



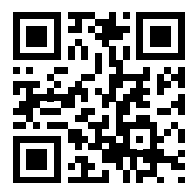
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January 2024 | Volume 18 - Issue 1



Happy *ilrish's*
17th Anniversary;
Happy PJ McIntyre's and *ilrish's*
Speak Irish Cleveland's
11th Anniversary!

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continued their partnership with *i*Irish for a 2nd year. Please support them in flights and sharing the news and specials so Aer Lingus continues to enjoy great success in Cleveland and perhaps even expand from four days a week to seven.

This is a month of special milestones for *i*Irish, as we celebrate our 17th anniversary, and our 11th year sponsoring Speak Irish Cleveland classes with PJ McIntyre's. What started as a desire to preserve, promote, and present our rich Irish heritage has gone well-beyond our hopes and has created a close community committed to supporting the goal, and each other, in word, and in action, by volunteering at other events about town. We know you

love to help people ~ will you help us?

Healthy habits, 2023 recaps, reviews, the loss of Shane MacGowan, the retirement of The Wolfe Tones puzzle; *What's the Craic?* section within for live music, reflections and renewal, events, craic, and the details too. There is so much more inside, so let's get to it.

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

Nuair a stadann an ceol, an damhsa déanann an amhlaidh (When the music stops, so does the dance)

John

Still a Plum

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*i*Irish is published monthly (12 issues a year) on the first Wednesday of each month. Subscription is by First Class mail. One year \$40, two years \$75, three years \$100. Subscribe online at iIrish.us, or email jobrien@iIrish.us, call 216.647.1144 or mail to the address below.

*i*Irish is available for free at 634 locations in and around Ohio, PA, NY, IN, MI, & KY. Circulation is 20,000. For a list of distribution locations, go to iIrish.us, then click "Distribution"

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PUBLISHERS STATEMENT

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About Our Cover:

*i*Irish and PJ McIntyre's celebrate their 11th year creating a vibrant and active Irish speaking community in Cleveland. More info on Page 2 and 15.

Photo by John O'Brien, Jr.



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COOKING UP A HOOLEY

KATIE GAGNE



Warm Up

I love chili: all types. My wonderful husband is pretty much all meat and potatoes, so those delicious aromatic veggies like onions, celery, peppers, and tomatoes are just not in his culinary wheelhouse. So I have free rein when I make chili to play around with it. Today I am making an Irish inspired chili that features Guinness and Irish Cheddar.



Homemade Irish Chili

Ingredients

Makes approximately 4 servings
 1 1/2 pounds of Ground Meat. I use 85% lean. (You can substitute ground lamb if you like)
 1 pound of Smoked Sausage
 1 large of each Green Pepper Red Pepper, Yellow Pepper, and Orange Pepper
 1 large Yellow Onion
 3 stalks of Celery
 1 bottle Guinness – Draught or Stout is fine
 1 large can of Crushed Tomatoes
 1 large can of Diced Tomatoes
 3 teaspoons chopped garlic
 2 tablespoons Kosher Salt



2 teaspoons Black Pepper
 3-4 teaspoons Chili Powder
 1 teaspoon Crushed Red Pepper Flakes
 2 teaspoons Olive Oil
 1 can Red Kidney Beans (optional)
 8 ounces shredded Irish Cheddar Cheese
 1 large Leek
 2 tablespoons of Vegetable or Canola Oil

Place olive oil in a medium pot and brown the ground meat over medium heat, adding garlic and half the salt and pepper and chili powder.

Dice the smoked sausage and brown in same skillet.

Remove all meat and set aside. Dice the peppers, onions, and celery to the pot and saute until soft.

Add in the bottle of Guinness and scape the bottom of the pan to get all those little bits of flavor mixed in.

Cook over medium-low heat for approximately 20 minutes until

the Guinness reduces by half.

Add in the tomatoes and beans and cook for 5-10 minutes.

Add in the meat and stir.

Add all remaining spices to taste.

Cook for at least 1 hour but up to 6 on very low.

Rinse and cut up the leek – both

white and green parts.

In a small skillet, heat vegetable oil until shimmering and quickly fry the leek pieces for about 30 seconds until slightly brown and crispy. Be careful because they will make the oil splatter because of their water content.

Serve the chili topped with shredded cheese and the crispy leeks. Sour Cream makes a nice addition to the warm chili. •

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 mkbbluebows@aol.com, or find her on Facebook at @sassysweetsandmore.

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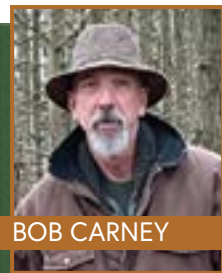
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Top Ten of 2023

This is my fourth year of sharing my top ten books of the previous year, and believe it or not, it is becoming more difficult every year to pick them, mostly because so many of you are recommending such great books to me! I can't thank you enough.

The guidelines are still the same regarding politics, conservation and climate. Many of these books are important to me but rarely make me feel optimistic about our future, so I have decided not to include them.

I also tend to read quite a few fictional horror books throughout the year, probably more than any other genre. I'll limit myself to sharing only one or two, but, I could easily comprise a "Top Twenty" in that category!

It is also important to note the recommendations from the members of CRAIC, Cleveland Reads About Ireland Club, our local Irish

book club. I'm a horrible participant, I think I made one or two meetings, but, they are still kind enough to share with me. Their once a month meetings are held at Panera Bread 26086 Brookpark Rd. in North Olmsted on the second Wed. of the month at 6:15 and last about an hour. Everyone is welcome.

The Colony

By Audrey Magee

This fantastic novel was recommended by one of the



administrators of CRAIC. I believe it is being considered for one of their upcoming reads.

The story takes place in the summer of 1979 on a small island off the west coast of Ireland. A few pages in and I was reminded of the books that came from the Blasket Islands almost a century before, describing the harshness of island life.

We are introduced to an English painter, who is struggling with his art, a Frenchman, there to study the Irish language and who has his own strong thoughts on its preservation, and the island people themselves. They are faced with the reality of a life that is quickly fading away, all while dealing with the daily news of the "Troubles" on the mainland.

There is a small amount of Irish

language in the story, but by no means is it inaccessible to the average reader. I think it is almost crucial to the story line. If you only read one book this year, this is the one I would choose.

Say Nothing

By Patrick Radden Keefe

I came close to eliminating this book after the November issue of



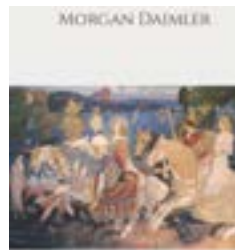
Irish came out. Lisa O'Rourke did an excellent review of *Say Nothing* in her Akron Irish column. I think the book is important to mention especially after this

summers PBS special on the Troubles. You can read Lisa's column on-line at iIrish newsmagazine: [You can read it HERE:](#)

Through the Mist

By Morgan Daimler

This is a dual language collection of stories from Irish mythology, that



are presented in the original old Irish and English. Morgan Daimler is an amateur translator of old and middle Irish and here shares early tales of the Tuatha De Danann and the

Aos Sidhe.

For someone like me that enjoys these old stories, to finally be able to "read" them as they were written is a real treat. In past Speak Irish columns, I've mentioned the difficulty in translating something from Irish to English, translating from Old Irish to English is beyond my reach, here it is done for us.

Surrender

By Bono

I have to admit, I'm not a big U2 fan; I can recognize some of their songs, but that can't be helped as they were the biggest rock band in the world for a time. It's not that I dislike them, that style of rock just wasn't my thing.



Anyway, I picked up the book and was fascinated by Bono's story. One thing that he is quick to

point out is how the people he is the closest to have been in his life since he was teen. He tells of growing up and the formation of these lifelong relationships.

He also talks about the band and the responsibility they feel as human beings, that have worked and been financially rewarded for their efforts. I was aware that Bono and the Edge would get behind many of the causes that are important, but didn't realize the depth of their philanthropy. Not your typical rock and roll biography.

Dracula's Guest

Ed. by Michael Sims

Last year, I attended a lecture



given by three professors from Illinois State University on "Why we love Horror." One of them asked if horror was relevant in the day of the AK47. After all, reality is enough to

scare the hell out of most of us, but an hour or so later we (at least I) were relieved to find that it still has a place.

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This anthology of Victorian era vampire stories is a great collection. Some of the authors are familiar, others not so much.

One of the highlights was a story titled, "The Family of the Vourdalak," written by Aleksei Tolstoy, a distant cousin of Leo Tolstoy. It has been translated from Russian but sounds as it could have been written by one of the great writers in horror from Ireland or Britain.

The book ends with Bram Stoker's "Dracula's Guest." I have quite a few of these "collections" of stories, but this is definitely a favorite.

My Father Left Me Ireland

By Michael Brendan Dougherty

This was a pick for CRAIC early in the year. It is a memoir of an



American born to an American woman and an Irish man. He is raised by his mother in the States, but has almost no interaction with his father back in Ireland.

His mother immerses him in all aspects of Irish culture, including language, as he is growing up. This results in an identity conflict he struggles to come to terms with, as well as a strained relationship with his father.

Snow

By John Banville



Banville is a master storyteller, one of Ireland's best. This book also was a pick for Craic. It a murder mystery set in 1957 in aristocratic society in Wexford. Detective

Inspector St. John Strafford is sent to investigate the murder of a parish priest in Ballyglass House, the home of the very rich and secretive Osborne family. A very quick and entertaining novel.

The Wager

By David Grann

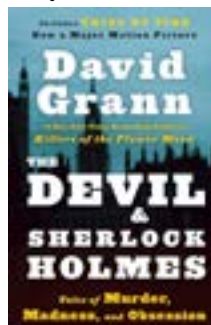
This book was recommended to me after I wrote a column last year on Shackleton and the plight of



the Endurance. The Wager is a true story of a shipwreck and the mutiny and murder that followed. Where Shackleton and his men show us the highs of human spirit, the story of the Wager and its officers and crew remind us of the lows.

The Devil and Sherlock Holmes

By David Grann



Right after I finished the Wager, I came across this book by David Grann. This book is a collection of stories from the news that prove "truth is stranger than fiction."

The Witches

by Stacy Schiff

This National Bestseller is one of the most informative accounts of the Salem witch trials I have encountered. It reads almost like



a novel and could be received as such if we were not aware of this bizzare part of American history.

I hope you find something you like, and please keep

those recommendations coming. Be sure to check out CRAIC or perhaps start your own book club. Don't forget to share your reading enthusiasm with our youngsters, there are worlds out there to explore! •

Bob Carney is a student of Irish language and history and teaches the Speak Irish Cleveland class held every Tuesday at PJ McIntyre's.

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Signs of Seasonal Affective Disorder and What to Do About It

By **Dr. Valerie Nemeth**



2024 is here, bringing with it a barrage of ads, social media posts and pressure for new year resolutions. While setting goals is great, and the start of a new year can

be a fresh start for many to set the tone for the months ahead, new year resolutions can also feel daunting.

Making sweeping changes all at once to achieve a goal can sometimes make them feel harder to reach. If focusing on health and well-being in 2024 is a priority for you, here are a few tips to guide you in building healthy habits that will help you start the new year in a healthy way and make changes for the long-term.

Start Small, Think Big

Setting 2 to 3 achievable goals is the key to sustainable change. It's also important to shift focus from the end-result to the steps needed to reach it. Concentrate on small, daily changes that will gradually lead to success. For example, if weight loss is your goal, swap a high-calorie beverage for water or a processed snack for a fruit or vegetable. One or two minimal changes at a time will build a foundation for long-term success, ultimately helping you reach your desired outcome.

Ditch the Resolutions Entirely

Consider leaving traditional new year resolutions in 2023, and instead, look at developing an overall health plan. This could alleviate some of the pressure we put on ourselves and help make lasting changes. Integrate small habits into your daily life that over time can lead to big changes. You can get yourself a fun, new water bottle to encourage you to drink more water or park farther away in a parking lot to get some extra steps. These changes may seem so small that it's hard to see how they could make a difference, but that is

exactly what makes them effective.

Move your body

Physical health is essential to overall well-being. However, that doesn't mean you have to be at CrossFit at 6 a.m. every day – unless you want to – or be expected to have the workout routine of an Olympic athlete.

Aim to clock at least 10,000 steps every day or a total of 150 minutes of exercise per week. 150 minutes per week equates to 30 minutes of exercise, 5 days a week.

