellations or take part in educational tours and lectures led by naturalists dedicated to preserving both the folklore and science unique to the Wild Atlantic Way of Western Ireland.

This winter I have been reading a memoir aptly entitled *Wintering* by Katherine May. May uses the term winter as a metaphor for both the inevitable pain that comes from living, as well as the inexpressible joy and hope that greets us if we are open to wonder. At five months pregnant, May traveled during the frigid month of January to the Arctic Circle; far from her home in

England, she sought to view the elusive lights of the Aurora Borealis.

In the mid of night, May and her husband went by coach with other seekers in the hope of seeing the lights, validation that their trip was not a fool's journey. She describes the first viewing as a green mist, barely perceptible, but present nonetheless, in the winter sky. Each subsequent sitting also proved rewarding, if unremarkable in constant green.

Then, one evening back at her hotel, May went to the lobby in search of her lost mittens. There framed in the windows of the lobby was the storied brilliant pink of the Northern Lights. In essence, May did not have to go searching for the changing rose of the night sky; she remarks that it was "just waiting for me to learn how to see it."

This is where the lesson lies. Maybe we expend too much effort, place too much hope in grand expectation. Sometimes the reward of living, lies in clear sight, just beyond the darkness.

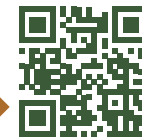
One night, years ago, my husband's cousin was walking home with friends from a night at a pub on Achill Island. As the young ladies walked and laughed, the dark sky above Sleibhmór became illuminated with broad streaks of red, pink, and green. The night was alive with color.

The cousin ran inside the cottage to awaken her sleeping mother, who quickly rose out of bed to join in the excitement. The mother explained that the lively color was indeed the Aurora Borealis, the Northern Lights. As mother and daughter stood enjoying what would become a treasured memory, the science behind the display did not seem important.

Perhaps, if we replace the dread of winter with the spirit of discovery; if we use winter as a season to pause in stillness; we might just be rewarded with a moment, not of darkness, but one of brilliant wonder. ♦

*Susan holds a Master's Degree in English from John Carroll University and a Master's Degree in Education from Baldwin-Wallace University. Susan may be contacted at [suemangan@yahoo.com](mailto:suemangan@yahoo.com).*

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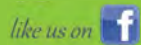




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## Midwest Gaelic Athletic Association

### USGAA Convention

The USGAA annual convention was held in Chicago on November 11-13, with delegates from across the ten divisions comprising the "county." The Midwest Division was well represented and carried the second highest voting block (44 or 16%), just behind the Northeast (includes Boston).

Clubs carried two votes and divisional chairs and the county board carry one vote.

There are nearly 6,000 adult members across the USGAA, an uptick from the pandemic years, and a noticeable increase from the pre-pandemic levels that hovered around 5,000 members during the teens.

There were some notable passing motions this year. Motion 7 requires players on junior level panels to remain on those panels until eliminated for the USGAA Finals. Prior to this, some clubs with multiple level teams (say an intermediate team and a junior C team) would field a few upper-level players in the earlier junior match before lining them out in the later upper-level match.

Players could always move up, so clubs would start talented players at the lower level to give their lower-level team a boost. Now, those players would have to remain on the lower team and not be available for the upper team until the lower team was eliminated.

Motion 12 was passed, allowing home-grown players in their first five years to re-register up until August 1. Previously the deadline was April 30.

Motion 21 now allows for unlimited substitutions at the USGAA Finals for



Rob Tierney, US Games Development Officer, Discussing All-Ireland Junior A Football.

men's junior C and D football. Motion 25 split the camogie junior grading into levels A and B. The past year only had a junior level and developmental games. The new motion ensures more camogie games at the USGAA finals for the growing sport.

The county board was seated as follows: Chairperson, Bernie Connaughton (Shannon Blues, NE); Vice-Chairperson, Paul Keane (St. Joseph's, W); Secretary, Liam Moloney (Sean Tracey's, W); Treasurer, Tom Walsh (Denver, SW); Registrar, Susan Pierce (Indianapolis, HL), PRO, Caoimhe Butler (Young Islanders, PH); Youth Officer, Gareth Fitzsimons (Parnell's, C); Central Council Delegate, Gerard Dillon (Delco, PH); and honorary president is Malachy Higgins (Naomh Pdraig, W).

On Sunday, the USGAA Youth Committee held their annual general meeting. Paul Mulcaire (Buffalo) was honored as he served the full five-year term. Joining Gareth Fitzsimons on the Youth Board are Vice-Chairperson Eamonn Kelley (St. Brenden's); Secretary Brendan MacGrath (Trinity Milton); Treasurer Josephine Regan (St. Jalrath's); Registrar Kerri Hanley (Trinity Milton); PRO Paul Mulcaire (Buffalo); and Development Officer Brian Rogers (San Francisco). The final note for the USGAA Convention is that the delegates affirmed that the board and development committee



move forward with proposals and plans to field a county team in the All-Ireland Junior Football Final in 2024. Competition would be with Kilkenny, London, New York, and Warwickshire. All USGAA homegrown players would be eligible.

### Midwest Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Midwest held their annual general meeting at the West Side Irish American Club in Olmsted Township, Ohio. Clubs traveled in from Detroit, Cincinnati, Akron, Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Rochester, and Syracuse to join Cleveland. Officer reports followed individual club updates on successes and lessons learned. Minor motions passed. There were no contested elections.

A special thanks was made to Garrett O'Donohue (Detroit City Harps), whose term limit was up as Youth Chair. The MW board also welcomed back two officers in Chairperson John Young (Pittsburgh GAA) and Secretary Rob Tierney (Pittsburgh GAA). Rounding out the board were Vice-Chairperson Paul Mulcaire (Buffalo Na Fianna); Treasurer Damon Margida (Cleveland); PRO Sean Stayduhar (Pittsburgh Pucas); Registrar Davy Roberts (Pittsburgh GAA); and Youth Officer Vincent Beach (Cleveland).

New business centered around organization of the playing schedule. The Midwest is, once again, holding a Trip-to-Ireland raffle (email your local



MWGAA 2022 Board Business.

GAA for details, or clevelandGAA@gmail.com).

### Cleveland Annual General Meeting

The Cleveland St. Pat's - St. Jarlath's GAA also held their AGM at the West Side Irish American Club, but a week prior to the Midwest. The growing club saw the expansion of the board: Chairperson, Vincent Beach; Vice-Chairperson, Maura English; Secretary, Danny Sullivan; Treasurer, John Kernan; Registrar, Cory Barry; PRO, Shannon Enoch; Youth Officer, Peter Dietz; Football Manager, Jim Coyne; Hurling Manager, Damon Margida; Men's Football Representative, Alec Stott; Ladies' Football Representative, Maureen Mohny; Hurling Representative, Joey Murphy; and Camogie Representative, Clodagh O'Leary. The upcoming Cleveland GAA year is trending to be the largest yet. It is the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Club (St. Pat's being formed in 1948). Plans are in

progress for the Midwest Memorial 7's Football tournament on May 20<sup>th</sup>, the hosting of end of year tournaments, and an anniversary bash - details to come next month.

### Recruitment Nights

Both youth indoor and adult indoor sessions are being planned, but at the time of writing not yet finalized for 2023. Please check the ClevelandGAA.com website for updates or reach out (details below).

**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



Paul Mulcaire thanked for five years as USGAA Youth Officer.

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. ♦

*Vincent Thomas Francis Xavier Beach is a proud Greater Cleveland 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 children, Ambrose (13), Bernadette (11), and Cedric (8), 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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# Bluestone Hibernians



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Prime Rib or Crab Stuffed Fish. 2pm Cocktails, 3pm Dinner, 4pm Raffle.

All proceeds support the BHC Scholarship Program.

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The Brigideens

# Pittsburgh Irish Festival Announces New Event for 2023

## Brigid – a Musical Celebration Celtic Goddess and Patron Saint of Ireland



The team at the Irish Partnership of Pittsburgh, the umbrella organization of the Pittsburgh Irish Festival, is pleased to announce a brand-new event, BRIGID, a musical celebration of Brigid, Celtic Goddess and Patron Saint of Ireland, on Saturday, February 4, 2023, at the Rosemary Heyl Theatre in Antonian Hall at Carlow University.

The event, which has received support from the Government of Ireland's Irish Emigrant Support Programme, will celebrate Brigid the Saint; Brigid the Goddess; be a celebration of Irish and Celtic Women; of light and Springtime; and it is a celebration of Irish and Celtic culture, including its history, its present, and its future.

"We couldn't be more excited for this event and to raise awareness about Brigid," said Mairin Petrone, Executive Director of the Pittsburgh Irish Festival and President of the

Irish Partnership of Pittsburgh. "For so long, St. Patrick has been at the forefront of Irish celebrations, and while his contributions to Irish history and culture are significant and worthy, it is important that we also recognize St. Brigid and everything that she symbolizes for women for Ireland, and for Celtic history."

### Who was Brigid?

St. Brigid is one of Ireland's three patron saints. She is celebrated annually in Ireland with the St. Brigid's Feast Day on February 1, also referred to as Imbolc. Imbolc marks the beginning of Spring in Ireland, a movement from darkness into light. St. Brigid is the Patron Saint of poetry, beer, midwives, newborns, Irish nuns, blacksmiths, dairymaids, boatmen, learning, healing, protection, chicken farmers, cattle, scholars, sailors, and more. Brigid was also a Celtic Goddess,



RUNA

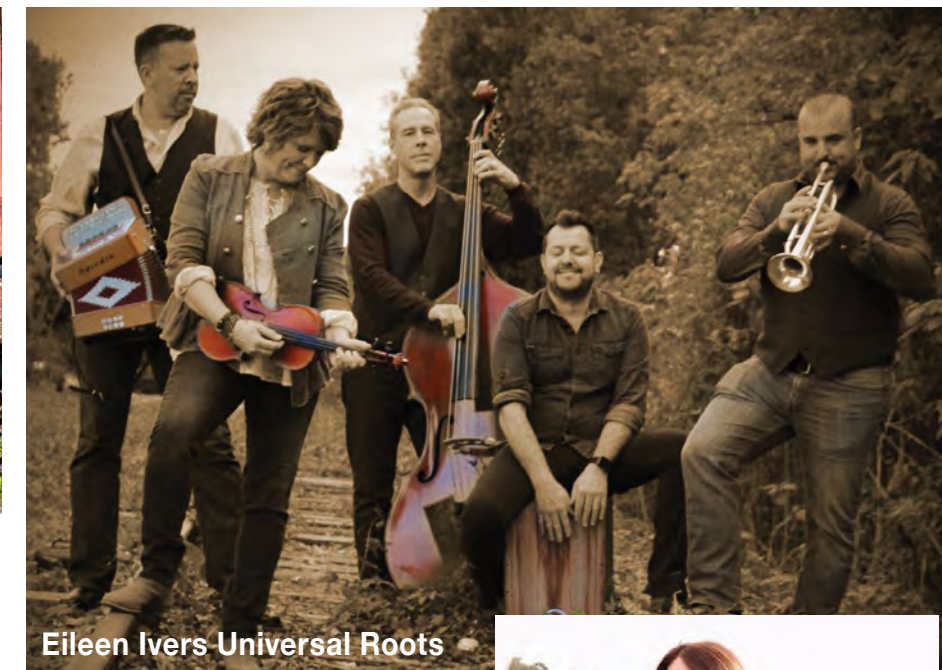
a Fire Goddess, and the Goddess of spring, light, life, fertility, physicians, and many others.

