

2024

Festival



Focus



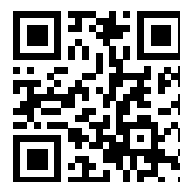
ilrish
newsmagazine

June 2024 | Volume 18 - Issue 6



'Till the Cows Come Home in Roscommon

SCAN
TO READ
ONLINE





EDITORS CORNER

JOHN O'BRIEN, JR.

In the Company of Great Leaders

I hope your summer has kicked off in grande style. The Cleveland GAA Annual Memorial 7's tournament was held May 15-16 and was a huge success. What a fantastic job by ClevelandGAA Chairman (and *iIrish Taking the Fields of Glory* columnist) Vince Beach and his army.

Two fields ran continuously, on time, and with great competition as men's and ladies' teams from across the Midwest division and from Toronto faced off. Then everyone shared in winner's celebrations in the pavilion at Cleveland GAA's beautiful home field at the West Side Irish American Club.

This year's tournament was in memorial to long-time player and champion, George Dunne, Sr. You can read about George in last month's issue, or online at

<https://iirish.us/taking-the-fields-of-glory-oh-the-summer-sports-time-is-coming/>

Hundreds of hours have been put into the fields in the last few years by the Beach army, resodding, removing loads of gravel, seeding, fertilizing and on and on. This is the finest field I have ever seen in my 40+ years affiliated with Cleveland GAA. To see a Men's football, women's football, hurling, camogie and youth teams compete (and earn championships) under the ClevelandGAA banner is something never seen previously to the army working their magic under Vince's tireless and visionary guidance. He and they put in a huge load of hours for the benefit of us all. We are so fortunate to have him and them among us.

Community Heroes

Vince and *Madigan Muses* columnist Marilyn Madigan were honored as Irish Community Heroes by the Irish Echo. I often tout how we have such an amazing team, what we call in Irish *Meitheal* (pron. *Mee Hawl*). It means people working together as a team for the greater good. Their accomplishments may not always get a plaque, or even get noticed, but they do make all of our lives so much richer.

Unfortunately, we did lose two Irish community legends – 14-year *iIrish* columnist Linda Fulton Burke and good friend and constant supporter Jack Kilroy both went home to God. May they rest in peace and watch over us always. Our love to their loved ones.



Vincent and Marilyn

Besides sponsoring the Cleveland GAA, we also sponsor the annual Ohio Rose of Tralee. The big day for selecting the next Ohio Rose is June 9th. All of the candidates are featured inside, on pages 24 & 25. Who do you think will be our next Ohio Rose?

Don't forget to pray hard and eat well; a great opportunity to do so is at the annual Pioneer Mass and Luncheon at St. Pat's Bridge that June 9th morning. Call John Lackey for tickets 440.331.0048 to reserve your spot.

You have heard us talk highly about Columbus Judge Michael Mentel's new book, *The 1981 Hunger Strike*. It is *highly recommended*. Well-written, meticulously researched, and especially illuminating. It explains new information available for the first time, in the recently released British

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

About Our Cover:
'Till the Cows Come Home in Roscommon
Photo by Ausra Dambrauskaitė-O'Brien

Spring 25 Tournament Game Winners

By Kay and Dick Lardie

The Spring 25 Tournament was a great success. 60 players competed to get their name on the trophy. We needed a playoff to determine the partners for the final table.

Mike Hennigan and Vince Gallagher finished in fourth place, after being defeated in a one game playoff by John and Pat Hayes. The Hayes brothers then duelled it out with the other finalists, Ed Campell and his partner Mike Lavelle, and Chris Campbell and Marty Joe Kilbane. The Champions are Chris Campbell & Marty Joe Kilbane!

A special thanks to Kevin McDonough and his brigade for serving (as usual) an absolutely fabulous dinner. Much appreciation to the volunteers who make it all run smoothly: Kathleen Mangan, Kathleen Sheehan, Christine O'Donnell, Mary Ellen Grealis and Kathy Petit.