If that sounds like it could be difficult to achieve with your schedule, find creative ways to incorporate activity into your routine. You could break your 30 minutes into two, short 15-minute walks during the day – maybe on a lunch break or around your house during the commercial breaks of your favorite shows. Ultimately, consistency is more important than intensity.

Fuel Your Body

You've probably heard that what you eat can be more impactful to a weight loss journey than your exercise routine – and it's true. Prioritize fiber-rich foods, fruits, and vegetables in your meals and focus on having a balanced plate. This means non-starchy vegetables should take up half of your plate, with healthy proteins amounting to a quarter of the plate and a modest portion of a starch to complete the meal. This will help you feel fuller longer. Hydration is also fundamental to fueling your body. Drinking one to two liters of water a day, and adjusting for increased activity levels, is a great goal.

Mind Your Mental Health

Health isn't just about the numbers on your lab report. Your mental well-being is equally important. Make sure you're prioritizing self-care practices, such as prayer, meditation, doing things you enjoy or even seeking counseling if you feel you need more support. Mental health is integral to wellness, and you must take care of

it just like your physical health.

Embrace Patience and Consistency

Lifestyle changes take time. While a quick-fix is enticing, creating lasting habits takes patience – and will give you the long-term results you want to see. Make sure you celebrate small victories. This will help reinforce the changes you're making and remind you that you're making progress, even on the days it feels like your goal is out of reach.

Don't forget your doctor is there to help you

Your doctor is there to support you and your health. You can schedule a baseline checkup to address any potential health issues and get a sense for where your journey is starting. Take advantage of available resources or wellness programs, either through your doctor's office or even your employer, to optimize your well-being.

If starting a new health and wellness journey is on your 2024 vision board, remember this simple guide to help you reach your goals. This process is about progress, not perfection. You can take this journey day-by-day, hour-by-hour or minute-by-minute if that helps make it more manageable. Ultimately, focus on doing the best you can do each day and you'll see results. ●

Valerie Nemeth, DO, is a board-certified family medicine physician treating patients at Mercy Health – Vermillion Primary Care. She is also board-certified in obesity medicine from the American Board of Obesity Medicine. In addition to family medicine, she treats patients for weight management and non-surgical services.

1. Wolfe Tone tried to land at what bay with 14,000 French soldiers?
a) Bantry Bay b) Clew Bay c) Donegal Bay
2. What county did the English forces first attack in the Nine Years War?
a) Fermanagh b) Tyrone c) Donegal
3. Which of these was NOT one of the activities banned by Oliver Cromwell?
a) going to the theatre
b) drinking alcohol
c) eating chocolate.
4. William was the Prince of Orange in
a) Germany b) Holland
c) France.
5. What type of writing did John Robert Gregg invent that was widely used by secretaries to take speedy notes?
6. Robert Emmet was arrested and imprisoned at K_____ Gaol in Dublin?
7. Daniel O'Connell's face was on the
a) 10-pound note b) 20-pound note c) 50 pound note
8. The Society of St. V_____ de P_____ was set up during the famine to distribute food to the poor.
9. The James Joyce novel Ulysses, is set on June 16, 1904. The day is known as what?
10. In ancient Ireland, communities held a festival called an ----- usually at an important
a) funeral b) wedding c) birth

1. Bantry Bay
2. Fermanagh
3. Eating
4. Holland
5. Shortland
6. Kilmahnam
7. 20-pound note
8. St. Vincent de Paul
9. Bloomsday
10. Funeral

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MILESTONE & SWEET SNAPS

Congratulations to the First Place winning, perfect score earning Murphy Irish Arts Drama Team for their performance of Celtic Fire at the Mid American Oireachtas!



Congratulations to the newly elected 2024 Cleveland GAA Executive Board.



Cleveland St. Patricks Day Parade theme.



Diane Dever, second generation proprietor of Irene Dever Dairy at Cleveland's historic West Side Market, greeted former Taoiseach (P.M.) Bertie Ahern during his recent visit to Ohio.



Reflections and Renewal

As I look back on the past year, I am very grateful for the opportunities that came my way. The Ladies Ancient Order of

Hibernians participated in a Book Club with Sober Saint Patrick's Day on the Confession of St. Patrick. Partnered with Herstory to Celebrate St. Brigid as Ireland recognized St. Brigid's Day as a Bank Holiday for the first time.

In February, I was honored to present the Irish Echo 40 under 40 Awards to three of our members:

Maggie Brogan of New York, Maura Flynn of Indiana and the Empowering Women Award to Brianna Curran of Pennsylvania. Another LAOH member, Bridget Harrison, of Ohio was also recognized.

On April 3, the LAOH was one of seven sponsoring Organizations of the Reflections on the Good Friday Agreement 25 Years of Peace and Progress with President Bill Clinton and Gerry Adams, participated on a panel with representatives from the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Brehan Law Society, Friends of Sinn Fein, Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Long Island, James Connolly Labour Coalition, and the Irish American Unity Conference. Many of our members were in attendance.⁵

National Vice President Mary Ann Lubinsky and I attended many events in Washington DC this past St. Patrick's Day. The LAOH was represented at many events, starting with the Northern Ireland Bureau Breakfast. At the breakfast, I was honored to present the FFAI 25th Anniversary Pin to Mary Lou McDonald, Michelle

O'Neill and Ciaran Quinn of Sinn Fein. I also attended the conference sponsored by Georgetown's Institute for Women, Peace and Security: *Women at the Helm: The Unfinished Business of the Good Friday Agreement*.¹

25th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement

Speakers participating were the Hon. Hillary Clinton, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar; H.E. Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland; Monica McWilliams, signatory to the Good Friday Agreement and Co-founder of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition; H.E. Dame Karen Pierce, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the United States; Paul Narain, U.S. Consul General in Belfast; Hon. Joseph Kennedy III, U.S. Special Envoy to Northern Ireland; Michelle O'Neill, First Minister (elect) of Northern Ireland; Jayne Brady, Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service; Liz O'Donnell, Former Minister of State of Ireland; Emma Little-Pengelly, Member of the Legislative Assembly of Northern Ireland; Patricia O'Lynn, Member of the Legislative Assembly of Northern Ireland; Emma DeSouza, writer, campaigner and next generation peacemaker; Avila Kilmurray, Founding Member of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition; and Sandra Peake, Director of WAVE Trauma Center. At the reception following the Conference, I was honored to present the FFAI 25th


Anniversary Pin to both Mary Robinson and Monica McWilliams.

We attended the Washington Ireland Program, whose vision and mission is, "for a peaceful Northern Ireland and Ireland, mutually supportive and constructive relationships between and within all communities, and to develop, support and engage generations of leaders who can build and sustain these relationships. Taoiseach Leo Varadkar is an alumnus of this program and spoke of the importance of it.

The highlight was the Ambassador's St. Patrick's Day Reception at her residence. I was privileged and honored to present pins to Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason, Special Envoy Joseph Kennedy III, Kathleen Kennedy Townsend and the new Honorary Consul for Ohio and friend Mark Owen.²

In April, I was honored and privileged to travel to Ireland with members of the LAOH FFAI Committee to distribute our donations to groups that encourage cross-community cooperation, economic development, social change, cross-border collaborations, Irish history and language education, nationalist infrastructure maintenance and construction efforts, and Irish unification initiatives based on peace and justice for all throughout Ireland. I also attended the Conference at Queens University on Good Friday Agreement at





Dark Queen of Donegal
By Mary Pat Ferron Canes with JR Foley

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Twenty-Five. What an experience to honor this important milestone and hear from the active participants who signed or had a role in this important document, including Senator George Mitchell.

My personal highlight of the trip was being invited to speak at the Relatives for Justice event, “*It is Different for Mothers.*” The event was the public display of portraits of mothers who lost their children during the Troubles.

Many of the mothers featured in the portraits were present at the event; I was so humbled to be able to address them. I quoted from the poem, “*Mother*” by Patrick Pearse,

I was privileged to be interviewed as the National President of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians; part of the interview was showed at the forum, which was livestreamed, and can also be seen on the Department of Foreign Affairs website. The final day included more panel discussions on our culture and influence.

Women’s Reflection on the Good Friday Agreement

I was an honored to meet Bertie Ahern, the Sean McBride Humanitarian Award Recipient. Bertie Ahern served as the Taoiseach from 1997-2008. He

States Ambassador to Ireland, will be the honoree at this event.

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians will be participating in an Irish Unity Summit in New York City on March 1. “This is a historic time as the people of Ireland look towards a new Ireland. Irish Unity can be made a reality with the democratic will of the people of Ireland both North and South. As an Irish American Organization, we believe this would be the true legacy of 1916 and the Good Friday Agreement.”

[Because of space constraints, the print edition of Marilyn’s

column has been condensed. To see the full column, go to iIrish.us, ●

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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We have accomplished so much but we still need to continue to move forward.

and a friend, Mary Monty, from Belfast, went home that evening and wrote out the entire poem on a wooden plaque in the shape of a heart for me. What a special gift and memory.

I was honored to participate in the Global Irish Forum that was held on April 19, 20 and 21 at Dublin Castle. The forum was hosted by the Department of Irish Affairs: Irish Abroad Unit. Irish organizations from Australia to the United Kingdom were present.

North America was well represented by groups from Canada, Mexico and the United States. The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians were well represented as well, with me as the National President, National Secretary Sandi Swift, National FFAI Chair Dolores Desch, National Immigration Chair Siobhan Denney, National Webmaster Brianna Curran, Special Advisor Dan Dennehy, Ohio FFAI Chair Rita O’Hara, President of American Woman’s Organization/Connecticut LAOH member Monica Welch and Special Guest Matt Morrison.

was very instrumental in the Good Friday Agreement, working closely with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom. I was honored to present him with a Proclamation from the National Board, our Good Friday FFAI pin and a copy to the book *Trasna na nTonnta.6*

I am excited that in the remaining portion of my term that our order will be planning two great commemorations: Brigid 1500, and the Centennial of the Nuns of the Battlefield. This St. Brigid’s Day marks 1,500 years since the death of St. Brigid. We are planning how we will be marking this special year for our Patron Saint. The Wayside Marker for the Nuns of the Battlefield Monument is at the second draft portion and hopefully will be a reality by the September 2024 centennial of the monument itself.

We have accomplished so much but we still need to continue to move forward.

In the new year, I will be attending *Nollaig na mBan* (Women’s Christmas) Leadership Celebration. Claire Cronin, United

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



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WCBE FM 90.5 Columbus

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| 8th – ad reservations for the Mighty March issue are due | 15th – West Side Irish American Club (WSIA) Monthly Meeting |
| 11th – 11am Hibernian Mass at Communion of Saints Church | 19th – Presidents Day |
| 14th – <i>i</i> Irish eBulletin Arrives in your Inbox. Free Signup: <i>i</i> Irish.us # <i>i</i> Irish | 28th – <i>i</i> Irish eBulletin Arrives in your Inbox. Free Signup: <i>i</i> Irish.us # <i>i</i> Irish |

Mighty March issue of *i*Irish hits the street #*i*Irish #LiveMoreLifeBeMoreIrish #IrishAmerican.

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MEGAN LARDIE



kids CRAIC

I Think, Therefore I Am

There has been a lot of talk about AI, artificial intelligence, in the news lately. The United States and Ireland are both concerned with cybersecurity. Both countries are trying to be leaders in how they handle AI.

The US is taking steps to make AI part of the educational system by stressing how important human involvement is and making trust and safety a priority. Ireland has taken a positive approach to making AI part of their education system as well.

As a teacher, I am fascinated by the entire concept of AI. In the future, will students ever have to do any research on their own? Will there be a time when computers will take over the thinking of all humans? What even is AI?

Imagine you have a robot friend, and this friend can learn and do things on its own without you telling it every single step (think of coding, if you are familiar with that). That's a bit like what Artificial Intelligence (AI) is! AI is like giving a computer or a machine the ability to learn and make decisions by itself, a little bit like how you learn from your experiences.

When you play a game on your device, and the game gets better at challenging you the more you play, that's because of AI. It learns from how you play and makes the game more interesting for you.

Or when you are at school and your teacher asks you to login to a program or app for reading or math. Those programs use artificial intelligence from sources such as test scores to figure out where exactly you can improve certain skills, such as reading

comprehension or math facts. So, AI is like giving machines the power to learn and do things without someone telling them every single step.