Event headliner, Eileen Ivers, said, "I'm beyond excited to be part of the live concert experience at Carlow University in Pittsburgh. What a special night it will be, honoring Ireland's beloved female patron saint with other incredible female artists and musicians: RUNA, The Bow Tides, Ally the Piper, The Brigideens - whom I formed specifically for this event and headlining with Eileen Ivers and Universal Roots. Those in attendance will surely feel the light of St. Brigid emanating throughout the theater with

this celebration of music, song, dance, and community in her name."

### Featured Performers

include the Grammy®-Awarded and Emmy-Nominated, Eileen Ivers, who will performing with her Universal Roots Band, and a powerhouse all-female band created especially for this event, The Brigideens. featuring Eileen Ivers, Caitlin Maloney, Hilary Hawke, Shannon Heaton, Anna Colliton, Colin Forhan; The Bow Tides, a Pittsburgh Irish Festival favorite band led by three female fiddle players, including Pittsburgher, Katie Grennan; Female-fronted, RUNA, who preserves



Eileen Ivers Universal Roots

traditional Celtic-American Roots while also pushing the boundaries of Irish folk music in the modern age; TikTok and Instagram famous, Ally Crowley-Duncan (aka PiperAlly), a multi-instrumentalist and singer with a specialty in bagpipes. Ally is the most followed bagpiper on social media; Bell School of Irish Dance; Showlin Academy of Irish Dance

Tickets for BRIGID are on sale at [www.brigidpgh.com](http://www.brigidpgh.com). The event is expected to sell-out, so the organizers recommend getting your tickets early. In the spirit of St. Brigid, a portion of the event proceeds will support the Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh. ♦



Ally the Piper



About the Pittsburgh Irish Festival and Irish Partnership of Pittsburgh  
The Irish Partnership of Pittsburgh d.b.a. The Pittsburgh Irish Festival, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation created to contribute to the rich cultural awareness of Irish history and tradition that exists in Pittsburgh. In addition to our three-day Celtic Celebration, the Pittsburgh Irish Festival has expanded into a year-round resource for education and cultural programs through the creation of the Irish Education Outreach Program. Created in 1991, the Pittsburgh Irish Festival has gained recognition as an important presenter of

Celtic culture due, in large part, to our highly successful festival and events like BRIGID. Just as the Festival has become one of the nation's finest Irish American festivals, and certainly the most comprehensive exhibit of Irish music, lore, food, and dance in the region, the organization has also become one of the region's most prominent producers of Irish programming. For more information, visit [www.pghirishfest.org](http://www.pghirishfest.org).

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**SPEAK IRISH**

@BobCarneyGTR

BOB CARNEY

## Introductions

Bliain nua faoi mhaise dhaoibh! A Happy New Year all. In past lessons, we have learned how to introduce ourselves and inquire how the person we are speaking with is. We have experience with one on one conversation and can ask about a variety of topics. Let's take things a step further and try to introduce others to a third party or group and include them in what we discuss.

Before we start, a word or two on pronunciation. In our lessons here, I offer a phonetic spelling of how Irish words should sound based on English sounds that we are familiar with. However, Irish

is quite guttural, something that rarely occurs in English, so phonetics can only approximate the proper pronunciation.

To hear a more accurate representation, go to [teanglann.ie](http://teanglann.ie). Just below the top of the page, you'll locate the tool bar, if you press the block with the speaker, it will take you to the audio section. There you can pick one of the three regional dialects and hear the word you typed in. You must include the fada if the word requires it. If you're using a smart phone, simply hold your finger down on the vowel and then slide your finger to select the vowel with the fada as you type in your word. The more you hear Irish, the easier the pronunciation becomes.

Dia duit/ daoibh (jee-uh gwitsh/ yeev) Hello lit. God to you/you all

Dia is Muire duit/daoibh (jee-uh iss morra gwitsh/yeev) reply to hello lit. God and Mary to you/you all

Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú? (kay hee will too) How are you?

Tá mé go maith. (taw may guh mah) I'm good

Níl mé go maith. (neel may guh

mah) I'm not good.

Tá mé go hiontach. (taw may guh hee-in-tawk) I'm wonderful

Tá mé go breá. (taw may guh brow) I'm fine.

Tá mé tuirseach. (taw may tur-shawk) I'm tired.

Tá mé uafásach (taw may oo-fahs-ach) I'm awful or terrible

An bhfuil tú tuirseach? (ahn will too tur-shawk) Are you tired?

Tá. Tá mé tuirseach (taw. taw may turshawk) Yes. I'm tired.

Níl. Tá mé go breá. (neel. taw may guh brow) No. I'm fine.

Agus tú féin? (ah-gus too fayne) And yourself?

Freisin (fresh-in) too/also

Go raibh maith agat. (gor ah mah ah-gut) thank you

Cén t-ainm atá ort? (ken tan-um ah-taw ort) What is your name?

.... is ainm dom (iss ann-um dum) .... is my name.

Is mise.. (iss mee-shah) I'm ...

Tá sé go deas bualadh leat. (taw shay guh jess bool-ah laht) It's nice to meet you.

Tá sé go deas bualadh leatsa freisin.

(taw shay guh bool-ah laht-sa fresh-in) It's nice to meet you as well.

Seo é Tomás (show ay to-mas) This is Thomas.

Tá sé go deas bualadh leat a Thomáis (taw shay guh bool-ah laht a ho-mish)

*In Irish when addressing a person you say the word "a" (uh) before their name. In male names the first consonant becomes "softened", and a broad final consonant becomes slender. Seán, a Sheáin, Pádraig, a Phádraig, Tomás, a Thomáis. In female names, you "soften" the first consonant. Sinéad, a Shinéad, Bríd, a Bhríd. Not all consonants can be "softened", if a name starts with the letter l, n or r you say , a Liam, a Rúairí, a Noirín.*

### Sample Irish Conversation

Liam: Dia duit.

Noirín: Dia is Muire duit.

Liam: Cén chaoi a bhfuil tú?

Noirín: Tá mé go maith. Go raibh maith agat, agus tú féin?

Liam: Tá mé go breá freisin.

Noirín: Seo é Tomás.

Liam: Tá sé go deas bualadh leat a

Thomáis.

Tomás: Go raibh maith agat, tá sé go deas bualadh leatsa freisin. Seo iad Máirtín agus Aoife.

Liam and Noirín: Tá sé go deas bualadh libh. ♦

*and Irish dogs organizations in and around Cleveland. Wife Mary, hounds Rian and Ashling and terrier Doolin keep the house jumping. He can be reached at [carneyspeakirish@gmail.com](mailto:carneyspeakirish@gmail.com).*

*Bob Carney is a student of Irish language and history and teaches the Speak Irish Cleveland class held every Tuesday at PJ McUntyre, s. He is also active in the Irish Wolfhound*

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## West Side Irish Club Congratulates the 25 Tournament Winners

Kevin Jennings and Chris Campbell (center) survived a playoff with the two second place teams. Mary Lowry/ Sally Curan (left) and Joe McAndrews/Mike Hennigan (right). A fun time was had by all. Thanks to the Volunteers. Special thanks to McDonough's Brigade

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**COOKING UP A HOOLEY**

KATIE GAGNE



**Warm, Cozy and Delicious**

After all the holiday sweets and traditional family meals, it can be nice to warm up with a yummy bowl of soup. Add some crusty brown bread and you have a perfect meal. I came across this recipe last year and just knew it would be great to include in my column.

**Irish Baked Potato Soup with Corned Beef and Crispy Leeks**

- Ingredients:**  
 1/2 cup unsalted butter  
 3 leeks  
 1 small onion - sliced  
 4 cups russet potatoes - peeled and diced, about 3 potatoes

- 4 cups chicken stock  
 1 Tbsp. olive oil  
 1/2 cup all-purpose flour - divided  
 2 tsp. paprika  
 2 tsp. garlic powder  
 kosher salt  
 black pepper  
 1 cup heavy cream  
 8 oz. corned beef - cooked and chopped  
 6 oz. cheddar cheese - I prefer using any Irish cheese - shredded  
 1 bunch chives - chopped  
 Melt the butter in a large pot over low heat. Chop two of the leeks, light green

and white parts only. Rinse the leeks and then pat dry. Add the leeks and onion to the pot and cover. Cook for twenty minutes.

Add the potatoes to the pot and stir to combine. Cover and cook for an additional fifteen minutes.

Pour in the chicken stock and bring the mixture to a boil. Reduce the heat to a simmer and cook until the potato is very soft, about thirty minutes.

As the soup cooks, prepare the crispy leeks. Preheat the oven to 425 degrees F. Cut the remaining leek into long, thin strips. Rinse the strips and then pat dry.

Place the leek strips in a large bowl and drizzle with olive oil. Toss the oiled leeks with a 1/4 cup flour, paprika, garlic powder, and a generous amount of salt and pepper, until coated.

Spread onto a baking sheet and bake until crisp, about ten minutes. Let the leeks cool on the sheet.

Once the potatoes are soft, sprinkle

1/4 cup flour into the pot and stir until lumps disappear. Mix in the heavy cream. Season with salt and pepper, to taste, and add in half of the chopped corned beef. Allow to simmer for fifteen minutes to thicken slightly.

Top with the remaining corned beef, cheddar cheese, chives, and crispy leeks, to serve.

Recipe adapted from Yummly ♦

*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](mailto:mkbluebows@aol.com), or find her on Facebook at [@sassysweetsandmore](https://www.facebook.com/sassysweetsandmore).*

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**HEALTH MATTERS**

DR. JEFFREY LANDERS

**Starting the New Year Off Right: How Weight Loss Surgery Can Help in 2023**

The New Year signifies a chance for new beginnings. For many, that means making resolutions that center around improving their physical health or, more specifically, their weight. It's no wonder weight loss continues to be one of the most common resolutions year after year.

41% of Americans suffer from the disease of obesity, and nearly 10% are severely obese. Studies demonstrate that only 1% of patients who are at least thirty pounds overweight are able to lose it and keep half or more of the weight off long-term.

It is a problem that can greatly impact a person's quality of life, especially given obesity is often associated with other health challenges, including diabetes, sleep

apnea, heart disease, and more. It's not just their health that suffers. Household budgets and even relationships can be affected. So, weight loss can be an important goal. If you find yourself making and breaking the same resolution annually, you are not alone.

Our body's view weight loss as life threatening and, therefore, react to weight loss by simultaneously increasing our appetite and decreasing the number of calories we burn at rest. The result is weight re-gain, usually above where you started. That is because we have the same biology our ancestors had when they were hunter/gatherers, and starvation was much more common. The same hormonal mechanisms that might have saved your life a thousand years ago now act to sabotage attempts at long-term weight loss.

Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery is the field of medicine and surgery where we actively interrupt those mechanisms to create a much more successful long-term success. As a result, it has been proven as an effective tool in reducing the long-term personal, clinical, and economic costs of obesity by helping patients successfully lose weight and prevent it from coming back long-term.

More than 80% of bariatric surgery patients keep half to all of their excess weight off in studies exceeding twenty years. Research also demonstrate that

bariatric surgery patients live about three times longer than obese patients who do not undergo surgery, and that the overall risk for cancer is 32% less after bariatric surgery than it is for other obese patients.

While effective, bariatric surgery is not a shortcut to becoming a healthier you. Obesity is a chronic disease that requires a long-term commitment to successfully

treat. Bariatric surgery is not a guarantee of

long-term success in weight loss, but is a powerful tool, and when combined with a commitment to dietary change and exercise, it provides the best results.

Fewer than 1% of qualifying patients are ever referred for obesity treatment. So, talk with your health care provider and ask them for a

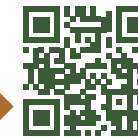


referral to find out if bariatric surgery can help you. It could mean 2023 is finally the year you make those weight loss goals happen. ♦

*Jeffrey T. Landers, MD, FACS, FASMBS is a board certified Bariatric and General surgeon with over 6,000 cases of experience. He graduated from Case Western reserve University School of Medicine and completed a University of Rochester General Surgery residency. He is a Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Assessment and Quality Improvement Program (MBSAQIP) Verified Surgeon. Dr. Landers is the Director of The Mercy Health Lorain Bariatric and Metabolic Surgery Clinic at 440-222-4181. Live, free Bariatric Surgery classes are given the third Thursday of every month at 6 PM, in Ross Conference Room 2 at Mercy Health - Lorain Hospital.*

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**ON THIS DAY IN IRISH HISTORY**  
**January**

**1 January 1892** - Annie Moore stepped off the SS Nevada to be recorded as the first immigrant ever to pass through Ellis Island.

**3 January 1602** - The Battle of Kinsale only lasted two hours but was a decisive moment in the Nine Years War.

**7 January 1922** - The Anglo-Irish Treaty is ratified by Dáil Éireann, sixty-four to fifty-seven.

**12 January 1876** - Pope Pius IX states that he has 'decreed and declared that the American or Irish society called Fenianism is among the societies forbidden and condemned in the Constitutions of the Supreme Pontiff.'

**14 January 1965** - Sean Lemass traveled to Belfast to meet Terence O'Neill, the first time that the leaders of both states on the island of Ireland officially met since the enactment of the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921.

**16 January 1922** - In accordance with Article seventeen of the Irish-Anglo Treaty, the formal handover took place at Dublin Castle of a 'provisional' government for what was, at the time, called Southern Ireland.

**20 January 1961** - John F. Kennedy was sworn in as the thirty-fifth President of the United States, the first Catholic to be elected.

**22 January 1972** - Taoiseach Jack Lynch signed the Treaty of Accession for Ireland to join the European Commission in Brussels. This was the beginning of Ireland's place within in what would come to be known as the European Union.

**30 January 1972** - A march was held in Derry, organized by the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association, protesting the policy of internment without trial that had been introduced in August 1971. The British Army opened fire, shooting twenty-five people, fourteen of whom died.

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## Student Stories: Mo Thuras le Gaeilge

By Gerry Walsh

Is fearr Gaeilge briste na Béarla cliste.

My grandfather was a “cainteoir dúchas” or native speaker of Irish Gaelic. I never had a clue. I wasn’t around when he tried to teach all his children the prayers in Irish. I understand that they had no interest in the language, since they were all born in America and didn’t see a need for the language here. I only heard the “Éirinn go brách” resounding every Saint Patrick’s Day.

My father was quite proud of his Irish heritage, but even that did not inspire him to learn the prayers. I wonder how many of our relatives and neighbors were also native speakers in the Irish neighborhood where I grew up? But, as I said, I was clueless.



I was always interested in languages. When I was young, my uncle, who had been in France and Germany, taught me a couple basic phrases in those languages. Since I was, however, lacking in sense, I started out my career in foreign languages by asking some Cherokee dancers in Oklahoma, “Bonjour, ça va?” and, of course, they answered me in Cherokee.

I wandered away with embarrassment. Undaunted, I kept up this long-term tradition by later asking passers-by in Paris how to say “lamp post” in French (who always seemed to end up being Americans), or greeting my son’s landlords in a Spanish-speaking part of Brooklyn with a cheery “Hola, que tal?” It turned out they were Asian.

My wife suggested I stick to English. Finally, however, I found a safe niche in Irish conversation circles – ciorcaíl comhrá. In an effort to keep up my

French and German, I did not limit my studies to Irish. So, I ended up throwing in the occasional French or German word into my Irish conversation. Quelle horreur!

When we first went to Ireland, twenty-five years ago, my wife made me swear I would not ask anyone about lamp posts. Nevertheless, we managed to visit happily every year since then, as we were in County Clare, where we were somewhat hard-pressed to find many Irish speakers. After a while, though, I found myself increasingly attracted to the Irish Gaeltachts, where Irish is the first language.

Finally, one year we drove up to the Connemara Gaeltacht, intending to spend the night and return the next day. Unfortunately, we chose a day when all the lodgings were taken due to a local event at the schools. I only got a chance to ask about lodging and whether there was other lodging available.

The next year we went again and found some shops in Spideal where I had a chance to chat briefly with the shopkeepers followed by a nice dinner at a local restaurant, where I ordered my meal in Irish. I didn’t get a real chance to stay in the Gaeltacht until the Irish instructor at University of Pittsburgh, Marie Young, arranged for me to apply for a scholarship. I stayed for a fortnight in Ceathrú Rua (Carraroe, County Galway), learning Irish in an immersive environment.

Due to flight delays, I arrived in the afternoon of the first day. I chatted with the secretary and another of the teachers. I was given the option of choosing whether I would go to the intermediate or advanced class.

Aware of my weaknesses, I initially chose intermediate. However, after a few days reviewing topics I had covered many times before, I decided to change to the advanced class. They were content for me to change, so I walked into the advanced class the next day.

The instructor no longer spoke a carefully pronounced, clearly enunciated, leisurely paced Irish, but, rather, I had the impression I had just stepped in front of a freight train which was rapidly bearing down upon me – her speech was so fast. She told me that everyone else had found a partner except one person and I should join him for the

writing exercises.

I agreed and was shortly afterwards horrified to find I had been paired up with a person who seemed to be an Irish poet. “We” wrote a few paragraphs together, including at least one word I had contributed.

The other people in the class did not seem to have such a piece of blank verse for their contributions and I thought that I might have had a better chance paired with them. Oh well. Is ait an mac an saol! Life can throw some curves at you betimes.

I was far more content when I returned to the intermediate class the next day. At least I was in familiar territory.

The following day before I entered class, however, I was accosted by a teacher I had not seen previously. We went off to another room where we discussed whether I had any concerns and what, exactly, I would prefer to learn. We proceeded to spend the rest of the week with him checking my pronunciation (which was actually far better than I had imagined) and he had me do exercises, such as going to the far end of the long room and reading to him in a loud voice.

He informed me that a major part of my problem was my shyness and the quiet way I spoke in consequence. I had a delightful time working with him on “mo chuid Gaeilge” (my Irish). At the end of the first week, we were free for the weekend, and my wife came to spend the weekend with me. I happily related the events of the preceding week, until her quizzical expression cued me in that

I was speaking in Irish (of which she understood nothing).

I trust that my private instructor enjoyed that bottle of (legal) póitín whiskey I left for him outside his office door in thanks.

Since then, I have attended various Daltaí na Gaeilge Irish weekends and even one week in which, after having spent a good portion speaking with native speakers, I was awarded the gold Fáinne – a symbol of my level of oral fluency in Irish. In the same year, I received the B1 (lower intermediate) certificate from Maynooth University.

One positive change due to the pandemic: after decrying my inability to get back to the Gaeltacht for more instruction, the Gaeltacht came to me – in its own way. Since in-person classes could no longer be safely held, online classes started up; I was able to attend one class in the Waterford

Gaeltacht and another in Dublin in the same week.

Since that time, I have almost always had at least one class in Irish, and more often two, every week. I am hoping I am on my way to get that B2 certificate in Irish that has been the guiding star for my efforts ever since. ♦

*Gerry is a retired software engineer, born in Philadelphia, PA, grew up in Levittown, New Jersey before attending university for his B.A. in Theoretical math. He is married with two sons and lives in Washington County, attending Irish classes at the University of Pittsburgh.*

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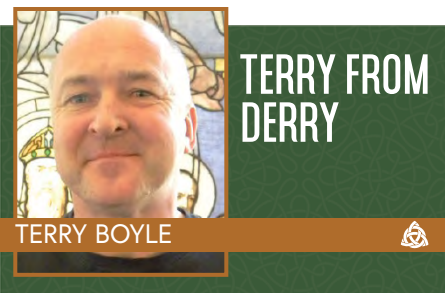






1. What country did Robert Emmet flee to to avoid being captured?
2. Germany b) France c) Italy
3. True or False: A native America tribe donated money to the Irish during the Great Famine?
4. What does 'GPO' stand for?
5. The first episode of the Late Late Show was presented by G \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_ in 1962.
6. Eamon de Valera served as Taoiseach for a) 14 years b) 21 years c) 30 years.
7. Sir Walter Raleigh introduced what popular crop to Ireland?
8. Which of these places was NOT captured by Cromwell when he arrived in Ireland: Wexford, Kilkenny, Cork, or Carlow?
9. In 1845, what fraction of the potatoes in Ireland were destroyed? a) one-fifth,
10. one-third c) one-half
11. Sean O'Casey is known for writing plays such as Juno and the Paycock and The Plough and the \_\_\_\_\_
12. When the American Declaration of Independence was signed in August 1776, what percentage of the signees were either born in Ireland or could trace their ancestry to Ireland a) 20% b) 30% c) 40%

1. France
2. True
3. General Post Office
4. Gay Byrne
5. 21 years
6. Potatoes
7. Cork
8. One-third
9. Stars
10. 20%
11. 21 years
12. France



## Back to Back

The holiday time is one of those times when life is stressful and people either moved to be more tolerant or impatient. For most of us, the whole lead-up to these events is less about celebration and more about how we can survive the constant reminder to be nice.

The other day I was at the supermarket. Since I'm prone to forgetting what I should buy and end up buying the thing that grabs my attention, it's a marketplace that knows me as a frequent shopper. I tend to go early in the morning to avoid the queues at the register and any possible encounter with the person who is counting out the pennies one by one.

On this occasion, I was second in line at the register and pleased with myself that I'd actually purchased the things I set out to buy and not given into the many things I didn't need but wanted. The Hispanic lady in front of me was definitely out in a holiday shop. She had enough in the cart to feed an army of hungry relatives.

I didn't mind waiting, after all, I was next and I had less than ten items. Normally, there is a register to go to if you have a small bunch of items to buy, but it was so early, there was only one person at the register - it was a free for all, first come first serve.