As awesome as AI is in our daily life, it does have its limits and can sometimes be wrong. The biggest concern with AI is privacy. People share a great deal of personal information on the internet. AI makes it even easier for hackers to cause harm. If you are online

and someone that you do not know starts asking you lots of personal questions like your address or what school you attend, do not share that information! The internet and AI are used for so much good but there are always a few bad people out there.

Thinking of using AI to complete that book report that your teacher assigned? Do not do it!!! The same way AI begins to understand how you speak or write, teachers can recognize

your speaking or writing as well.

It is very easy for a teacher to be able to determine if you used AI to complete your assignment. I am not going to tell our secrets! Here is my advice: It is not worth getting a zero on the assignment. Just use your own brain. You are smarter than AI! ***See the paragraph in italic?

It was written by ChatGPT. If you were a teacher, would you be able to tell if those were my own words or was it AI? •

Kids in the Kitchen

Sheet Pan Maple-Mustard Pork Chops & Carrots

It is supposed to be good luck if you eat pork on New Year's Day!



Ingredients

- 4 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- 1 tablespoon whole-grain mustard
- 1 tablespoon maple syrup
- 4 (5 ounce) bone-in, center-cut pork chops (1/2 inch thick)
- 1 1/2 pounds carrots, cut diagonally into 1/4-inch slices
- 2 teaspoons finely chopped garlic
- 1 teaspoon coarsely chopped peeled fresh ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon ground turmeric
- 3/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 3/4 teaspoon ground pepper
- 1/4 cup chopped flat-leaf parsley

Directions

Position a rack in the lower third of the oven and preheat to 450 degrees F.

Whisk 1 tablespoon of oil, mustard, and maple syrup in a small bowl. Place pork chops on one side of a rimmed baking sheet. Brush the tops with the oil mixture. Place carrots on the other side and drizzle with the remaining 3 tablespoons oil. Sprinkle garlic, ginger and

turmeric on the carrots and toss to coat. Season everything with salt and pepper. Roast for 10 minutes.

Turn the broiler to high. Broil until an instant-read thermometer inserted in the thickest part of a chop without touching the bone registers 145 degrees F, about 4 minutes. Continue cooking the carrots, if needed, until tender and glazed, 2 to 5 minutes more. Serve sprinkled with parsley. •

Literature Corner

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

By C.S. Lewis



Grab a blanket and curl up in a corner this winter and read this classic novel. Four siblings' step into a wardrobe and end up in the land of Narnia, a land eternally frozen by the White Witch. The siblings encounter lots

of adventures and danger and when almost all hope is lost, the Great Lion, Aslan returns. This is the second of the books in this series, which starts with The Chronicles of Narnia. For ages 5-10, 208 pages.

The Mitten

By Jan Brett

Nicki drops his mitten in the snow, but does not realize that it is missing. The curious animals in the woods each take a turn crawling into the soft mitten, from a tiny mole to a big, brown bear!



Megan is a Reading Intervention Educator for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. She may be reached at meganlardie126@outlook.com.





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More Seanfhocail

“If you’re gonna stand there and moo, you’d better give milk!”

I remember my grandfather saying that to me when I was young. I was complaining about something trivial, although at the time I didn’t think so. It’s a

funny saying, but true and has stuck with me for over fifty years.

Irish is full of old sayings or proverbs, known as seanfhocail (shan-oh-kel), and sometime back I shared a few of my favorite,s but barely scratched the surface. This month I’d like to share some others that show the wit and wisdom of the Irish mind in all its splendor.

Most of these are quite old, after all seanfhocail means old words, and sometimes require a bit of thought to decipher the actual meaning of the phrase. For example; “Ba é chéad bhia ar an sliogán dó na scéalta sin.” Translates to “The first food on the shell for him were those tales” meaning he was nurtured on those tales.

Also , be aware that these

translations are not word for word, instead they are the meaning of the phrase, just as, go raibh maith agat, is the phrase used for thank you, but translates to “may there be good at you.” I hope you find one or two that you like and can pass them down as my grandfather did for me.

“Caora mhór an t-uan i bhfad”
(*kweera whor ahn too-in wahd*)

“To carry a lamb is no great load, but it’s a sheep you’ll have a mile down the road”

“Sceitheann fíon fírinne” (*shkih-inn fee-un feer-ih-neh*)

“Truth is spilled when wine is swilled” or “Wine in, truth out”

“Táimid cailte sa cheo chéanna”
(*taw-midge kahl-cha sa kyo kyen-ah*)

“We’re lost in the same mist”

“Is minic a bhris béal duine a shrón” (*iss min-ick ah vrish bay-al dinn-uh ah hrone*)

“Many a time a man’s mouth broke his nose”

“Ní féidir gan ceann a chrochadh”
(*nee fay-dure gan kyawn a krowk-ah*)

“You can’t hang a headless man”

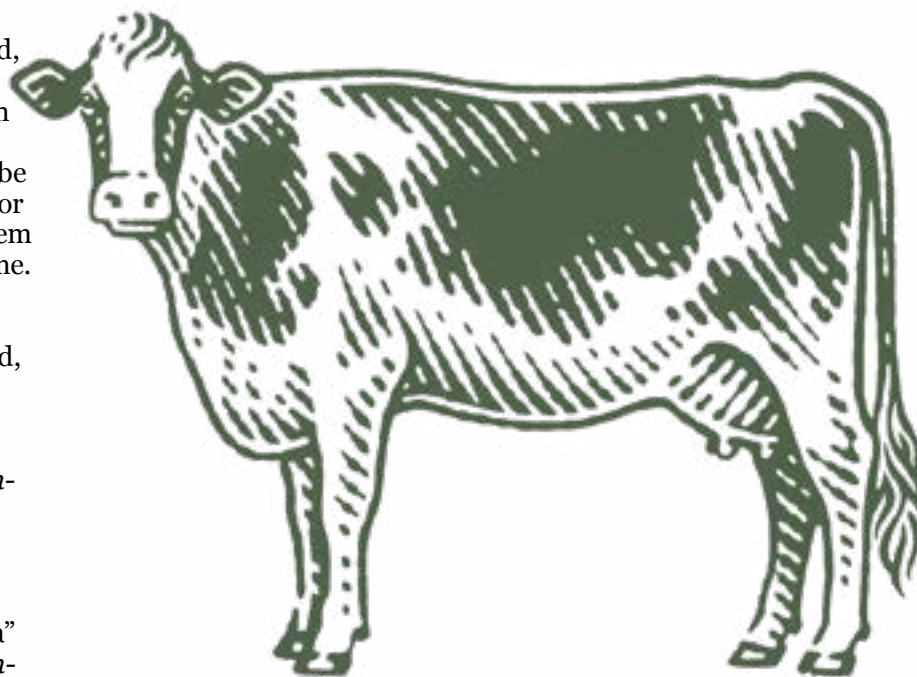
“Imíonn an méanfach ó dhuine go duine” (*ih-me-un ahn me-un-fach oh gin-uh guh din-uh*)

“Mar a imíonn an spideog ó bhile go bile” (*mahr ah ih-me-un anh spih-doeq oh vih-le guh bih-le*)

“A yawn can pass from you to me, like a robin from tree to tree”

“Ná bí abhus is a bheith thall”
(*naw bee uhwuss iss ah vay hull*)

“Ná bi thall is a bheith abhus”



(*naw bee hull iss ah vay uhwuss*)

“Nó má bhíonn tú abhus is a bheith thall” (*no mah vee-un too uhwuss iss ah vay hull*)

“Ní bheidh tú thall ná abhus” (*nee vay too hull naw uhwuss*)

“Don’t be here when you should be there, don’t be there when you should here, because if you’re here and there, you won’t be anywhere.”

“Chomh ríméadach le cat a mbeadh póca air” (*cove ree-may-dach leh caht ah made po-ka ayre*)
“As happy as a cat with a pocket”

“Imíonn gach maith le mionchaitheamh” (*ih-me-un gach mah leh min-uh-uw*)

“Constant dripping wears away the stone”

“Más maith leat do mholadh faigh bás” (*mahs mah lyat duh wo-lahq fah boss*)

“Más maith leat do cháineadh

pós” (*mahs mah lyat duh kah-nayq poss*)

“If you want praise die, if you want blame marry”

“Ní beag a beith go dona, ach gan a bheith go dona faoi” (*nee beeyog a bay guh duh-na ach gan vay guh duh-na fwee*) “It’s bad enough being miserable without being miserable about it”

“Trí shórt ban nach féider le fear a dtuiscint” (*tree hort bahn nach fay-dure leh far a dish-kint*)

“Bean óg” (*bahn oeg*)

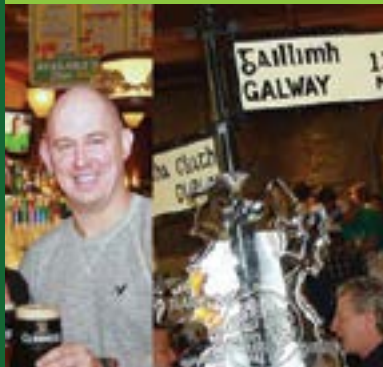
“Bean mheánaosta” (*bahn vahn-eastá*)

“Seanbhean” (*shan-vahn*)

“Three types of women a man can’t understand, a young woman, a middle aged woman, an old woman”

“Ní sheasann sac folamh” (*nee shesh-ahn sac fohl-uw*)

“An empty sack won’t stand”



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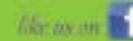
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meaning it's hard to work on an empty stomach

“Codladh an ghiorria” (*kuhl-ah ahn yih-ree-uh*)

“The sleep of the hare” to sleep with one eye open

“Ná trí héisc is mire” (*naw tree iss meerr-ah*)

Rotha (*row-ha*)

Ranga (*wrang-ah*)

Agus rón (*ah-gus rown*)

“The three fastest things in the sea, the ray, the mackrel and the seal” the literal translation is the three fastest fish in the sea even though a seal is not a fish

“Tógfaidh dath dubh ach ní thógfaidh dubh dath” (*toeg-ah dah duv ach nee hoe-ah duv dah*)

“Color will take black but black will not take color” It's easier to damage someones reputation than it is to restore it.

“Chomh dall ar meisce le coinín” (*cove dahl ar mish-ka leh kwih-neen*)

“As blind drunk as a rabbit”

“Chomh trom sin go n-íosfá le spúnóg é” (*cove trom shin guh nees-feh leh spoon-ug ay*)

“You could eat it with a spoon it's so heavy” speaking of a heavy fog

“An rud nach binn le duine ní chuineann sé é” (*ahn rud nach bihn leh din-uh nee klin-inn shay ay*)

“What's not sweet to the ear, we simply don't hear”

“Ní dhéanfadh an saol capall rása d'asal” (*nee yen-fah ahn say-ul kah-pull raw-sa dah-sul*)

“Whatever else might come to pass, you'll never make a racehorse of an ass”

“Ní troimide an loch an lacha” (*nee trim-ih-da ahn loch ahn lach-ah*)

“The lake is no heavier for having the duck on it”

This last one I've shared in class, when we want to practice translations. Everyone seems to get the translation itself correct, but then we get all manner of interpretations as to its meaning. It is a rather unique way to remind us not to worry about

the little things in life.

There are many books out there that share seanfhocail, some are regional, such as “Seanfhocail as Acaill”. This one is in Irish only and can be a nice challenge as you translate and then attempt to understand the meanings. There are also many in English and Irish, and I have one that has the original old Irish, English and Irish versions in it.

I hope you enjoy them as much as I do. •

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

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Epiphany

You may be just settling in to read this magazine as the Christmas season comes to a close, with the Feast of Epiphany. For all of us who love Irish literature, the word, “epiphany,” also belongs to James Joyce, who took it into a secular context to describe his literary technique. Joyce explained his use of the word in an early work, *Stephen Hero*: “by an epiphany he meant a sudden spiritual manifestation, whether in the vulgarity of speech or of gesture or in a memorable phase of the mind itself.”

I was fortunate to teach undergraduate and graduate literature courses for thirty years at John Carroll University, and my area of specialization included classes in Irish Literature, Modernism, Post-colonial, and Contemporary Literature. James Joyce’s writing fits into all four categories, so I often started the class with a selection from the *Dubliners*.

My reason for beginning with one of the fifteen stories gathered in the 1914 collection was that they *taught a student how to read*. Other professors could make the case for another writer who best teaches the art of analysis, but for me, the two most valuable were James Joyce and Anton Chekhov.

My joke (but only a half-joke) was that everybody could better prepare for the upcoming holiday gathering, especially if a newcomer were expected, by reading Joyce or Chekhov. They would know in advance that there would be a subtle but sure change in the family power dynamic, and that any annoyance about altered family customs was useless: the shift was

inevitable.

The serf got the cherry orchard (Chekhov’s play). No one wants to hear the Irish aunts sing anymore (Joyce’s “The Dead”).

In Joyce’s fiction, there are no omniscient narrators or characters within the stories who guide the protagonist to clarification. So, what is a Joycean epiphany? It is not that a character suddenly grasps and articulates what has happened to him or her.

If there is an epiphany for the character, it is experienced somatically or emotionally. It is pre-verbal or non-verbal: unslaked thirst, acute embarrassment, avoidance. We are looking in the wrong place if we want, as in Greek tragedy, enlightenment to occur. Enlightenment is mostly for the reader.

The Dubliners

The Dubliners’ stories are



James Joyce

arranged chronologically: from youth, to young adulthood, to mature life, to the public life

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of politics, religion, and art, and finally to *The Dead*, the masterpiece of the collection and of literature. One of the finest stories is *Eveline*, and it illustrates in miniature how Joyce enables a reader's epistemological growth through critical analysis.

Put another way, Joyce creates aesthetic structures that can sharpen the reader's judgement. Eveline, the title character, is a young unmarried woman who plans to leave her home and emigrate to Argentina with her sailor beau.

In fact, she is to leave the very day that the story begins. Instead of getting ready, she sits in the window, and looks over the room's dilapidated furnishings. She has been mistress of the house since her mother died: she cared dutifully for her siblings while under threat of violence from her alcoholic, impecunious father. She remembers that:

her father used often to hunt them in out of the field with his blackthorn stick; but usually little Keogh used to keep nix and call out when he saw her father coming. Still they seemed to have been rather happy then. Her father was not so bad then; and besides, her mother was alive.

We are in Eveline's consciousness here, one so resistant to the truth of her father's anger that she unconsciously tries to rationalize it. Unbeknownst to her, her words betray the effect of long trauma. The words might pass unnoticed: they are "still" and "rather." The word "still" is index to Joyce's genius, (and why Samuel Beckett, in particular, so admired him).

"Still," as an adjective, defines how stationary she is, and it describes her muteness. "Still," as an adverb pertains to something begun in the past and continuing into the present. It suggests that Eveline's fear has not been consigned to the past but operates within her. Or the adverb "still" means "in spite of."

Eveline, despite her father's menace, needs to recall a happy memory. She cannot, however, make a complete case for the idyllic childhood as the word "rather," an adverb of degree, suggests. They

were never "completely" happy, they were "rather" happy.

At the end of the story, Eveline goes to the station, but she will not board the boat. When her sailor calls her name, "she set her white face to him, passive, like a helpless animal. Her eyes gave him no sign of love or farewell or recognition."

No one should be surprised by this ending. In a single sentence, Joyce had piled up all the connotations of the words "still" and "rather" to depict a mind so shaped by abuse and authority that it could not recollect the past truthfully or the future hopefully. In case we have not appreciated Eveline's emptiness, or in the famous word used to describe all of the stories, her "paralysis," Joyce provides three more extraordinary sentences:

Home! She looked round the room, reviewing all its familiar objects which she had dusted once a week for so many years, wondering where all the dust came from. Perhaps she would never see again those familiar objects from which she had never dreamed of being divided.

Is there a young person anywhere who has never dreamed of leaving home, even a happy one? Eveline, habituated to a life of rearranging dust, is defined by her incapacity. In the very opening paragraphs, Joyce has let the reader know what Eveline cannot: choice eludes her, buried under repression and falsity.

Joyce offers the attentive reader,

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through syntax and word choice, a way of experiencing Eveline's reality, as she does, but also hovering above it to see conditions and implications that the character cannot. Joyce further described the *Dubliners* as a "series of epicleti... I call the series *Dubliners* to betray the soul of that hemiplegia or paralysis which many consider a city."

Like epiphany, *epicleti* is another religious word used by Catholics to refer to the invocation of the Holy Ghost at the Eucharist, and Joyce was endlessly interested in art as an analogous form of transmutation or consubstantiation. Epicleti, as the great scholar Robert Scholes pointed out, can also be understood as a "reproach" since

it can be translated as "summoned before a court."

Certainly, the whole of the *Dubliners* is a reproach—to the Irish state, the Catholic church, and the British empire – and to the small and petty world of Irish smugness, cowardice, hypocrisy, and avoidance. Joyce teaches us to see the wound and the illness. He requires that we read with the twin aims of seeing the situation for what it is (epiphany) as well as for why (epicleti) it has come about. This knowledge drove him into exile, but it also tethered him to his homeland.●

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– St. Francis of Assisi



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IRISH

LISA O'ROURKE



Haunted

Shane MacGowan has left us after a long illness. In his case, long illness means that he spent over half of his adult life, with “a year, at most, to live.” The portraits that stared out of every Irish national newspaper last week were of a much younger man.

The contemporary photos weren't used, they were too painful. He had become a sad symbol of substance abuse and disease.

While Shane was not known for being sober or ladies' man material, abandoning himself to drugs and alcohol meant abandoning his



talent. And Shane had been a man rich in talent.

I have to confess, that despite loving their music, I did not know much about him. Doing some research to get at the truth about

Shane, so much of the information was contradictory. It was even hard to figure out where he was born, which is generally a fundamental in biographies.

I realized that the facts and the truth were not the same thing to the MacGowans. They seemed to exist in a myth of their own making. They were economic exiles from Ireland. And exile was the right word, rather than immigrants.

The move from Ireland seemed to create an emotional

chasm in the life of the family. What good times they had were about Ireland, whether celebrating Irish culture especially music or during visits to the old sod.

Returning to England brought on mental illness, troubles and substance abuse for Shane and his mother, in particular. Listening to Shane talk about his youth, every problem he had in his young life was a consequence of time spent in England.

Yet it is hard to imagine the Pogues and Shane growing into the musical force that they became anywhere else. England gave them an edge and something to rebel against. It provided a contrast to what they knew in Tipperary.

The main thing to know is that his soul was Irish, and his body was forced to live in a place that did battle with that soul. And what a soul he had.

The school that kicked him out for smoking cannabis at the ripe old age of twelve, acknowledged that he was a gifted writer. Listening to songs that he wrote for one of his first bands, the Nips, it is easy to hear that he could craft a perfect pop song. He complained that the record company executives did not know the fluff lyrics from “the real stuff.”

While Shane knew the real stuff, it seems that he did not always have a high regard for it. The Australian singer-songwriter Nick Cave claims

to have rescued “Rainy Night in Soho” from Shane’s trash can. Nick talked about how hard he himself had tried to sound poetic and literary in his early days of songwriting.

Watching Shane work, he realized that he was wasting his time. Shane did not try for either of those qualities, it just came out that way.

The Pogues were known as a band who started a fight, and a concert broke out. They were born out of the DIY fueled energy of the early 1980s London music scene.

Despite the rough-edged reputation, a lot of their songs were grittily romantic, like “A Pair of Brown Eyes” and “Rainy Night in Soho.” Their songs covered the Irish experience with a contemporary bent, like the punky rendition of “The Irish Rover” with the Dubliners.

Then there is the perennial Christmas favorite, “Fairytale of New York.” The song lets you know by the second line that you are in for a subversive take on Christmas, with Shane and Kirsty McColl exchanging barbs for the holiday.

The song went to number one in Ireland for Christmas of 1987. Old Irish ballads centered on the fated, whether it was politics or romance or a combination of the two.

The songs of the Pogues share that fatalism, but their songs were about the politics of the street, with all its racisms and economies. While the themes are about universal struggles, those struggles are viewed through an Irish immigrant lens.

Unfortunately for the Pogues and their fans, the band lived up to and beyond their reputations. There were fights and petty jealousies. Drinking and drug use only escalated within the band. Things deteriorated to the point that the music suffered.

During live performances, lyrics were forgotten, and the music was sloppy at best. Eventually, the band split. The band tried to go on and Shane was replaced. It didn't last.

It has been a tough year for the small group of Irish musical celebrities. Sinéad, Shane and the lesser known in the US, Christy Dignam of Aslan. By coincidence, the morning that that Shane died

Continued on page 19

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I saw that he would share his anniversary with a man he surely admired, Patrick Kavanaugh.

I could not think of anything more perfect since there is no one who Shane reminds me of more. While Kavanaugh was a poet and not a musician, he was a man who was immersed in the struggles of everyday life, the countryside and Irish culture. One of Kavanaugh's most beloved poems, "Raglan Road" was put to music by Luke Kelly of the Dubliners.

"Raglan Road" is the spiritual grandfather of "Rainy Night in Soho." Kavanaugh, a man of the people, was fond of Dublin pubs too. Both men were romantics of rural and urban Ireland.

It was lovely to see the tributes that ordinary people paid to Shane, standing in the street, singing his songs. He showed them that love and tragedy happened to everyone and there was a kind of soul in that. He would love to be remembered through his music and as the soulful Irish poet that he was.

Shane outlived his talent by decades. He did know who he was though and what he used to possess. It was sad to see him sometimes, stumbling with words that were his jewels before. But he was a survivor. That was his final lesson. Hang onto this bittersweet ride. ●

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 Gaelige. She runs a Gaelige study group through the AOH/Mark Heffernan Division. She is married to Dónal and has two sons, Danny and Liam. Lisa enjoys art, reading, music, and travel. She likes spending time with her dog, cats and fish. Lisa can be contacted at olisao7@icloud.com.

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On this day in Irish history **JANUARY**

BY TERENCE J. KENNEALLY

1 January 1973 - Ireland formally joined the European Economic Community (EEC), then often referred to as the Common Market, along with the United Kingdom and Denmark.

2 January 1922 - Sir Emmett Shackleton (47), explorer, died suddenly in South Georgia.

7 January 1922 - Dail Eireann approved the Anglo-Irish Treaty (64-57).

12 January 1923 - Senator Oliver St. John Gogarty escaped capture by the Republicans by swimming the Liffey. He presented two swans to the river in gratitude.

10 January - Michael Collins, as chairman of the Provisional Government of Southern Ireland, formally accepted the transfer of power from the British authorities.

24 January 1973 - Willie Clancy (51), acclaimed piper and flautist, died.

26 January 1943 - The first American troops officially entered the European Theatre of Operations for the Second World War, landing in Dufferin Quay in Belfast.

28 January 1842 - An address from the people of Ireland to their countrymen and countrywomen in America, signed by approximately 60,000 people, was first presented to an audience in Faneuil Hall, Boston. Among the signatories was Daniel O'Connell.

29 January 1967 - Over 100 people turned up to form the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA).

30 January 1972 - A march was held in Derry, organized by NICRA, protesting against the policy of internment without trial. 15,000 to 20,000 people attended. The 1st battalion of the British Army's Parachute Regiment opened fire, shooting 28 people. Thirteen of those died on that day; another died four months later.



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Ozempic, Wegovy Linked to Severe Side Effects

New research links weight loss medications like Ozempic and Wegovy to a greater risk of pancreatitis, gastroparesis, and bowel obstruction.

Glucagon-like peptide 1 (GLP-1) agonists, more commonly known by such brand names as Ozempic and Wegovy, are






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medications that have gained widespread attention, known for their ability to help people lose weight. However, research has demonstrated side effects among patients taking the medication, including biliary disease (diseases of the gallbladder and bile ducts), pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas), bowel obstruction, and gastroparesis (delayed emptying of the stomach contents into the small intestine).

These medications work by activating receptors in the pancreas to enhance insulin release and decrease the release of another hormone, glucagon. They also decrease appetite though their action of slowing gastric emptying, which affects your central nervous system.

While this is the reason the drugs result in successful weight loss, the function may also contribute to negative side effects. Severe side effects can include potential long-term problems on the thyroid gland and pancreas.

In a new study, published earlier this month in JAMA, researchers decided to explore these adverse side effects associated with GLP-1 agonists. The study's results indicated that the use of GLP-1 agonists for weight loss was linked to a greater risk of pancreatitis, gastroparesis, and bowel obstruction. The rapid weight loss associated with these medications causes an increased flux of cholesterol through the gallbladder, which can promote the growth of gallstones. These stones can trigger pancreatitis.