When it came to my turn, the cashier, who knows me as one who shops there a lot, raced through the items and waited for my transaction. Searching my trouser pockets, I realized that I'd forgotten my wallet.

There was a line of people behind me, so the cashier said she would put the items aside and I'd pay for them when I returned with my wallet. It was an annoyance but nothing more and I made to go when the Hispanic lady stopped me in my tracks.

When she discovered my problem, she immediately wanted to pay for my groceries. I objected and thanked her for her kindness, but it was not necessary. She was insistent and I instructed the cashier to not take her money.

Making my way back to the house, which is only a ten-minute drive away, I discovered the wallet wasn't in my trouser pocket but it in my coat pocket. Racing back to the shop, I found my groceries bagged and waiting for me. The generous lady refused my protest and bought the goods.

"On the way back home, my thoughts ran the gamut from being angry at myself and causing someone the inconvenience of paying, to how nice people can be when you don't expect it."

I was quite flabbergasted. I've never had this sort of thing happen to me before, and it's hard to accept strangers' kindness. On the way back home, my thoughts ran the gamut from being angry at myself and causing someone the inconvenience of paying, to how nice people can be when you don't expect it.

Of course, as I stated earlier, my belief that I'd purchased everything I'd set out to buy was completely misleading. I'd forgotten a couple of things, so the next day, I was back at the store. I was hoping that if I went at the same time, I might meet the big-hearted one and pay her back. This time, I was third in line with my goods and the lady was nowhere to be seen. There were probably six of us in line.

This particular store is mainly frequented by Hispanics and the cultural mix is something that I love. At the back of the line was an older white couple who looked decidedly uncomfortable. They were probably visiting the area and unsure of where they were.

As we stood there, another cashier arrived and called me forward. I was wheeling my cart when the older couple at the back literally rushed in front of me. The complete lack of respect for those of us waiting was demonstrated in their rudeness.

Since I'm not exactly a shy and timid person, I made it clear that they were in fact quite ill-mannered. I turned to the Asian lady behind me and said, 'that's what you call privilege.' I said it loud enough for the couple to hear me, hoping that they might engage with what they'd done, but they refused to look my way.

In my frustration, I turned again to the woman behind me and said, 'I hate white people!' She gave a look of bewilderment. Her confusion was understandable, since I'm as pale as you can get. I wanted to qualify my statement by adding, 'I'm not white, I'm Irish,' but I thought maybe that would be pushing the bounds of her reality too far.

In two days, I'd experienced a random act of kindness, followed by a random act of incivility. If the Asian lady was perplexed by the mad Irishman in front of her, the same Irishman was equally confused by what had happened.

I've often heard of the phrase, 'white privilege,' but in fairness, I've never encountered it in my sixteen years of living in Chicago, at least not in such an ignorant way. It's only since moving to the Coachella Valley in California that have witnessed this sort of behaviour towards other ethnicities.

I find this attitude abhorrent. It rankles against my innate sense of injustice. I'm reminded of what Roddy Doyle says in his novel The Commitments, 'the Irish are the blacks of Europe.'

We might be the right colour here to be considered privileged, but Irish people should never forget what it's like to be treated as second-class citizens. For centuries we've been treated as unsophisticated, and uncivilized. We have worked hard to make our place in the world, and, for the most part, it's paid off.

Given the struggle we've had, it's our responsibility to actively work against any tribe that seeks to lord it over another. When it comes to colour, creed, or gender, we are all equal in the sight of God, and that is how we should act. ♦

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## New Year Special Events

This year I will be celebrating a special milestone. I graduated from St. Joseph Academy fifty years ago, on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Many of my classmates have started to plan for this special occasion. In looking back at my years at St. Joseph Academy (SJA), I must thank the Congregation of St. Joseph for their dedication and commitment in educating young women.

On the school's website in the Mission Statement, it says: "Saint Joseph Academy, rooted in the spirituality of the Congregation of St. Joseph, fosters unifying relationships with God and all creation, empowers each young woman to achieve academic excellence, and inspires, a life of compassionate leadership and service in a global society."

The young women that walked the halls of SJA made lasting friendships and set out to achieve their life goals. Our Alumni includes doctors, nurses, lawyers, teachers, authors and members of religious communities. No matter what profession or occupation, these women made an impact on their communities, and most importantly, on their families.

On February 25, 2023, Celebrate the Academy Gala will be held, Helen Malloy, Class of '57 will be honored. Helen is an excellent example of someone that lives the mission statement of St. Joseph Academy. She received a Walks of Life Award from the Irish American Archives Society and was recently recognized by the City of Cleveland as one of the outstanding Seniors in Cleveland.

Helen was born in Cleveland to Catherine and Patrick Malloy. She is a lifelong member of the West Park area of Cleveland and a parishioner of St. Vincent De Paul. Helen graduated from St. Joseph Academy and began a career

that lasted for thirty-eight years with East Ohio Gas.

She is very proud of her Irish heritage. Her parents were immigrants from County Mayo, Ireland. Helen is a lifelong member of the West Side Irish American Club, serving in a variety of volunteer roles. She was the first woman president of the club. She continues to serve on the Board of Trustees.

Helen also has memberships in the Irish American Archives

Society, Irish American Club East Side, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians and is a member of the United Irish Society, an organization who coordinates the City

of Cleveland's annual St. Patrick Day parade each March. For her contributions to the Irish American Community, she was selected as the Grand Marshal of the St. Patrick's Day Parade, only the second woman in the history of the parade to receive that honor.

Helen is happy to help wherever she can be of assistance to those in need. She prefers to stay in the background, but that does not stop her from organizing fundraisers for organizations like Malachi House and Little Brothers and Sisters of the Poor.

As an Alumni of SJA, I am very proud that my friend, Hibernian and SJA sister is being honored at the Celebrate the Academy Gala as the Distinguished Alumni for 2023. Congratulations Helen! ♦

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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## One Minute of Activity to Live Longer?

According to new research, one-minute bursts of activity, during daily tasks, could prolong your life. This research shows that just three to four one-minute bursts of moderate-intensity during daily tasks is associated with large reductions in the risk of premature death, particularly from cardiovascular disease. Published in *Nature Medicine*, the study is the first to accurately measure the health benefits of what researchers have termed "vigorous intermittent lifestyle physical activity" or VILPA.

VILPA is the very short bouts of vigorous activity (up to one to two minutes) we do with gusto each day, like running for the bus, bursts of power walking while doing errands, playing high-energy games with the kids, or taking the stairs. The researchers found that just three to four one-minute bouts of VILPA every day is associated with up to 40% reduction in all-cause and cancer-related mortality, and up to a 49% reduction in death related to cardiovascular disease.

The study shows similar benefits to high-intensity interval training (HIIT) can be achieved through increasing the intensity of incidental activities done as part of daily living, and the more the better. A few very short bouts totaling three to four minutes a day could go a long way, and there are many daily activities that can be tweaked to raise your heart rate for a minute or so.

Many adults aged 40 and over do not take part in regular exercise or sport, but the study reveals how incidental physical activity can

overcome many barriers. Increasing the intensity of daily activities requires no time commitment, no preparation, no club memberships, no special skills. It simply involves stepping up the pace while walking or doing the housework with a bit more energy.

### Exercise As Part of Daily Life

- About 89% of all participants did some VILPA. Among those who did VILPA:
- 93% of all VILPA bouts last up to 1 minute.
- On average each day participants did eight VILPA bouts of up to 1 minute each, totaling 6 minutes a day.
- On average each VILPA bout lasted around 45 seconds.
- The best results were seen when comparing those with four to five bouts per day to those with no VILPA.

However, larger benefits were found with larger VILPA amounts, suggesting the more the better. The maximum of eleven bouts per day was associated with a 65% reduction in cardiovascular death risk and 49% reduction in cancer-related death risk, compared to no VILPA. Interestingly, a comparative analysis of the vigorous activity of 62,000 people who regularly engaged in exercise found comparable results. This implies that whether the vigorous activity is done as part of structured exercise, or simply housework, the health benefits are the same.

Current global guidelines imply that the health benefits of vigorous-intensity physical activity are gained through structured physical activity such as sport or running during leisure time. It was only in 2020 that the WHO global Guidelines on Physical Activity and Sedentary Behavior, acknowledged that 'all activity counts' and the stipulation that activity should be accumulated in 10-minute bouts was removed. ♦

Dr. Peters is the founder of "The Fitness Doctor" ([www.thefitnessdoctors.com](http://www.thefitnessdoctors.com)) and a professor of Health & Human Performance. He can be reached at [fred@thefitnessdoctors.com](mailto:fred@thefitnessdoctors.com).

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MEGAN LARDIE

# KIDS CRAIC

## Kids in the Kitchen Simple Shepherd's Pie (or Cottage Pie)

Serves about four. Perfect for a cold winter night!

### Ingredients:

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 lb. ground beef (for authentic Shepherd's Pie, use ground lamb instead of beef)
- 1 medium to large onion, diced
- Water
- 1 tsp beef bouillon
- 1 tsp Bistro granules or 1 tsp of flour
- Salt and pepper
- Mashed potatoes (made w butter and half and half.
- Optional: shredded cheese

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 375 °F (190 °C).

Sauté the diced onion for a few minutes over medium high heat, stirring occasionally.

Keep covered for a few more minutes and continue to cook.

Once the onion is starting to brown, add the ground meat. Stir often and continue to cook until the liquid starts to dry. (If using flour, add it now.)

Add enough water, just to almost cover the ingredients, and simmer. At this point, add about 1/4 tsp. salt, 1 tsp



beef bouillon, 1 tbsp Bisto granules, 1/2 tsp Worcestershire Sauce and some ground black pepper to taste.

Continue to simmer the meat over medium heat for about 5-10 minutes, then taste. If needed, add more salt or Bisto, then remove from heat.

Ladle the beef and gravy into oven safe large dish. Spoon (or pipe) mashed potatoes onto each dish to cover completely.

Place dish onto a rimmed baking sheet and bake until bubbly and the potatoes are browned a little, approximately 25-30 minutes. You can even sprinkle some shredded Cheddar cheese on top before baking! ♦

## Literature Corner

### Let the Children March by Monica Clark-Robinson

In 1963, in Birmingham, Alabama, thousands of African American children volunteered to march for their rights, after hearing Martin Luther King Jr speak. They protested segregation and used their voices to help change the world. This book helps children visualize what happened during this historic event and understand how much courage it takes to stand up for what is right. For ages 5-9, 40 pages.

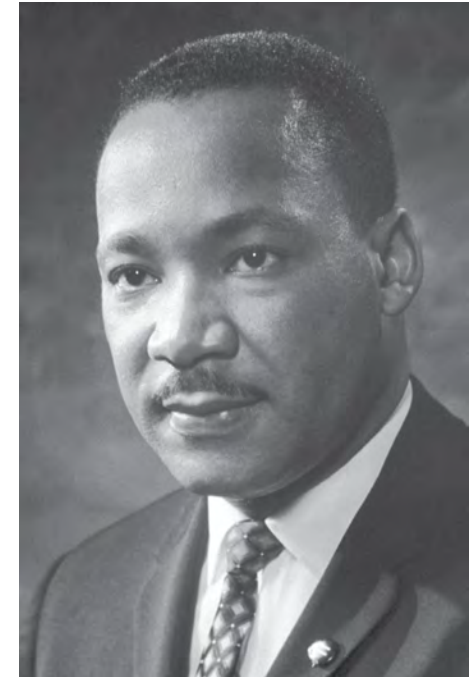


Megan is a Reading Intervention educator at Andrew J. Rickoff Elementary in the Cleveland Municipal School District. She holds a BA in Humanities from Hiram College and a BA+ in Early Childhood Education from Ashland University. She may be reached at [meganlardie126@outlook.com](mailto:meganlardie126@outlook.com)

## MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

*We may all have come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now*

—Martin Luther King, Jr.



In January, we get a day off school to honor the life of Martin Luther King Jr. Martin Luther King Jr had a dream that we would all live in a world where everyone would be treated equally, everyone would be treated the same and with kindness.

He fought for civil rights. Every citizen in the United States is protected by civil rights. This means that no matter what your race, gender, religion, age, or if you have a disability, you have the same rights as everyone else in the country. Some examples of these civil rights are the right to vote, the right to a fair trial, the right to a public education, and the right to use public facilities.

Martin Luther King Jr believed in peaceful protests and demonstrations. He felt the best way to be heard would be through non-violent protesting and refusing to obey an unjust law. He inspired so many by sharing his love and understanding instead of anger and violence. By only using his voice, he managed to change our society and make it better for everyone. His goal was to end racism and segregation, but he also helped the poor and underprivileged.

### No Irish Need Apply

Irish immigrants faced some of the same discrimination when they arrived in the United States back in the 1800s, way before Martin Luther King Jr's time. Most of the American population did not like the Irish immigrants. Many business owners had signs

saying, "No Irish Need Apply."

Americans and other immigrants looked down on the Irish for their poor living conditions. Americans did not accommodate the Irish customs or rituals. Most Irish were Catholics, and, in the U.S., most people were Protestant.

There were some Catholics in the U.S., and they were mostly from the rich upper class, so they turned their noses up at the poor Irish immigrants. It was hard for the Irish to get good paying jobs and were forced into accepting low paying and dangerous jobs.

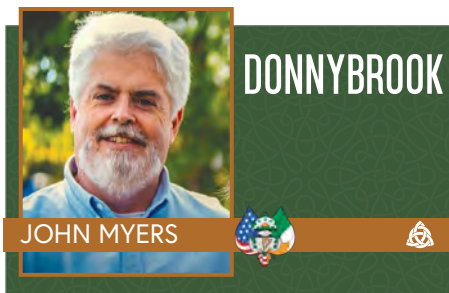
### Being Treated Fairly

Both the Irish and African Americans have had challenges being treated equally in the United States. Even though there are laws that are supposed to make everything equal, things are not always equal. The Irish seem to be treated more fairly now, but there are other races and nationalities who are still struggling with discrimination and inequality today.

The Statue of Liberty welcomes all to our shores with her torch with the hopes and dreams for a better life in America. How can you treat people with kindness to make our country a better place for everyone? ♦







## 285 Years Ago

In 1737, the Penal era law outlawing the Irish Language in Irish Courts was put in place with the assent of the House of Hanover's King George II. On December 6, 2022, King Charles III signed The New Identity and Language (Northern Ireland) Bill, giving "Royal Assent" to the law.

Acht na Gaeilge, the law's name in the ancient Irish Language, repealed the prohibition of the Irish Language and provides for the creation of an Office of Irish Language Commissioner and an Ulster Scots Commissioner. Remarkable that it has taken this long to recognize the right to speak one's

own language in one's own court.

The Bill gives equal standing for the Irish Language with the English Language in the Six Counties. Street signs and official documents can now use the Irish Language. The Loyalist political parties, DUP, UUP, etc. have fought tooth and nail to kill the bill any chance they got. Even though other parts of the United Kingdom have given equal status for Scottish in Scotland and Welsh in Wales for many years, Loyal intransigence had been successful until now to stop any recognition of the native language of Ireland.

Of course, this is a milestone to celebrate, however the devil will be in the details and in the implementation of the law. Loyalists will continue to work to trivialize and/or minimize the new law. It was notable that Westminster had to go around the Northern Ireland Assembly to pass the law as it had continually been blocked by the Loyalist's officeholders.

Conradh na Gaeilge's young, dynamic president, Paula Melvin, shared the following upon Assent of the law: "The Irish language community has been fighting for these rights for decades and in that regard to see the Irish

language be afforded official recognition here for the first time is indeed historic. We want to pay tribute to all of those activists and community pioneers who have been advocating for language rights down through the years. Today is but another historic staging post in this ongoing campaign for equality.

"This Bill, however, is not our final destination. We have pushed hard on several important amendments to the legislation, and we now turn our attention to both implementing and to strengthening the bill and bringing it up to international standards of language legislation in the future. But let's be clear, we now immediately enter the implementation phase of this legislation. Painful experience with the British Government has taught us to take nothing for granted. Until we see this Bill fully enacted and indeed implemented in practice, we will continue to push ahead with the campaign."

I believe the Irish, "Coimeád an creideamh" translates to, "keep the Faith" in the American language.

### The Beginnings of Golf

"ROYAL" Curragh is the oldest golf course in Ireland. Golf was first played in an area known as Donnelly's Hollow in County Kildare in 1852. A formal club was established a couple of years later and the RC was granted a Royal Charter by King George V in 1910. This course is located about 45-minute drive west of Dublin, as part of the 5,000-acre Curragh Plains, one of Europe's oldest grasslands.

Near the town of Newbridge, the area also is the center of Irish thoroughbred horse breeding and racing. The Irish National Stud and the general Curragh compete with Lexington, Kentucky as the heart of horse racing and breeding for the world.

### St. Brigid

The Curragh is also home to a large collection of pre-historic and ancient Ireland sites. Nearby in Kildare town is the Cathedral of St. Brigid, the Patroness of Ireland. Brigid, one of the "Big Three" saints of Ireland

(Patrick, Columbkille and Brigid), established her monastery in Kildare in 453, and was consecrated a Bishop by St. Patrick's nephew, St. Mel.

Also in Kildare is the site of St.

Brigid's well, a site of prayer and healing. February 1<sup>st</sup> is the feast day of her most Reverend Excellency Brigid. The good saint likely has more important matters than to improve your golf score, but perhaps a visit to the well after your time at Royal Curragh to ask for peace to accept one's miserable level of play would be more spiritual. "Brid agus Muire dhoit": May Brigid and Mary be with you.

### Groundhog Day

is in February. However, last month, on December 7<sup>th</sup>, could have sufficed. A Plenary Session of the Northern Ireland Assembly met, only to, once again, have the DUP boycott their democratic obligation to sit and govern. Once again, the DUP, under Jeff Donaldson's 'leadership' choose to boycott the Assembly. Once again, they claimed they would not meet until the Irish Protocol (Irish Sea Border) is scrapped.

The Northern Ireland Assembly has no ability to alter the Protocol. The Protocol is part of the Brexit, an international treaty of which the Assembly has no say. It was the Tory's colleagues in Westminster who negotiated and created the Irish Protocol, it was the DUP's partners who agreed to the Protocol. It is still clear that their boycott since elections last year (May, 2022) is designed to keep Michelle O'Neil from becoming First Minister of the Assembly; the Loyalist can not accept the result of democracy and continue to sit on the sidelines while important needs of the Six Counties are left unmet.

The Tory's Northern Ireland Secretary of State, Chris Heaton-Harris, has continued to push back any new Assembly elections for the Six Counties, contrary to the provisions of law, he has continued to coddle the DUP and the other Loyalists. Heaton-Harris continues to fail to use the power of Westminster to bring the parties together.

Michelle O'Neil, the leader of the largest party in Northern Ireland, claimed she had heard "neither hide nor hare" from Mr. Heaton-Harris. Clearly the new Tory Government of Richi Rich Sunayk sitting at Westminster does not take their international treaty obligations under the Good Friday Accord seriously.

It is one of London's responsibilities to make the GFA work. I trust London must be clueless that they are creating a foundation of deceit and ill-will with Washington when they come hat in

hand to seek a free trade agreement with the U.S.A.



### Happy New Year

2023 will mark the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Accord; the twentieth anniversary of the Twinning of Cleveland and Mayo/Achill; the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of William Butler Yeats receiving the Nobel Prize for Literature; the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of Sean O'Casey's *The Shadow of a Gunman* at the Abbey Theater in Dublin; The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ending of the Irish Civil War

(May 24<sup>th</sup>); the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday for poet Brendan Behan (Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>); The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Cumann na nGaedheal (the political party formed by pro-treaty forces and headed by W. T. Cosgrave, the Party eventually became today's current Fine Gael party and controlled the Free State in its first decade of existence); the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ireland joining the League of Nations; The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ireland joining the European Economic Community (EEC); The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Erskine Childers being elected President of Ireland; the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of three IRA prisoners escaping Mt. Joy prison via helicopter; the 25th anniversary of the Omagh bombing (29 dead) and 25 years since the death of American Human Rights Lawyer and Irish Political Activist Paul O'Dwyer.

Athabhliain faoi mhaisev ♦

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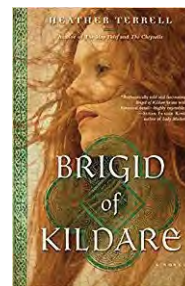
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Also in Kildare is the site of St.

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## Top Ten of 2022

It's hard to believe it's that time of year again. Once more it was difficult to narrow down my top ten books of the previous year. I stayed with my usual topics of interest, but also added many fictional titles due to a project I'm currently involved in.

The first three books on my list deal with the Irish language, but will appeal to anyone interested in their Irish heritage. In the case of the first one, anyone with a dog. Even if you have zero interest in speaking Irish, you can still add a word or phrase to your vocabulary. I promise it will make you even more interesting!

### Teach Your Dog Irish

By Anne Cakebread

Every year at our annual Irish Wolfhound picnic, I've been asked to present a toast in Irish, but this year, I thought instead to give a brief Irish



language lesson. I printed up some handouts with Irish phrases with phonetic spelling and their meaning in English. There were simple pleasantries (hello, please, thank you) and commands that we normally use throughout the day with our pets. Afterwards, I was telling one of my fellow language students about it and she recommended this book.

Tá sé go h-iontach! It's wonderful! It's pocket sized, with large print full of the words and phrases anyone with a canine companion uses a lot. The English phrase is at the top of the page followed by the Irish and then a simple phonetic pronunciation.

I've been carrying this book in my pocket and sharing it with other pet owners we encounter on our walks. A

great gift and an easy way to acquire a few words of Irish

### Tree Dogs, Banshee Fingers and Other Irish Words for Nature

By Manchan Magan

I reviewed this book in the Speak Irish column from April of this year. It's full of illustrations and is a great introduction to some of the origins of Irish names for animals and nature. It is a great coffee table book.