The FDA, along with researchers and patients, have noted various side effects, ranging from mild to severe, associated with using these injectable drugs, including:

Nausea, abdominal pain, constipation, heartburn, diarrhea or vomiting

Rash, itching, swelling
Difficulty breathing or swallowing

Vision changes, fainting or dizziness

Rapid heartbeat
Pain at the injection site
Muscle loss

Loss of buccal fat, also known as "Ozempic face"

Your blood sugar may drop too low if you take this drug with other blood sugar-lowering medications

You may regain some or all of the weight when you stop taking the drug

Muscle Loss

There is real concern is about the connection to lost muscle mass. A 2021 clinical trial found that about 40% of the weight people lost came from lean mass, including muscle tissue. Muscle loss can be particularly problematic for people over 50 since it becomes harder and harder to regain muscle as you age.

It is important to note that if you start taking either of these drugs for weight loss, your body may get used to it, establishing a new normal. Research has shown that if you stop taking Ozempic (or Wegovy), it's likely that you will gain back the weight you lost. People who stop taking these drugs often gain weight back relatively quickly. If you lose weight with new drugs, you likely will need to keep taking the medications forever. These drugs have not been studied in the non-diabetic population and we will likely see more side effects with this type of inappropriate use.

Why Exercise Should Be Your Drug of Choice

While getting an injection may seem easier than sweating it out at the gym, remember that exercise confers a plethora of health benefits without any of these side effects. My hope is that people reading this article will consider exercise (and healthy eating) before spending a ridiculous amount of money on something that could harm you. You will likely need to take this medication forever to avoid "Ozempic rebound" because most people re-gain the weight once they stop the medication.

So, here is my question for you... Is it worth the risk? •

Dr. Peters is the founder of "The Fitness Doctor" (www.thefitnessdoctors.com) and a professor of Health & Human Performance.

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WISE CRAICS

JOE MCDONOUGH



Day of Rest

Liam had left Dublin to go up to Belfast for a bit of skydiving. Late on Sunday evening, he was found in a tree by an amazed onlooker.

“What happened?” said the man.

Liam replied, “My parachute failed to open!”

“Well!” said the man, “if you had asked the locals before you jumped, they would have told you nothing opens here on a Sunday!”

Literally

When Billy saw Paddy with one of his shoelaces undone, he said, “Watch you don’t trip up over your laces, Paddy.”

Paddy said, “Yeah, it’s these bloody instructions.”

Billy said, “What instructions, Paddy?”

Paddy replies, “Underneath the shoe, it says ‘Taiwan.’”

Miracle Worker

An Irish priest is driving down to New York and gets stopped for speeding in Connecticut.

The state trooper smells alcohol on the priest’s breath and then sees an empty wine bottle on the floor of the car.

He says, “Sir, have you been drinking?”

“Just water,” says the priest.

The trooper says, “Then why do I smell wine?”

The priest looks at the bottle and

says, “Good Lord! He’s done it again!”

Good Question

Gallagher opened the morning newspaper and was dumbfounded to read in the obituary column that he had died.

He quickly phoned his best friend, Finney. “Did you see the paper?” asked Gallagher, “They say I died!!”

“Yes, I saw it!” replied Finney, “Where are ye callin’ from?”

Begging You Please

Irishman goes to the church in desperation, “Please God, let me win the Lotto. Please God, the kids have no shoes on their feet, please let me win the lotto. The wife is poorly and we haven’t got the money for the medicine. Please let me win the lotto.” There’s a clap of thunder and a big booming voice is heard to say, “Meet me halfway Paddy and buy a flippin’ ticket!”

Profiling

An Irishman, an Englishman, a Scotsman, a Welshman, a Latvian, a Turk, a German, an Indian, an American, an Argentinean, a Dane, an Australian, a Slovakian, an Egyptian, a Japanese, a Moroccan, a Frenchman, a Nigerian, a New Zealander, a Spaniard, a Russian, a Guatemalan, a Colombian, a Pakistani, a Malaysian, a Croatian, an Uzbek, a Cypriot, a Pole, a Lithuanian, an Ethiopian, a Chinese, a Sri Lankan, a Lebanese, a Cayman Islander, a Ugandan, a Vietnamese, a Korean, a Uruguayan, a Senegalese, a Czech, an Icelander, a Mexican, a Finn, a Honduran, a Panamanian, an Andorran, an Israeli, a Venezuelan, a Fijian, a Peruvian, a Ghanian, an Estonian, a Brazilian, a Portuguese, a Liechtensteiner, a Mongolian, a Hungarian, a Canadian,

a Moldovan, a Haitian, a Norfolk Islander, a Macedonian, a Bolivian, a Cook Islander, a Mauritanian, a Tajikistani, a Samoan, an Armenian, an Aruban, a Kenyan, an Albanian, a Greenlander, a Micronesian, a Virgin Islander, a Georgian, a Bahaman, a Belarusian, a Cuban, a Tanzanian, a Tongan, a Cambodian, a Qatari, a Liberian, an Azerbaijani, a Romanian, a Chilean, a Kyrgyzstani, a Jamaican, a Filipino, a Ukrainian, a Dutchman, an Ecuadorian, a Costa Rican, a Swede, a Bulgarian, a Serb, a Swiss, a Greek, a Belgian, a South African, a Singaporean, an Italian, and a Norwegian walk into a fine restaurant ...

“I’m sorry,” says the maître d’, scrutinizing the group one by one as he stops them from entering, “You can’t come in here without a Thai.”

Good ol’ Grandad

I’ll always remember what my Grandad said to me just before he kicked the bucket...

He said, “Grandson, how far do you think I can kick this bucket?”

Considerate Saint

What did St. Patrick say as he drove the snakes out of Ireland?

“Are you alright in the back there lads?”

The Right Ingredients

An English man, a Scot, and an Irishman were captured by cannibals, and taken before the village chief.

He looked at them, and asked one “Where are you from?”

“Why, I’m from jolly old England!” the Brit declared.

“Put him in the pot!” ordered the chief, and in he went.

Turning his attention to the remaining 2, he asked the same question.

The Scot replied that he was from the Scottish Highlands.

“Put him in the pot!” ordered the chief, again, and in went the Scot.

Looking at the last captive, the chief asked once more “Where are you from?”

“Why I’m from the Emerald Island of Ireland, of course!” he said.

The chief frowned and instructed several of the strongest village men to take him far from the village, and turn him loose.

As the pot was being filled with water, and vegetables, the English man complained “I say; why do we stay, while he goes free?”

The chief scowled at him and told him, “The last Irishman ate all the potatoes!”

Careful For What You Wish For

Two Irish politicians were talking over their pints, in a pub. They were trying to figure how to get the US to send Foreign Aid money, to improve their land.

One suggested making war on America, since they always rebuilt the countries they defeated.

The other thought about it a few moments, took another sip, and asked “But what if we won? Then what would we do?”

Choose a Side

Paddy takes his new wife to bed on their wedding night.

She undresses, lies on the bed spread-eagled and says:

“You know what I want, don’t you?”

“Yeah,” says Paddy. “The whole bed by the looks of it!”

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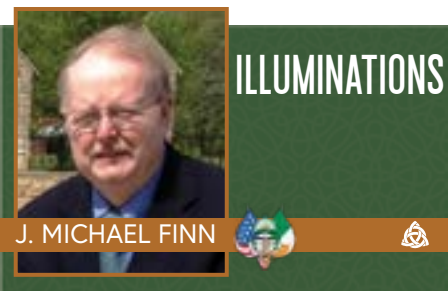
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Margaret Pearse the “Most Glorious of Irish Mothers”



assistant. In 1877 Margaret married James Pearse at St. Agatha’s church in Dublin.

James and Margaret had four children. These were Margaret Mary, born August 4, 1878; Patrick, born November 10, 1879; William (Willie), born November 15, 1881; and Mary Brigid, born September 29, 1888.

Margaret’s maternal aunt, Margaret Savage, was an avid Irish speaker and was a frequent visitor to the Pearse home. She encouraged the Pearse children’s interest in the Irish language and culture.

In September 1908, using his life savings and some borrowed funds, Margaret’s son Patrick Pearse founded St. Enda’s School for boys (St. Enda is the patron saint



Margaret Brady was born on February 12, 1857 in Dublin. Her father was Patrick Brady, a coal merchant, whose family was from County Meath, and her mother was Brigid (Savage) Brady of Oldtown, County Dublin.

Margaret was educated by the Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul.

James Pearse was born in Bloomsbury, England, and later lived in Birmingham. He moved to Dublin about 1863 to work as a stonemason and carver. He opened a business and met Margaret, who was working as a stationery shop



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of the Aran Islands). Originally, Pearse’s school was established at Cullenswood House, Ranelagh, before moving to the Hermitage in Rathfarnham in 1910.

To advance his ideas of a free and Gaelic Ireland, the school offered a bilingual education that placed emphasis on Irish literature, Irish culture and Irish mythology. Pearse believed that the Irish language was intrinsic to the identity of a nation.

Ireland’s first bi-lingual school was a family operation, as his mother Margaret initially took over housekeeping duties at the school. Brother Willie taught there as an art and theater professor and later served as Assistant Head Master. His sister Margaret Mary also

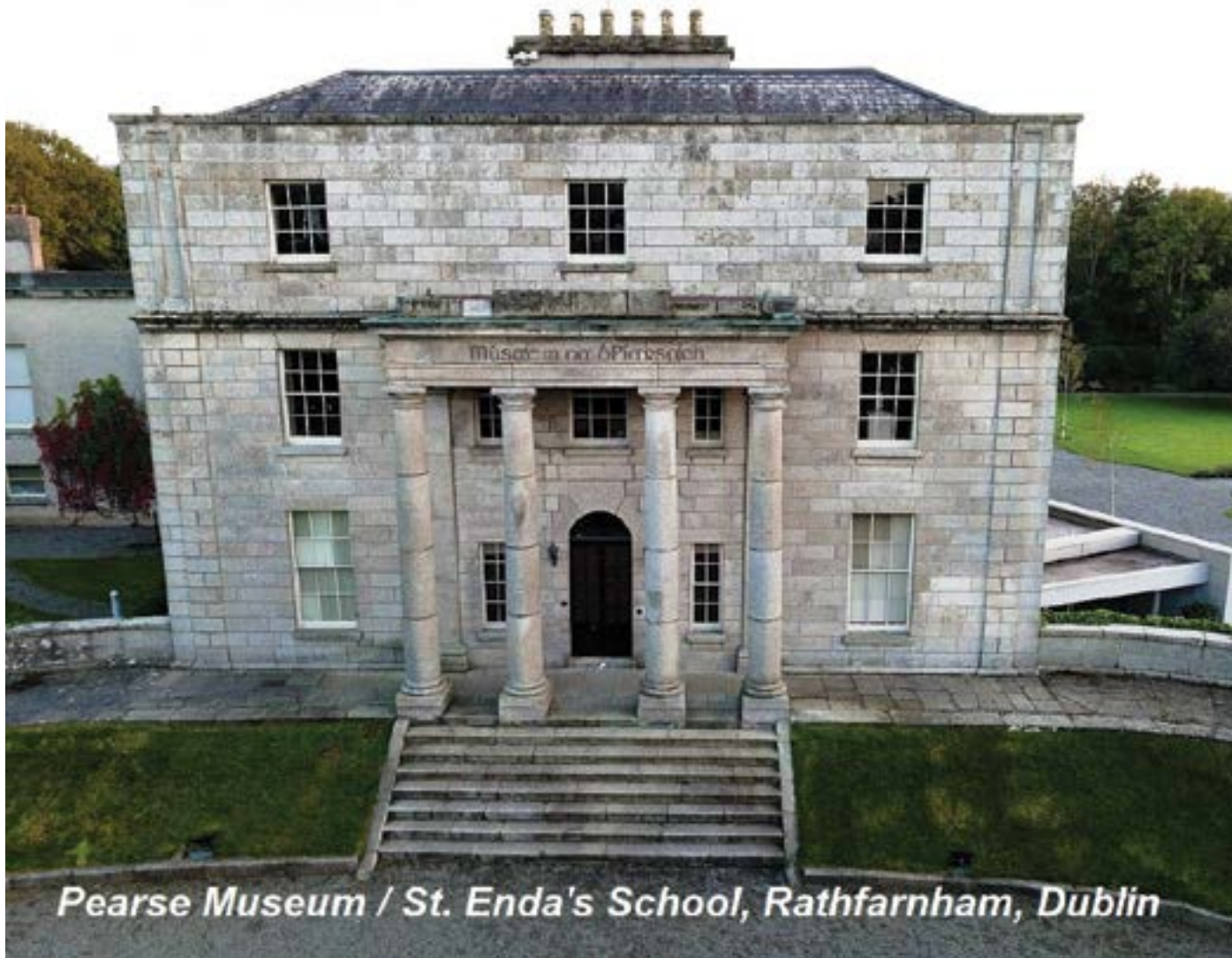
served as a French professor and later Mistress of Students.