### Bone and Marrow / Cnámh agus Smior, An Anthology of Irish Poetry from Medieval to Modern

Edited by Samuel K. Fisher and Brian Ó Conchbhair

This anthology of poetry was written in Irish. It opens with the most famous poem from Ireland, *I and White Pangur*, and was written in the margin of a ninth century manuscript that contains Latin texts. The writer compares his work of copying these texts with the "work" of his cat in his hunting.

From there, we are taken through the centuries, with commentary on each entry in both Irish and English. Nine hundred plus pages later, we end with a poem by modern poet Ailbhe Ní Ghearbhuigh, titled, *Another Monk and His Cat*. This is the best collection of Irish poetry I have come across.

### The Life of Omar Ibn Said, A Muslim American Slave

By Omar Ibn Said

"Then there came to our country a big army. It killed many people. It took me and walked me to the big sea, and sold me into hands of a Christian man."

This life story was originally written in Arabic. Omar was born into a wealthy family, educated and brought up in a religious household. He was sold into slavery around 1770 and ended up in the house of a prominent

North Carolina family.

In 1831, he was asked to write his story. It is the only surviving narrative of an American slave written in Arabic. Along with the words of Omar, there are commentaries and essays on Islam and the African diaspora. It's easy to forget that people of all walks of life fell victim to that horrible part of America's past.

### Frederick Douglass Selected Works

"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free." Frederick Douglass learned to read early in his life, he escaped from slavery and ran to the free state of New York. There he became involved in the anti-slavery movement that was gaining momentum.

With the publication of his autobiography, he was forced to flee to England, where he continued to lecture against slavery. British abolitionists raised the money needed to purchase his freedom from his former owner. His life was a series of firsts for a free man of color. His writings represented in this collection still ring true today.

### Endurance

By Alfred Lansing

The story of Irish born explorer Ernest Shackleton and his ill fated expedition to Antarctica (see *iIrish* August and Sept. 2022 Cleveland Comhrá). I know this is a story I will reread a few times. No one

I've recommended it to has been disappointed.

### Underland

By Robert Macfarlane

Robert Macfarlane is one of my favorite nature writers. He is a modern day explorer who sees landscapes in a much deeper way than most of us. In this book he goes into the places beneath our feet, exploring caves and caverns, the networks below our cities and the life under our seas and forests.

He takes us to gaze upon prehistoric art in Norwegian sea caves and visit a place where man's nuclear waste will be stored. Throughout, he reminds us of our ties with the underworld in myth and literature and of our relationship with darkness and burial. It will make you think differently about what lies beneath.

### The Guns of August The Outbreak of World War I

By Barbara W. Tuchman

History has a way of becoming blurred over time, often reduced to a series of dates and events, with little regard to what led them to become memorable. There are many fine books about our first great war and Tuchman's is near the top. In her Pulitzer Prize winning account, she tells the story of

the first month of the war and what led up to it from all perspectives.

### Notes From a Small Island

By Bill Bryson

Sometimes I like to sit down with something that makes me smile as I read it. Bill Bryson produces that effect with his writing. No subject is off limits to his wit and insight. He was born and raised in America's Midwest, but now lives in Britain.

In this narrative he pokes fun at a land and culture you can tell he has come to love. For those of you who have been fortunate to travel to Ireland or England, I think you'll be able to relate to many of the stories he shares with us.

### Dracula Annotated for the 125th Anniversary by Bram Stoker

Ed. by Dacre Stoker & Robert Eighteen-Bisang

I read a lot of books on supernatural folklore. Dracula is the story that started me on that path. Here Dacre and Robert have included all that was originally there. Bram's changes, edited excerpts from the publisher, Bram's notes including the original title and a different ending. Sadly Robert Eighteen-Bisang passed away after finishing his edits for this. Dacre's research into his great-grand uncle's works is always fascinating. If your into Dracula this book is a must. ♦

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## Irish Book Club

The Craic (Cleveland Reads About Ireland Club)

Please join us at the Craic, a new book group exploring the rich literary contributions made by Irish authors (born in Ireland or lived there) and Irish-American authors. We will discuss fiction and non-fiction works that focus on life and culture in Ireland (present day and historical) and the Irish American experience. Works will offer a variety of literary styles, topics and view points. Come and enjoy an informative and fun experience participating in our book discussion group!

Once a month meetings, the second Wednesday of the month @6:15p.m. and last about an hour. Panera Bread, 26086 Brookpark Rd. North Olmsted (small meeting room).

Jan 11 - "Snow" a novel by John Banville; Feb 8 - "My Father Left Me Ireland: An American Son's Search For Home" by Michael Brendan Dougherty; Mar 8 - "When All is Said" by Anne Griffin.

Books are available to borrow at local public libraries. Facilitators: Kim Furlong Furlong.Kimberly@gmail.com; Sheila Ives, smives@hotmail.com

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Sessiúns: See *What's the Craic* for a new, updated list!

1st - February issue of *ilrish* hits the streets. #ilrish #LiveMoreLifeBeMoreIrish #IrishAmerican

2nd - Groundhog Day

5th - Shamrock Club of Columbus General Meeting

8th - *ilrish* eBulletin Arrives in your Inbox. Free Signup: [ilrish.us](http://ilrish.us) #ilrish #LiveMoreLifeBeMoreIrish #IrishAmerican #Shenanigans

12th - SuperBowl Parties - everywhere!

13th - Irish American Club East Side (IACES) Monthly Meeting

14th - Valentine's Day

16th - West Side Irish American Club (WSIA) Monthly Meeting

20th - President's Day

22nd - Ash Wednesday

22nd - *ilrish* eBulletin Arrives in your Inbox. Free Signup: [ilrish.us](http://ilrish.us) #ilrish #LiveMoreLifeBeMoreIrish #IrishAmerican #Shenanigans

25th - Brite Winter / WSIA Honorees and Sr. Marching Unit Show

3/1 - March issue of *ilrish* hits the street #ilrish #LiveMoreLifeBeMoreIrish #IrishAmerican



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LISA O'ROURKE

## The Thing with Feathers

"What is Irish Alzheimer's? You forget everything but the grudges," goes the clichéd joke. The image of that Irishman is easy to conjure, epitomized in my mind by the character "Bull" McCabe from the "The Field," a taciturn old farmer, estranged from almost all of humanity because he hasn't missed a second of keeping score and he knows or thinks he does, what everyone owes him.

This type certainly exists and the Irish soul, for all its reported glee, can also be hardened to slow-burn, stubborn solitude. Maybe rightly so. After all, Irish history is so littered with injustices that a few souls are bound to take it personally.

In twenty-five years of attempts to play catch-up with Irish history, I thought that I had at least heard of all the trapdoors, double-crosses, and downright nastiness that it contains. And then a new one popped up.

### The Treaty of Limerick

The story that I happened upon was about the Treaty of Limerick, the treaty which ended the Williamite wars in Ireland. The battles are arguably some of the most controversial ones in Irish history, since they set the stage for religious division that haunts the country to this day.

The Williamite war, a war fought in Ireland, contained both the infamous Battle of the Boyne, and the decisive Battle of Aughrim. Both battles were victories for the Protestant forces.

The William of this story is William of Orange, the infamous Protestant king, who is so reviled by Catholics that it is still hard to find an Irish William. He is still so celebrated by Protestants that the Orangeman in the North march annually throughout the month of July in commemoration of

the defeat of the Catholic forces.

I am going to try to summarize a topic that has been the basis of many books, go easy on me. Seventeenth century Europe was awash in religious wars, primarily between Catholics and Protestants. So, in 1685, Catholic James was installed as King of England. Although Catholic, he is ancient for that time, at 58 years old, so the Protestants, think, how bad could it be?

Well James decided to find out how bad he could make things and he got busy all over the place. The scariest thing he did was have a son in 1688. That birth gave possibility to Catholic succession in the slightly tolerant but very Protestant England, and the Protestant lords decided that they needed to get busy themselves.

So, in 1688, James was replaced on the throne by his Protestant daughter, Mary, and her Dutch husband, William. Yes, it is that William, the Orange guy who the war was named after. Fighting had broken out in Ireland at that time. It seems like fighting in Ireland was a pervasive rumble, since the Catholic majority were strongly in favor of a Catholic king.

The Jacobites, so named supporters of a Catholic king, James, were not confined to Ireland. They were found in several countries, particularly France and Scotland. Both countries were happy to help the cause with soldiers and money, hoping to win and to keep the colonizing English off of the continent and out of European business.

William, heroic Dutchman that he was, decided that he would go to Ireland himself to sort out this Irish conflict. His goal was to be victorious as quickly as possible and get home to Mary.

The Catholic leader was Patrick Sarsfield, who was an ally of King James. It might be worthwhile to look up his portrait. You would hope that he was fierce and had something to prove, because he was silly looking.

Apparently, he was not the sharpest sword in the sheath either. He had loyalty and determination on the plus side.

While some Irish historians portray Sarsfield as heroic, he was consistently outmaneuvered. The numbers at most battles were pretty evenly matched, but the losses were higher on the Catholic side every time.



### The Battle of the Boyne

Ireland paid dearly for those losses. Not only were lives lost, but the countryside was pillaged. The Battle of the Boyne, in 1690, was a victory for him. The Battle of the Boyne is the one that everyone remembers, and I thought that it was the battle fought on July 12. However, the decisive victory, the Irish Waterloo, is the Battle of Aughrim, on July 12, 1691. That is the Protestant High Holy Day in the North of Ireland to this day.

Aughrim, outside of Galway, was a particularly egregious loss. The battle was decisive, and its effects persist. After the defeat at Aughrim, William quickly wanted to negotiate terms. He did not have much interest in destroying Ireland, more in settling at modest terms.

### The Flight of the Wild Geese

After Aughrim, the poetically named Flight of the Wild Geese departed. The "Geese" were Sarsfield and thousands of Irish soldiers who left Ireland for France, never to return. While they did not go back to Ireland, they kept the Jacobite cause smoldering, until it was brutally squashed sixty years later in Scotland, at Culloden Moor.

The Treaty of Limerick that was signed at that time was OK, not great, but OK. However, it didn't last past the ink drying period. The Treaty of Limerick had not sought to be overly punitive to the Catholic cause. The initial terms had allowed for Catholic land ownership, freedom of religion and inheritance of property.

### Penal Laws Set the Stage for the Famine

The Penal laws crept in by degrees and set the stage for the Famine. In under a hundred years, Catholic land ownership moved from 50% at the beginning of the century, to Cromwellian levels of 14%, to post Limerick levels of 5%. There were other "laws" which not only treated Ireland like an English piggy bank, giving land away as bonuses for service, they simultaneously changed inheritance laws in such a way as the average farmer had a field the size of a backyard.

Kind of easy to see the thing about the grudge. It would be a small wonder if the Irish did little more than fester. That didn't happen though. What I found myself wondering more about was how a person got out of bed, put on their shoes, go out, and made the best of it, when the cards were so stacked against them? What reality pushes a person forward?

It must be the thing with feathers, hope. Love and the ability to help those that live in your shadow, were traits forged in the furnace of the Irish soul. This being the dark time of year, it seems a good time to think about that. Celebrations have faded and spring seems so far away. It is the time to find your own feathers. ♦

*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 Gaelic. She runs a Gaelic study group at 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 [olisa07@icloud.com](mailto:olisa07@icloud.com).*

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## The Siege of Pensacola

The Regimiento Hibernia (Hibernia Regiment) was one of the Spanish army's foreign regiments. Known in Spain as "O'Neill's Regiment," it was formed in 1709 from Irish exiles that were forced to flee Ireland due to the *Flight of the Earls* and the effects of the penal laws in Ireland. These exiles were often known as the Wild Geese.

Although the Wild Geese are more associated with the French Army and were the originators of the French Foreign Legion, the Hibernia Regiment was one of many foreign regiments to serve in the Spanish army. Spain recruited Swiss, German, Italians and

Belgians, but particularly favored Irish recruits because of their reputation as fighters.

Arthur O'Neill was born on January 8, 1736 in Dublin, Ireland (although his family originally came from County Tyrone). He was the third of five children of Henry O'Neill and Anna O'Kelly. His family lost their lands in Ireland, forcing them to immigrate to Spain.

In 1753, O'Neill joined the Hibernia Regiment, to which he belonged for the next twenty-eight years of his military career. He was sub-lieutenant for nine years.

His military skills enabled him to gain a promotion to Assistant Major of the Hibernia Regiment in 1764. In addition, in 1773, while serving in Pamplona, Spain, O'Neill gained the rank of captain of the regiment. He was known by his Spanish title of Arturo O'Neill de Tyrone y O'Kelly.

Spanish King Carlos III was determined to eliminate British power in Florida and the Caribbean. On May 8, 1779, Spain declared war on England. Spain was, at that time, an ally of France and a supporter of the American Revolution.

Spain's war against England secured the southern route for supplies and

closed off the possibility of any British offensive through the western frontier of the United States via the Mississippi River. Spain's contribution to the American Revolution is often overlooked.

The British had split their new possession of Florida into two colonies: East Florida and West Florida. Pensacola was the capital of the new colony of West Florida, which included the Florida panhandle as well as slices of former French territories in what are now parts of Alabama and Mississippi. West Florida stretched from the Apalachicola River as far west as the Mississippi River.

### The Battle of Baton Rouge

Bernardo de Gálvez, Spanish governor of Louisiana, had been planning for the possibility of war since April. He intercepted communications from the British at Pensacola indicating that the British were planning a surprise attack on New Orleans.

He decided to launch his own attack first. In September 1779 Gálvez gained complete control over the lower Mississippi River by capturing the British Fort Bute on the Mississippi. He then obtained the surrender of the remaining British forces in the area following the Battle of Baton Rouge.

Gálvez followed up these successes with the capture of the British fort at Mobile on March 14, 1780, after a brief siege. In order to secure the balance of West Florida, the only remaining obstacle was the British installations surrounding Pensacola, but attacking Pensacola would require additional Spanish troops.

In April 1780, Arturo O'Neill accompanied both battalions of the Hibernia Regiment when they sailed from Cadiz, Spain bound for Havana, Cuba. Gálvez also sailed to Havana and organized an invasion fleet in order to attack Pensacola. Only a few hours out of the bay, a fierce hurricane struck the invasion fleet and scattered the ships.

O'Neill and the Hibernia regiment had remained behind in Cuba, and O'Neill thought the fleet had been lost. A month later he was surprised to see Gálvez aboard his frigate sailing back into Havana Bay with two captured British frigates in tow. The Pensacola invasion had only been delayed by the storm.

On February 28, 1781, O'Neill and 319 men of the Hibernia Regiment sailed out of Havana Bay for Pensacola. Santa Rosa Island, off the coast of West Florida, came into view on the afternoon of March 9, 1781, and



O'Neill led his grenadier company ashore, quickly securing the fort at Siguenza Point. The Spanish force found that the British battery was not operational. If it had been functioning, it could have raised havoc with the invasion.

Gálvez had so much faith in O'Neill that he named O'Neill as aide-de-camp and commander of the patrol scouts. Gálvez captured the entrance of Pensacola Bay on March 18, 1781 despite a furious barrage from the English battery. The following afternoon, O'Neill sailed through a similar barrage unscathed, as the remainder of the fleet joined Gálvez inside the bay, and the full siege began.

Pensacola was protected by a series of British forts surrounding

the town. Once the bay had been entered, O'Neill's scouts landed on the mainland and blunted an attack by 400 mainly pro-British Choctaw Indians on the afternoon of March 28. The Irish scouts soon linked with fresh Spanish troops arriving from Mobile.

More Spanish ships arrived in the bay, carrying a total of 1,700 sailors and 1,600 soldiers, bringing the total Spanish force at Pensacola to an unstoppable 8,000 men. The British force at Pensacola amounted to only 1,800.

On May 8, a Spanish howitzer shell struck the magazine in Fort Crescent, exploding it and sending black smoke billowing. Fifty-seven British troops were killed by the demoralizing and devastating blast.

### Surrender of Fort George

Colonel José de Ezpeleta quickly led the light infantry in a charge to take the stricken fort. The Spanish moved howitzers and cannons into what remained of it and opened fire on the next two British forts. Pensacola's defenders returned fire from Fort George, the main fort, but were soon overwhelmed by the massive Spanish firepower.

Two days later, realizing his final line of fortification could not survive the barrage, British General John Campbell reluctantly surrendered Fort George. The garrison raised a white flag over Fort George on May 10, 1781 ending British sovereignty in West Florida.

More than 1,100 British and colonial troops were taken prisoner, and 200 casualties were sustained. The Spanish army lost seventy-four dead, with another 198 wounded. A British flag captured at Pensacola is displayed at the Spanish Army Museum in Toledo, Spain.

After serving with distinction during the siege, O'Neil was promoted to Colonel of the Hibernia Regiment. O'Neil was also appointed the first Spanish governor of West Florida by

Gálvez and served until 1793.

O'Neill proved to be an effective diplomat and able administrator. His brilliant career continued as captain general of Yucatán, lieutenant general, minister of the king's Supreme War Council and finally as a hero in the war against Napoleon.

Arturo O'Neill de Tyrone y O'Kelly died in Madrid, Spain on December 9, 1814, and was buried in Spain in the cemetery of the Puerta de los Pozos. He was unmarried and had no children. ♦

*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 also Chairman 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](mailto:FCoolavin@aol.com).*

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# Milestone & Sweet Snaps



Holding the \$70,000 donation check for the Malachi House are (L-R): Kevin O’Gorman, Master Distiller at Midleton Distillery, County Cork, Ireland; Barry Chandler, Irish whiskey ambassador with Stories & Sips, also from Ireland; Judy Hilow, Executive Director of Malachi House; and Gormley’s Pub Owner Sean Gormley.

## Festival of Midleton Whiskeys is Huge Success, Raises \$70K for Malachi House

The 2nd Annual Festival of Midleton Whiskeys and Fundraiser sponsored by Gormley’s Pub and held at the Clifton Club in Lakewood was an unqualified success, raising over \$70,000 for The Malachi House in Cleveland. The 2-day festival offered samples of some of the most sought-after Irish whiskeys, some very rare, including the pinnacle of the Night 2 tasting, the 47-year-old Midleton Silent Distillery Chapter 3, valued at approximately \$50,000 USD.

## Congratulations to the 2023 New Officers Elected

### GAA Cleveland Executive Board:

Chairman - Vincent Beach, Vice Chairperson- Maura English,  
Secretary - Danny Sullivan, Treasurer- John Kernan,  
PRO - Shannon Enoch, Registrar- Evan Berry,  
Football Manager - Jim Coyne, Hurling/Camogie Manager - Damon Margida,  
Youth Manager - Peter Dietz, Men’s Football Rep - Alec Stott,  
Ladies Football Rep - Maureen Mohnney, Hurling Rep - Joey Murphy &  
Camogie Rep - Clodagh Murphy.

### GAA Akron Hurling Club Executive Board

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Vice Chair - Keith Knott  
Secretary - Coleen Taylor  
Treasurer - James Wakely  
Pro - Rachael Toth  
Registrar - Mitch Mellott

### AOH Irish Brigade Div. 1 – Medina Co., Ohio

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Treasurer Tony Manley, Financial Sec’y Joe Casey,  
Recording Secretary Paul McNamee,  
Standing Committee Jacob Durda, Marshal Jim Casey,  
Sentinel Pete Chrystal.



## safe home



### DAN MACDONALD

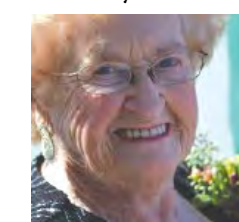


Daniel Joseph MacDonald, age 84, of Hudson, passed away Thursday, November 24, 2022. Dan is the beloved husband of Martha (nee Brunner); loving father of Mary Elizabeth “Beth” (Robert) Roussel, Christopher William (Rhonda) MacDonald and the late Daniel Patrick MacDonald; cherished grandfather of Mallory & Ellen Roussel, Cohen MacDonald and Gwen & Devin MacDonald; dear brother of James Edward (Irene) MacDonald. Dan grew up in Muncie, Indiana, and graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1960. After college, Dan proudly served his country in the U.S. Army before he met Martha in New York City. They married in 1966 and started their family in Chicago. Dan had a successful sales and management career in the automotive coatings industry and enjoyed dividing his retirement time between Ohio and Marco Island, Florida. Throughout his life, Dan was active in a variety of organizations, both social and philanthropic. He was a member of the Ohio State and St. Brendan’s Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, serving as State President in 2001-2003

and two terms as Division President. Also was chairman of the long-running Riverside Irish Festival in Cuyahoga Falls, the St. Mary Men’s Club and the Sorin Society of Notre Dame. Dan was devoted to God, country, family, and Notre Dame. Private interment at Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorial contributions be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society: <https://mssociety.donordrive.com/campaign/MacDonald-Family>.  
*Obituary Courtesy of Chambers Funeral Homes*

### SARAH MCLAUGHLIN

February 1, 1928 – December 2, 2022



SARA MCLAUGHLIN (nee Boyle) age 94. Native of Dookinella, Achill, County Mayo, Ireland. Beloved wife of the late Michael; mother of John (Marybeth), Kevin (Alexis) and the late Maureen; grandmother of Brendan (Jill), Margaret Schade (Michael), Sean (Margaret), Colin (Maria), Maura Scurfield (John), Daniel, Brian and Evie; great-grandmother of Patrick, Connor, Madison, Jo Ann, Francis, Maeve and Kiera; sister of the late Sheila Brown, Mary Deverve, Charlie and Hughie. Passed away Dec. 2, 2022.



## death is Nothing at all

Poem by Henry Scott Holland

It is with a heavy heart that I send word of the passing of Past Riverfront Irish Festival Chairman Dan MacDonald. Dan held the office of chairman for many years and the festival grew under his leadership. I am so very saddened by his passing. We send thoughts and prayers to Martha and their children and grandchildren to comfort and strengthen them during this time.