In 1913, Patrick became Director of Organization for the Irish Volunteers. In December 1913 Bulmer Hobson swore Pearse into the secret Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB). Patrick’s brother Willie followed him into the Volunteers. Patrick was soon taken onto the IRB’s Supreme Council by Tom Clarke.

Aware of her sons’ intentions, Margaret fully supported them as they left St Enda’s on Easter Monday 1916 and marched to the GPO to begin the Easter Rebellion. As a result of the rebellion, Patrick Pearse and fourteen other leaders,

Continued on page 25





Pearse Museum / St. Enda's School, Rathfarnham, Dublin

including his brother Willie, were court-martialed and executed by firing squad for their participation.

While Patrick was awaiting execution in Kilmainham Jail, he wrote a poem for his mother, titled *The Mother*. It is about a mother than raises her two boys, but they die fighting for Irish independence. It concluded with the following words:

*Lord, thou art hard on mothers:
We suffer in their coming and
their going;*

*And tho' I grudge them not,
I weary, weary*

*Of the long sorrow – And yet
I have my joy:*

My sons were faithful, and they fought.

Following the execution of her two sons, Margaret adopted the republican cause and saw it as her purpose to perpetuate their memory.

Margaret joined Sinn Féin after the 1916 Rising and gave support

and endorsement to candidates during the 1918 Westminster Election. During the 1920 Poor Law Elections for the Rathmines area of Dublin, Margaret ran as a Sinn Féin candidate and was elected on the first count. In the 1921 elections, she was elected to the second Dáil Éireann as a Sinn Féin legislator for Dublin County.

In the Dáil, Margaret strongly opposed the Anglo-Irish Treaty. She stated during the Treaty debate that: “It has been said here on several occasions that Patrick Pearse would have accepted this Treaty. I deny it. As his mother I deny it, and on his account I will not accept it.”

When the Dáil ratified the treaty on January 7, 1922, Margaret, along with Éamon de Valera, the other anti-Treaty republican members walked out. She became close friends with Éamon de Valera as a result. She ran again for the Dáil in the 1922 general election, but was

defeated.

Despite her electoral defeat, there was much work to be done at St. Enda's. Operating funds were scarce and Margaret became St. Enda's school's chief fund raiser. She envisaged St Enda's as Patrick and Willie's lasting monument. With the help of American aid she had been able to buy the Hermitage property in 1920.

In April 1924, when Margaret Pearse was age 70, she undertook a trip to America to raise funds for the school, as well as showing support for Éamon de Valera and the Irish Republic and opposing the Anglo-Irish Treaty.

At an event in Brooklyn on May 19, 1924, when referencing the execution of her two sons, Margaret declared herself the “proudest mother in Ireland.” She was greeted by large crowds at her speeches.

The press gave her positive reviews and referred to her as the “most glorious of Irish mothers.” A

testimonial dinner was held for her in Philadelphia on June 5, 1924.

In her speeches, she spoke of the death of her two sons and the financial difficulties of St. Enda's. She also spoke harshly of the establishment of the Irish Free State. She referred to it as a “farce” and “a slave state.”

Margaret travelled to New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Ohio (Cincinnati and Cleveland). She then went west across the country, speaking to crowds in Montana, Washington, and California.

Speaking in Butte, Montana, Margaret summed up her task of taking responsibility for the school by stating, “It is a tradition with us that when our men folk are wrested from us, the women step in to fill the gap and carry on.”

Her tour of America raised \$10,000 to support St. Enda's School and she collected some promises for further support.

Margaret Pearse died on April 22, 1932 at St Enda's. She was accorded a state funeral, and her body lay in state at City Hall before burial at Glasnevin Cemetery. Her funeral was one of the largest in the history of the Irish state. Éamon de Valera's graveside oration was broadcast on radio.

Without the leadership and the fund raising abilities of Margaret, St. Enda's School could not last and it eventually closed its doors for good in 1935. Today the Hermitage is owned by the state and stands as the Pearse Museum, dedicated to the memory of the school's founders; exactly as Margaret Pearse would have wanted it. ●

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

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DONNYBROOK

JOHN MYERS



Shane Unrepentant Fenian

Even in death, Shane McGowan's continued to set new markers, sadly, in this case, he showed us what a true Irish funeral should look like. Check it out on YouTube if you have a chance and see some great music and liturgy.

While, the news was filled with monikers like "The Bard of our times", "genius", "poet", "legend" and his truly remarkable life's work of music and prose were rightfully celebrated and analyzed, I would like to recall his status as an unrepentant Fenian, committed to the cause of Irish Republicanism and a United Ireland.

While "Fairytale of New York" was his most renowned work, his

raw and real style was present throughout his body of work. The Pogues (shortened from Pogue Mahone) video for their "A Pair of Brown Eyes" was banned in the United Kingdom in 1988 as it shows a picture of PM Margaret Thatcher hanging over the mantle to mimic Big Brother from George Orwells 1984, and some spitting at said picture.

The Brit sensors evidently had no humor nor appreciation for the Pogues art, nor does the U.K. have a Bill of Rights to protect free speech or any other rights. Additionally, take a minute to read through some of the lyrics from "Streets of Sorrow/Birmingham Six," which was also banned in the U.K. for sharing the truth of British occupation of Ireland: [Read Donnybrook](#)

Gerry Adams Eulogy for Shane

No one ever accused Shane McGowan of being sugary in his music. His funeral at St. Mary of The Rosary in Nenagh, County Tipperary was attended by Irish President Higgins, Johnny Depp, The Pogues, Glen Hansard and many other Irish music luminaries. During the procession in Dublin on the way to Tipperary the crowds lined the streets and sang "Dirty Ol Town."

Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein's former President, did the first reading and spoke in tribute to McGowan: "My words are words of gratitude for



Shane's genius, his creativity, his attitude, grateful for his humor, his intelligence, his compassion, Grateful for his vulnerabilities, his knowledge and his modesty. Grateful for his celebration of the marginalized, of the poor, of our Exiles and the under dogs. Grateful for The Pogues and for all our music makers and all our dreams and dreamers. And thankful for Shane's Powers.

Proud of how Shane deepened our sense of Irishness and our humanity. Grateful for his rejection of revisionism of time serving and the fumlbers in greasy tills. Glad he stood by the people of the North in war and in peace. And grateful that he was proud of Tipperary's fight for Irish Freedom and his family's role in this fight. Thankful for his poets eyes, for the words of love and betrayal, justice and injustice, rejection and redemption.

Grateful that Shane lifted us out of ourselves and that he never gave up. The Light he empowered in us to dance and to sing and to make fun and to shout, and to yell and to laugh and to cry and to love and to be free. Your music will live forever, you are the measure of our dreams."

Adams concluded his tribute in Irish.

There was dancing in the aisles of the beautiful, 127-year-old Gothic Revival Church, as The Fairytale of New York played, and there was not a dry eye when members of the Pogues concluded the almost three-hour Funeral Mass with the heartfelt "The Parting Glass."

Salute to Terrence O'Sullivan

The Irish American Democrats PAC gathered last month at the venerable Phoenix Park Hotel on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. to present a lifetime achievement award to Laborer's International Union of North America (LIUNA) retiring General President, Terrence O'Sullivan; having served almost 24 years in that leadership position. The Laborer's press office shared: "LIUNA has been O'Sullivan's life's work and his commitment has always been rooted in his devotion to the cause, purpose, and mission of the Labor movement. 'There has been no higher honor or privilege than to represent, defend, and fight for the strong, proud, and united men and women of LIUNA,'

Continued on page 27

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Irish American Carl Hughes from Ohio (right) congratulates Laborer's President Terry O Sullivan (left) in Washington, D.C.

O'Sullivan said. 'Each and every day I have served as General President, I have been awed by the power of this union to lift the burdens, struggle, and strife of those who are fighting for a foothold in the middle class.'

During O'Sullivan's leadership, LIUNA significantly increased resources for organizing and dramatically grew the union's political action committee, launching it into the ranks of the top five PACs in the U.S with a political presence and power felt across the country." The Executive Council of the AFL-CIO shared: "O'Sullivan's passion and advocacy for working people extended beyond the borders of the United States and Canada.

A longtime, vocal supporter of Sinn Féin and its work to secure a peaceful, just and united Ireland, O'Sullivan continues to work closely with the party, its allies and Irish labor leaders to advocate for full implementation of the historic Good Friday Agreement."

U.S. Senate Majority Leader, Sen. Chuck Schumer said this about O'Sullivan:

"There would be no expansive middle class in America without the labor movement, and the labor movement would not be the same today without Terry O'Sullivan and LIUNA. The proud members of LIUNA helped build our roads, our bridges, tunnels, office buildings and housing. Under Terry's

leadership, LIUNA – the laborer's union, as it is fondly known – has become one of the most impactful unions of the twenty first century."

Sen. Sherrod Brown Honors O'Sullivan

O'Sullivan acknowledged Sen. Sherrod Brown of Ohio in attendance, as well as Rep. Richie Neal of Massachusetts, Rep. Brendan Boyle of PA., and former Speaker Nancy Pelosi of CA. As well as Ireland's Ambassador to the U.S. Geraldine Byrne Nason. O'Sullivan gave a salute to "The one and only Stella O'Leary (President and Founder of Irish Dems PAC), over the past 28 years I have been awed and inspired by her tireless and relentless dedication and commitment to The Cause, The Purpose and The Mission of both Irish Dems and The American Trade Union Movement. She has single handedly raised millions of dollars for State, Congressional and Presidential races, to elect Democrats and to ensure that they promote the policy priorities of Irish Americans."

Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams, "Terry O'Sullivan has kept alive the spirit and legacy of James Connolly." O'Sullivan was named The Irish Echo's Irish Laborer of the Year in 2022 as well as inducted into Irish America's Hall of Fame. O'Leary thanked Terry for all his years of hard work for America's working men and women and for Peace and Justice on the Island of Ireland.

St. Patrick's Day 2024 Theme

Start your preparations for St. Patrick's Day 2024 and the hope for a Border Poll for a United Ireland under the provisions of the Good Friday Accord. Let us pray and set a goal that such a vote can take place by the time The U.S.A. celebrates its Semi quincentennial (250th) or alternatively the Sestercentennial, which is easier to pronounce or even better, America250 on July 4th, 2026. In Cleveland, the sponsor of the parade, The United Irish Societies of Greater Cleveland has announced the theme of the 2024 parade as "Ireland: One Island, One Nation."

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Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

ALBENA "ANNIE" O'DONNELL

January 7, 1938 - December 3, 2023



ALBENA "ANNIE" O'DONNELL (nee Duddy), age 85 (native of Derry City, Co. Derry, Ireland) beloved wife of the late John, mother

of Sean and the late Philomena; sister of the late Mario Duddy; aunt of Michael and Paul Duddy; cousin of Lebra and John Mullin and dear friend of many. Annie was a proud member of the West Side Irish American Club, where she was a longtime volunteer and bartender, and was honored in 2020 as Woman of the Year. Passed away December 3, 2023. Inurnment private in Derry, Ireland. Memorial contributions are suggested to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, P.O. Box 5014 Hagerstown, MD 21741 or www.michaeljfox.org Obituary courtesy of Chambers Funeral Homes •

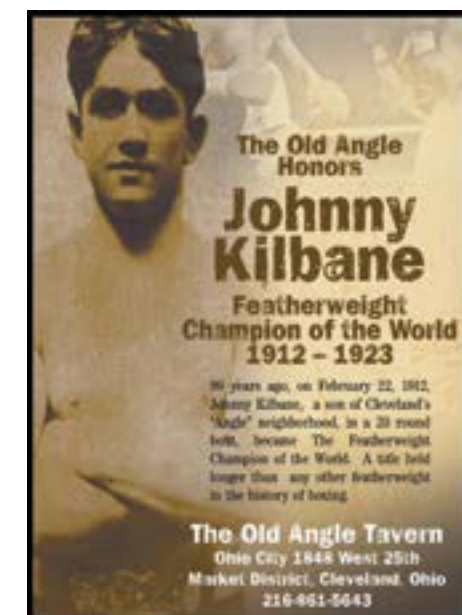
CATHERINE T. "KAY" McNEELEY

January 29, 1926 - November 21, 2023



CATHERINE T. "KAY" McNEELEY (nee McFadden), age 97, beloved wife of the late James T.; loving mother of Maureen, Patricia Dixon (Robert)

and Catherine Iler (Robert); beloved grandmother of Michael McNeeley (Candace), Joshua Dixon (deceased), Robert Dixon, Jr., Briannon Dixon, Michael Iler (Mallory) and Catherine Iler; great-grandmother of Joshua; sister of Mary McFadden, John McFadden, Margaret Cox and Ann Joyce (Martin) (all deceased); aunt, great-aunt and dear friend of many. Passed away November 21, 2023 at her home. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to your favorite charity would be appreciated. Obituary courtesy of Chambers Funeral Homes •





CLEVELAND IRISH

FRANCIS MCGARRY



Los Altos por Siempre, Part Two

Last month we discussed the shortage of sailors and soldiers during the War of 1812. Irish blood was spilled on both sides of the conflict. Irish blood won the Battle of Fort Stephenson and eliminated the British army's threat to the Great Lakes region, and Ohio. It was also Irish blood that won the Battle of Lake Erie and gave the American forces control of the

waterways as well.

du Lac

The British controlled Lake Erie from the beginning of the war. The *Adams* was the only American ship on the lake, and it was not functional at the start of the conflict. At the Siege of Detroit, the *Adams* was taken by the British and renamed *Detroit*.

Master Commandant Oliver Hazard Perry was appointed to command the American forces on Lake Erie. His first orders were to build some ships, apparently a prerequisite in the Navy business. That was not as easy as it sounds, if it does sound easy, due to a shortage of nails.

The second order of business was to get some sailors. He was able to piece together crews for the ships and gained control of Lake Ontario.

The Battle

It was September 10th, 1813. Perry and his vessels were anchored at Put-in-Bay as the British attacked. It was the *Detroit* that fired the first shot.

The *Lawrence* was the flagship for Perry, but that did not last



Perry (standing) after abandoning Lawrence in a 1911 painting by Edward Percy Moran

long. It was inoperable from the English cannons and Perry had to transfer his flag to the *Niagara*, with Cyrus Tiffany, an African American sailor who served in the Revolutionary War.

Historians estimate that 10% of the crews on the American ships were African American. 80% of the *Lawrence's* crew were dead or wounded.

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Perry attacked with the *Niagara*, and the *Detroit* and another British vessel, *Queen Charlotte*, collided assisting the American cannons. That was the beginning of the end for the British fleet in Lake Erie and eliminated the potential threat of an English attack on Ohio, Pennsylvania or Western New York.

Theodore Roosevelt and most historians credit the comparative advantage Perry had with ships and cannon. Perry received a Congressional Gold Medal and the Thanks of Congress. "Don't give up the ship" were the words on his battle flag and which followed him in nine victories on Lake Erie.

Irish blood

Oliver Hazard Perry was born in Rhode Island, which accounts for 3% of all Jeopardy questions according to one of my Hibernian brothers. He was the son of Sarah Wallace Alexander and US Navy Captain Christopher Raymond Perry.

His ma was born in 1768 in County Down. His father fought in the American Revolution and in 1779, he joined the Continental Navy. The ship he served on was captured off the coast of England, and he was a prisoner in the Newry Barracks in Ireland.

Saint Patrick is said to have planted a yew tree in Newry in the 5th century. Christopher Perry escaped and met his future wife Sarah, who is the niece of William Wallace. *Braveheart* tells his story and the First War of Scottish Independence. He was drawn and quartered for high treason by King Edward I of England.

We have shared some of the stories that involved those of Irish decent on both sides of the battlefield during the War of 1812. The administration of James Madison declared war to assert the superiority of a republic and the hegemony of the United States, and its system of government, in North America.

Although not the most studied or taught conflict in US history, it solidified the national and political identity of our young country. It cleared distinguished us from our northern neighbor. This is particularly true for our

part of the country and all of the Great Lakes region.

This was a war that involved Irish immigrants and soldiers fighting for both combatants, and for some, fighting for each county at different moments of the war. The war was a civil war within a civil war for those societies and cultures that fought.

Like all civil wars, it also affected those who did not fight, creating division in families and communities. Loyalists fled to Canada and Irish soldiers in the British army fled to America.

It was a battle to establish the sovereignty of the new American republic and, for many of the Irish involved, the right of self-determination in regard to citizenship. The British policy that Irish immigrants in America retained their obligations to the British king only fed the republican movement in both America and Ireland.

The heroes of the War of 1812 that we have mentioned in these articles were people who made choices to fight and whom to fight for in the war. Some of them were Irish, and they were not alone.

Ohio

The fear of invasion and the general disruptions of war aside, the war paid Ohio substantial economic returns. Military contracts to feed, clothe and outfit the American forces created a boom in the economy for the state. The defeat of native groups resulted in increased settlement. Those settlers used military roads to re-locate to Ohio in general, and to Cleveland in particular.

It was a catalyst for growth that would lead to the export of Ohio goods to other states, including making trips to New Orleans with Ohio grain. By 1816, more than 1,200 flatbeds were taking the Ohio River to the Mississippi and the Big Easy.

It was that economic growth that fostered canal discussions. That would further change the face of Cleveland and its position as an economic and cultural destination.

That history was made possible by Oliver Hazard Perry at the Battle of Lake Erie, and George Croghan at the Battle of Fort

Stephenson, two soldiers with Irish blood who saved Cleveland from the British. In other conflicts it would be said, "If it wasn't for them, we would all be speaking English." The fact that most of us do indicates the complexity of the Irish narrative and how it manifested during the War of 1812. ●

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 founder of Bluestone Hibernian Charities. 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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SUSAN MANGAN



The Drummers

One grey winter day, I sat outside on the steps of the Art Institute of Chicago drinking coffee. I planned, as I always do when visiting the city, to spend the afternoon viewing art while I waited for my daughter to finish her workday at law school.

Content with the bustle of Michigan Avenue, I listened to a street band pound urban rhythms on plastic buckets and steel paint cans. Passersby danced and tossed money their way. Little children jumped in time to the tribal beats.

A young mother pushed a double baby carriage while two older

children held onto her long woolen coat. The woman seemed tired amid the palpable energy.

I smiled remembering my time as a young mother balancing my three stepping-stones, three children in four years, in my arms. As my mother always told me, "The days are long, but the years short."

I began to think about my mother and both of my grandmothers, and how these women each influenced my life in different, but equally important ways. From my mother, I learned kindness and compassion; from my grandmother Mim, I discovered my deep love of literature; from Rose, my Italian, Chicago grandmother, I learned the value of child-like innocence.

For a few moments, I was transported away from the city sounds of drums and blaring sirens back to my childhood. On any given Saturday, my dad would bundle the family up in the station wagon and we would head away from our close-knit Chicago neighborhood to the cultural sites of the city.

I loved the shark tank at the Shedd Aquarium and the mummies in the Field Museum. We would wander among the lions at the Lincoln Park Zoo, and sometimes climb aboard the paddle boat rides on the lagoon. On rainy Sunday afternoons, we would drive downtown just to watch the Lake Michigan waves loom large and crash mightily against the shores of Belmont Harbor.

The Art Institute

When I reached adolescence, my mother and I visited the Art Institute at Christmas. We ate lunch at Water Tower Place and made our way to the museum to visit our favorite Impressionist paintings before heading home on the L train.

Since 1894, two lions have guarded the doors to the museum. During the holidays, the lions are wreathed with glorious green garland and red bows. The lions stand as an iconic Chicago symbol and a portal to some of my fondest memories.



and my history.

With all my might, I tried to peer beyond the crowded city streets; I longed to conjure an image of my mother walking up the stairs toward the lions, or my grandmother Rose holding her own mother's hand as they walked in beaten leather shoes and ragged clothes toward State Street.

My great-grandmother would make my grandmother stand beneath the Marshall Field's Clock on State Street for hours while she went to bargain for clothing and food for her many children. My grandmother knew not to move or make herself obvious. The clock stood as her guardian. Grandma would eat hard Italian bread from her

Continued on page 31

And so, on this winter's day, many years after my mom and I visited the Art Institute for the first time, I sat on the cold steps with my chin resting between the palms of my gloved hands, looking toward State Street, the L tracks,

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The grieving friend found a perfect piece of sea glass that washed upon the shores of Keem Beach: a symbol of hope amid her pain.

Years ago, when my father-in-law first brought me to Keem, I also was gifted with a piece of sea glass. It was a perfect sphere. Looking back, it symbolized the forging of my husband's past and the part I would play in his future. The sea glass, both the girl's and mine, is a perfect symbol of beginnings and endings, the connectedness of old acquaintances and new.

As I sat on the steps of the museum, I pondered the amazing

oddity of life: how a half-Italian girl from Chicago moved to Cleveland and married into an Irish family. I questioned whether our destinies are determined, held in the ether that binds humanity together, or whether our fate is held in the arms of happenstance.

I finished my last sip of coffee, stood up and looked past the crowds once again toward the vision of my past. The spirits of my past, however, were no more present than those of my future. All I could sense was the collective joy thrumming in the air. All I wished for was to be present in the moment, standing between the wreathed lions, listening

to the beating of my heart as it fell in harmonious rhythm with the joyful sounds of the street drummers sharing their art. •

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

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pockets and gaze out from under her dark eyelashes at the grandeur and poverty that co-existed on State Street.

My grandmother never came to any harm, and lived to tell me in hushed tones of what her life as a girl growing up in Chicago during the early years of 1900 was like. I suppose my grandmother Rose also gifted me with the art of storytelling.

At times, it is difficult to be a keeper of memories. Within my heart I have stored family joy and pain, hope and sorrow. Like my grandmother, I always try to look for beauty.

In some ways, it is akin to recognizing the magnificence not just of a museum curated masterpiece, but the raw beauty of a painting wrought on the side of an abandoned building.

It is a gift to be able to peel away the layers of reality to uncover the wonder of innocence, and to share that vision with others. Sometimes I wish that I could shout my words of joy and peace from the top of the highest building. I want to enlighten and encourage others to listen to the stories of strangers who may become friends and acquaintances that we have never truly heard.

Recently, I met a young teacher of Irish descent. She traveled back to Achill Island with her mother and her friend who had lost her mother. They brought sea glass from Lake Erie to place at the graves in Slievemore of family members bearing their surnames.

ilrish's shamrock squares



Taking turns, connect a line from one shamrock to another.
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TERRY FROM DERRY

TERRY BOYLE



Coat of Many Colours

We've come around to that time of the year again when we think about new beginnings. There are any number of advocates to push us to reflect on the past to improve things in the coming year. I'm going to be one of those voices who is going to encourage you to take a good look at the madness of last year and work towards bringing some kind of sanity and peace into 2024.

It doesn't take a genius to

highlight the monsters of the last 12 months. We've witnessed endless attacks on our democracy. The former president has taken it upon himself to become the 'orange Jesus,' offering us salvation through his vindictive dictatorship.

He has shown his true colours and they are more than orange. His yellow streak of cowardice shines through in his deliberate attempt to distract us from seeing his actual insidiousness.

This man who would be king cares nothing about this country. He wants to make America corrupt again. In diddling his taxes, he has revealed a blatant disregard for those of us who have shown due diligence.

He is a mockery to those of us who believe in the rule of law because he believes he is above the law. While you and I would be forced into silence, he has shown no humility with no sense of accountability, displaying only a coward's approach to guilt, blaming someone else, anyone else he can find to act as a fall guy.

A reign of dictatorship and retribution is what we can expect should the majority of voters lose their common sense for a second time.

We've watched numerous others who have believed this man's lies about the 2020 election fall on their swords for him. Others have had their eyes opened to his egotistical ravings and chosen to honour their conscience instead of his lies.

I would ascribe the colour green to this man. His envy of others who have gone before him is grossly demonstrated in his dismissal of their good works. Obama has made many changes for good and has shown a humility that is beyond this man's comprehension.

The Orangeman despises the Beatitudes since he regards humility as a sign of weakness. He has no time for compassion. Those who regard him as their saviour will be damned by his gospel of

me first.