Death is nothing at all.

It does not count.

I have only slipped away into the next room.

Everything remains as it was.

The old life that we lived so fondly together

is untouched, unchanged.

Whatever we were to each other, that we are still.

Call me by the old familiar name.

Speak of me in the easy way which you always used.

Put no sorrow in your tone.

Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes that

we enjoyed together.

Play, smile, think of me, pray for me.

Let my name be ever the household word

that it always was.

Let it be spoken without effort

Life means all that it ever meant.

It is the same as it ever was.

There is unbroken continuity.

Why should I be out of mind because

I am out of sight?

I am but waiting for you, for an interval,  
somewhere very near, just around the corner.

All is well. Nothing is hurt; nothing is lost.

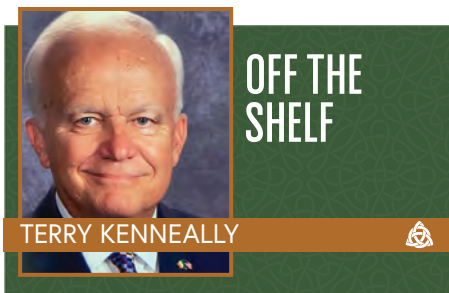
One brief moment and all will be as it was before.

How we shall laugh at the trouble of parting,

when we meet again.







**Foster**  
By Claire Keegan  
Grove Press ISBN 978-0-8021-6014-0 275  
95 pp 2022

Foster is the second book written by Claire Keegan reviewed in this space. Her other, and more recent book, also a novella or short novel, *Small Things Like These* was reviewed earlier this year in *Irish*.

Foster took a strange and circuitous path to publication. It was released in abridged form in *The New Yorker* in 2010 but wasn't published in its original length in the United States by Grove Press until 2022, after the

release of *Small Things Like These*. The narrator, Keegan, is a young girl in rural Ireland who is sent by her parents to live with the Kinsella family, while her mother, Mary, carries to term another child in a household bustling with other siblings. The Kinsellas, John and Edna, have no children of their own and will foster the girl on their small farm in Wexford, toward the south eastern coast of Ireland.

The time period is probably the early 1980s, based on conversation the girl overhears about the Irish hunger strike. The Irish Troubles play no part in the book or the girl's life.

The girl's summer is one of ease, not abandonment, but she senses an absence in the Kinsella house, which she comes to learn is because the couple lost a son in a tragic accident



which has brought about the foster parent's grief. Nonetheless, Keegan averts expectations in the couple's portrayal, which brings some levity to the story.

Foster probes the social side effects of Ireland's former strict prohibition on contraception and abortion from the perspective of a girl who is taken in for a summer by a childless couple, and feels loved for the first time, a feeling that forces the realization that she's unwanted at home.

Keegan's work, sparse that it is, has been hailed by other writers of the short fiction genre as comparable to Raymond Carver, William Trevor and Anton Chekhov.

It is a book that can be easily read in one sitting, but I am confident, an enjoyable sitting indeed will occur. I rate it a TOP SHELF read. ♦

*Terrence J. Kenneally is an attorney and owner of Terrence J. Kenneally & Associates in Rocky River, Ohio. He received his Masters Degree in Irish Studies from John Carroll University and has taught Irish Literature and Irish History.*

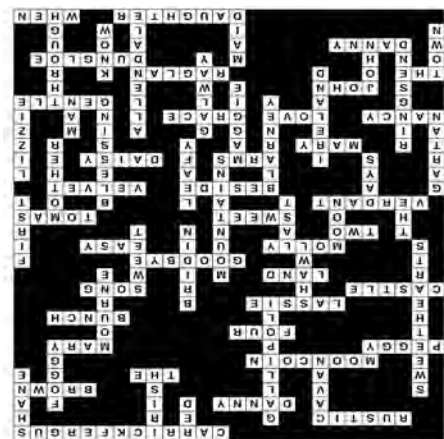
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- 5 The Old \_\_\_\_\_ Bridge
- 8 I Knew \_\_\_\_\_
- 11 Those \_\_\_\_\_ Eyes
- 12 Spanish Lady
- 13 The Rose of \_\_\_\_\_
- 14 \_\_\_\_\_ Gordon
- 15 Oh \_\_\_\_\_ Dear
- 16 \_\_\_\_\_ Green Fields
- 17 A \_\_\_\_\_ of Thyme
- 18 Will Ye Go, \_\_\_\_\_, Go?
- 21 The \_\_\_\_\_ of Dromore
- 22 \_\_\_\_\_ for Ireland
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- 27 \_\_\_\_\_ Malone
- 29 \_\_\_\_\_ and Slow
- 31 \_\_\_\_\_ Loves
- 32 \_\_\_\_\_ Forget Me Not
- 33 \_\_\_\_\_ O'Canainn
- 35 The \_\_\_\_\_ Braes of Screen
- 40 She Lived \_\_\_\_\_ the Anner
- 41 The Black \_\_\_\_\_ Band



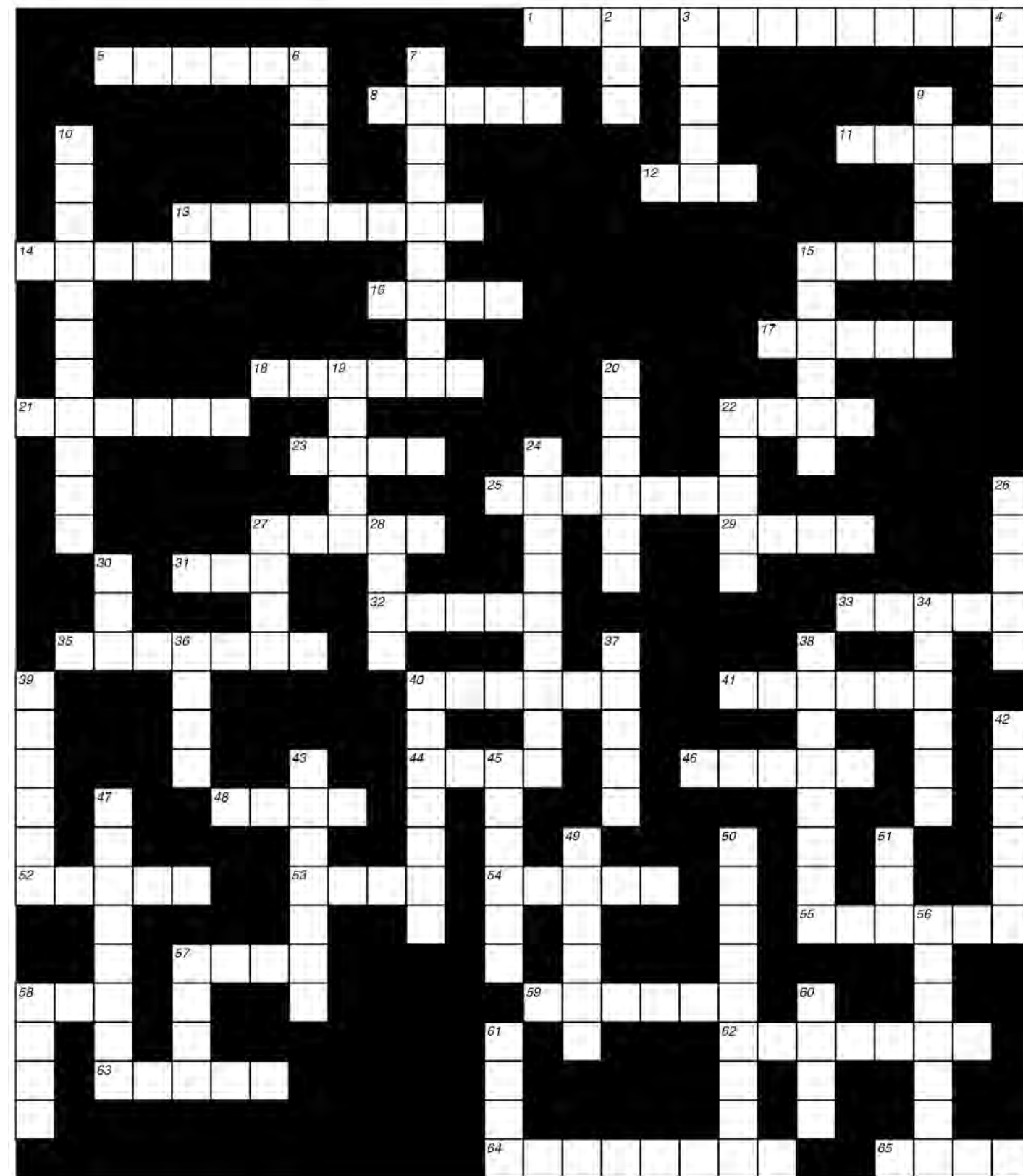
- 44 Take Her In Your \_\_\_\_\_
- 46 A \_\_\_\_\_ a Day
- 48 from Dungloe
- 52 \_\_\_\_\_ Spain
- 53 \_\_\_\_\_ Is Teasin'
- 54 (G) \_\_\_\_\_
- 55 \_\_\_\_\_ Annie
- 57 \_\_\_\_\_ Williams
- 58 Next Market Day
- 59 Road
- 62 Mary from \_\_\_\_\_
- 63 \_\_\_\_\_ Boy
- 64 Inion an Fhaoit (White's \_\_\_\_\_)
- 65 You Were Sweet Sixteen

**DOWN**

- 2 Is the Rose
- 3 My Wild \_\_\_\_\_ Rose
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ O'Neill
- 6 The \_\_\_\_\_ Girl
- 7 (G) \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 The \_\_\_\_\_ Dew
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_ In the Spring
- 13 Lovely Irish Rose of Clare
- 15 The Maid of \_\_\_\_\_
- 19 The Galway \_\_\_\_\_
- 20 \_\_\_\_\_ Ban Mo Stoir
- 22 Loves Old \_\_\_\_\_ Song
- 24 The \_\_\_\_\_ of Mourne
- 26 The \_\_\_\_\_ of May
- 27 The \_\_\_\_\_ Behind the Hill
- 28 The \_\_\_\_\_ Farewell
- 30 Star of the County Down
- 34 Gentle \_\_\_\_\_
- 36 Gold and Silver \_\_\_\_\_
- 37 \_\_\_\_\_ Lane
- 38 A Mother's Love's a \_\_\_\_\_
- 39 \_\_\_\_\_ Mother Lullaby
- 40 The \_\_\_\_\_ Rose

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By Linda Fulton Burke



- 42 Lindsay
- 43 Mother Irleand
- 45 (M) \_\_\_\_\_
- 47 \_\_\_\_\_ Rose
- 49 The Rovin' \_\_\_\_\_ Boy
- 50 The Rose of \_\_\_\_\_
- 51 The Old \_\_\_\_\_
- 56 She Moved \_\_\_\_\_ the Fair
- 57 \_\_\_\_\_ O'Dreams
- 58 The \_\_\_\_\_ I Loved So Well
- 60 I \_\_\_\_\_ My Love
- 61 \_\_\_\_\_ In the Calico Dress

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