The green-eyed god has smiled favourably on this man of no standing. What else can he want? Perhaps he would like to dominate the world. He certainly has admired and envied other well-known dictators known for their absolute corruption. His envy is palpable. Driven, as he is, to be the centre of attention, he's willing to shove the Ukrainian and Israeli conflict whenever the media forgets to post some of his ravings and become even more despicable.

The Orangeman is not such a great image for a Northern Irish Catholic who has become used to the annual march to celebrate the Protestant King William's defeat of Catholic James in 1690.

Continued on page 33

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Orange signifies for Northern Irish Catholics, domination, and punishment.

The Orange Jesus is a suitable moniker for a man who longs to dominate and control. A reign of dictatorship and retribution is what we can expect should the majority of voters lose their common sense for a second time.

The adage comes to mind, fool me once, shame on you, fool me twice shame on me. I would like to feel that this country that has become my country of choice will not disgrace itself.

With sorrow, I would also ascribe to this man the colour red. His hateful rhetoric has spurred many to violence. We only have to look at the actions of those who attacked the nation's capital on January 6th to understand how his words are bloodied. Some have testified that this man's words incited them to actions they would not have normally undertaken.

January 6

Let's not forget that blood was spilt on that day of infamy. Members of law enforcement have suffered because this man has shown little or no regard for their safety. Given the opportunity to intervene and bring peace to the situation, he sat back and watched the proceedings with glee.

He has insulted the men who have dedicated themselves to serving and protecting us with his trivializing of the rioters' actions. When it comes to who he will defend, don't expect it to be those in law enforcement. Let him ridicule veterans who have suffered to protect his cowardly soul and play games with state secrets.

Some still love him regardless of his hatred of them. He has privately called some of his strongest supporters' pieces of shit, and still, this doesn't deter them from their allegiance to him.

This man has several major court cases to answer to in which he claims to be innocent. Given his track record, white is not a colour he deserves.

Even Oscar Wilde's protagonist, Dorian Gray, subconsciously acknowledges his guilt after killing his artist friend, Basil, by

ordering orchids but refuses to take any white ones. This Orange Jesus is without a conscience.

His innocence is as damning as Cain's after he's vanquished his rival. If we listen to the voice of reason, we will get rid of the fake Orange Jesus.

Put him in an institution where he can wear a nice orange jumpsuit and proclaim his innocence to anyone who cares enough to listen. If we want to make a serious change in the world, let's drain the swamp of the father of lies.

This country deserves better than the far right-wing idiots who embarrass us all with their fake facts, and overt racism. We have a country that used to be a sanctuary for those who were different, now it's become a haven for fascists.

Books are banned, drag queens are seen as a threat to morality, despite the immorality of those espousing such ideals, and the currency of the day is bigotry. Is this the land of the free or the land of the deceived? If the colours of red, white and blue are meant to mean anything, let's hope it is tolerance, diversity and truth. ●

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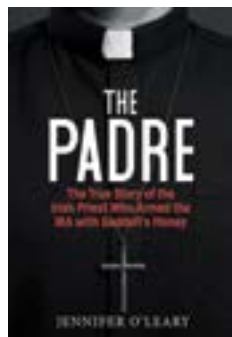




OFF THE SHELF

TERRY KENNEALLY

Troubles. Born in County Tipperary and raised by a mother whose violent republicanism encouraged



her son to become a priest, Ryan went from a man who started out giving money from collection boxes in County Tipperary meant for the missions to the IRA and whose

own republican convictions, singlemindedness and sheer ruthlessness turned him into their "man" in Libya.

To begin with, he was only a name and a question mark - "Ryan" - written in the corner of a notebook, a "throwaway" remark by a source: "if you want a story about the IRA that's never been told by the main player himself, there's a Ryan you need to speak to." This throwaway set author

Jennifer O'Leary on Ryan's trail and led to *The Padre*.

A member of the Pallatine order of priests. Ryan initially worked in Africa amongst the disadvantaged peoples in Tanganyka, but realized quickly that the traditional missionary role was not for him. He went on to become an active IRA supporter and friend of Muammar Gaddafi.

As a provisional IRA militant, he funneled Gaddafi's money to the IRA, which was then used in its bomb making activities in Ireland, England and across Europe for almost two decades. Father Patrick Ryan evaded intelligence agencies across Europe. He became the subject of two unsuccessful extradition requests; he was for a time, one of the most wanted men in Europe.

Hiding in plain sight, he crisscrossed Europe in a camper van, finding ways to not only fund IRA violence, with Gaddafi's money, but make it more effective. Ryan explains in the book with disturbing pride how he adopted Memo Park timers-devices he saw Swiss drivers use to remind them that their time on a parking meter was about to expire to make the IRA bombs more reliable.

The IRA went on to use them in "scores" of attacks, including at Warrenpoint, the Canary Warf and in Brighton, when the IRA failed to assassinate Margaret Thatcher but killed four others. Ryan is a priest with blood on his hands, and, rightly, O'Leary emphasizes the human costs.

Though Ryan's is a remarkable story, it is also a chilling one: "the only regret I have being that I wasn't more effective; that the bombs made with components I supplied didn't kill more." A TOP SHELF read.●

Terrence Kenneally is an attorney and owner of Terrence J. Kenneally and Associates in Rocky River, Ohio. He obtained his Masters Degree in Irish Studies and will teach Irish History and Literature at Elyria Catholic High School.

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@LindaBurke47

LINDA FULTON BURKE

ACROSS

- 1 They were childhood friends from _____, Co. Dublin.
- 3 "Joe _____," a song about an IRA member who was the fifth person to die on the 1981 Hunger Strike.
- 7 _____ William Brown (1982) (Ireland #4)
- 10 World ____ Symphony (1990) (Ireland #12)
- 13 Up and _____ (1973) (Ireland #1)
- 15 _____ Connolly (1968) (Ireland #15)
- 16 _____ Me At Christmas (1986) (Ireland #7)
- 18 "My _____ is in Ireland" became #2 in 1985 in Ireland.
- 19 Merman (1983) (____ #23)
- 22 The band did play together again for the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the _____ Rising in 2016.
- 23 _____ Mac I'm Nearly Forty (1984) (Ireland #16)
- 24 Irish _____ (1983) (Ireland #3)
- 25 The origins of Te Wolfe _____ date back to August 1963.
- 27 Farewell to _____ (1983) (Ireland #11)
- 29 _____ Byrne joined the band in 1964.
- 31 The other 3 continued to tour under their own names (_____ of the Wolfe Tones).
- 32 _____ Paddy (1973) (Ireland #19)
- 34 _____ On Rockall (1975) (Ireland #17)
- 35 In 2014 they celebrated their 50th _____.

DOWN

- 2 The band _____ in November 2014.
- 4 _____ Of Home (1986) (Ireland #6)
- 5 Flow _____ Water (1988) (Ireland #6)
- 6 Derek left the _____ in 2001,
- 8 Song Of _____ (1984) (Ireland #2)
- 9 Original members were Brian and Derek _____ and Noel Nagel.
- 11 Padraic _____ (1979) (Ireland #4)
- 12 "Celtic Symphony" was written by Brian



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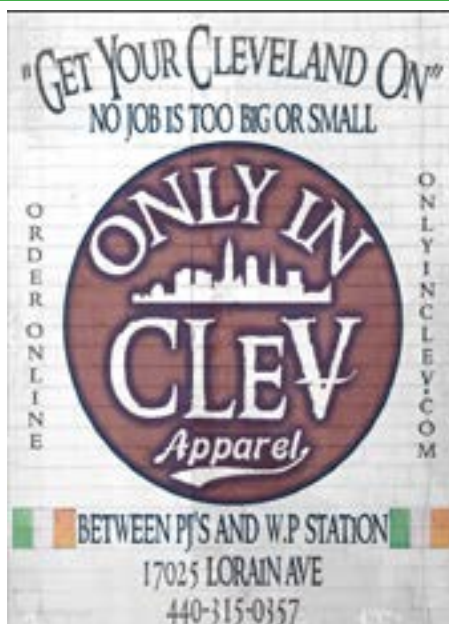
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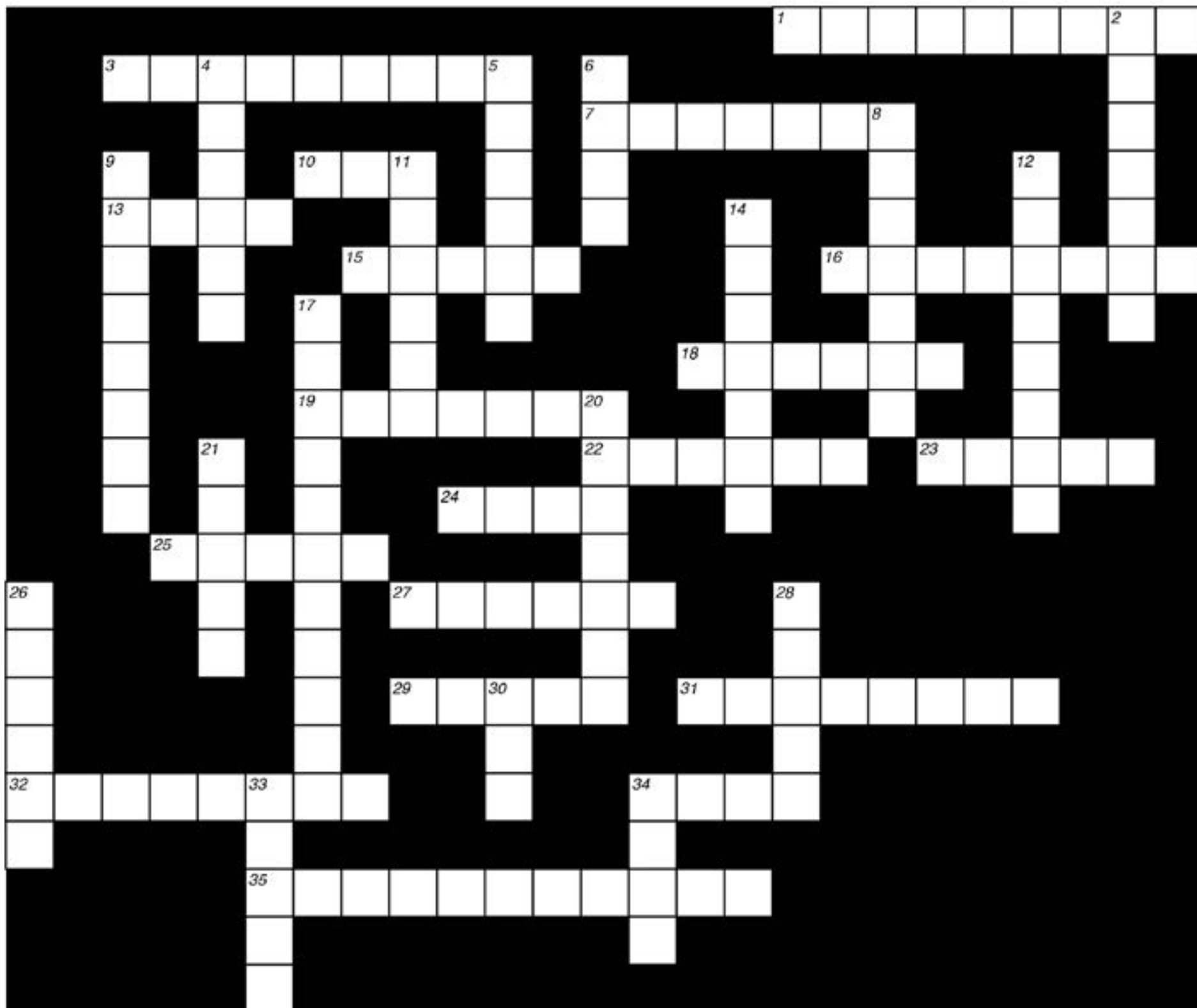
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The Wolfe Tones

By Linda Fulton Burke



Warfield in 1987 for the centennial of Celtic Football Club.

- 14 _____ Of New York (1981) (Ireland #1)
 17 _____ (1970) (Ireland #14)

20 Later The Wolfe Tones released "You'll Never Beat the Irish" and more recent album "Child of _____".

- 21 _____ Breasted Pearl (1972) (Ireland #7)

26 _____ Of Earls (1987) (Ireland #3)

28 _____ Warfield recorded an album "Legacy" in 1995 using his own name.

- 30 Fourteen ____/ the Punt (1979) (Ireland #14)

33 A Nation Once _____ (2003) (Ireland #15)

34 On The One _____ (1972) (Ireland #20)

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