Watch this space for news of the next tournament, and a new class to learn how to play 25. If you are interested in playing in the next tournament, we will be holding classes in the summer. •



The Champions, Chris Campbell and Marty Joe Kilbane.



Left to right: Kathleen Mangan, Kathleen Sheehan, Christine O'Donnell, Mary Ellen Grealis and Kathy Petit.

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A Garden of Their Own

Non-Profit Formed to Build Scottish Cultural Garden

By **Barry Conway**

In 1896, John D. Rockefeller donated the land that forms the Cleveland Cultural Gardens today. The Cultural Gardens began in 1916, with the establishment of the William Shakespeare Garden by Leo Weidental, who later conceived of the idea to establish more gardens honoring the artists and cultural icons of the immigrant communities who had come to call Cleveland home.

His idea led to the founding of the Cleveland Garden League in the mid-1920s.

The gardens, then and now, are sponsored and developed by the individual ethnic communities after

which they're named. They work in conjunction with the Cleveland Cultural Garden Federation (CCGF).

The Cleveland Garden League was re-named CCGF in 1952, and the city began to bring their cultural "homes" to life. The Irish Garden, for example, was dedicated in 1939, and was built with support of the Federal Government's Works Progress Administration, as part of FDR's New Deal.

The first Scottish designated garden area was on the west side of Liberty Blvd, later to be renamed Martin Luther King Blvd, across from where the Irish Garden now stands. The exact date of the placement isn't known.

While the area was so designated, the Scots were unable to organize or raise money to build a garden at that time. So, there it stood, for decades, a dedicated garden area with no garden, flag or sign.

In 1991, an effort led by well-known bagpiper John Karrick, Bob Crawford and others, to raise the money necessary to build a Scottish Garden by forming the Scottish Cultural Garden Foundation was attempted. However, this effort, like previous efforts, failed to gain enough support to build a garden.

With the Scots unable to raise the money necessary to build a garden, and other ethnic groups wanting to be represented, pressure was

mounting to give the designated Scottish Garden area to another country. A compromise was reached - the Scots gave up their original area and were given an area on the east side of East Blvd, taking an approximate one-acre portion of the British Garden.

The British Garden is considered to be the first garden, as it includes the Shakespeare Garden of 1916, and pre-dates the formation of the Cleveland Garden League.

With a compromise reached and an acre of land to be developed, Bob Crawford, with his wife Sheila, have again embarked on a journey to generate interest to build a Scottish Garden, but this time, sought to



make sure he had more support from the broader Scottish community.

Bob reached out to the three largest Scottish cultural organizations in northeast Ohio, The Scottish American Cultural Society of Ohio, the Scottish Heritage Association of Northeast Ohio and the Scottish American Association, to secure their support by offering each a seat on the new board and asking for a small donation to register the Scottish Garden with the CCGF.

All organizations agreed and the Scottish Cultural Garden Society, LLC. was formed, in April, 2022. The purpose of this new organization is "The development and maintenance of a garden within the City of Cleveland that commemorates and preserves the cultural, philosophical, and intellectual achievements of Scotland for the enrichment of all our citizens."

Bob and Sheila have assembled a

steering committee, which includes Bruce Greig, Clark Langmack, Bill Kennedy, David McLaughlin, and Alex Murray. The group is working with James McKnight, who is an experienced landscape architect.

Together they have developed a multi-phased project which, when finished, will be sure to "wow" any visitor. The garden will include Highland Rock Garden with stone, heather and thistle; Tartan Plaza, which will include pavers laid in tartan design; Recognition Walkway, with busts of historic figures; Highland Piper Sculpture; Scotch Pine Grove; a cairn; and a putting green.

Phase 1 of the project can't begin until \$25,000 is raised so, they need our support!

To spread the word about their project, The Scottish Garden Society will again exhibit at the Ohio Scottish Games & Celtic Festival June 21-22 at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds in the Clan area. For more information, go to www.ohioscottishgames.com.

The Scottish Cultural Garden Society will be hosting a fundraiser/ meet & greet before and after the Skerryvore concert at Cain Park on Aug 6th. For tickets/ more information see www.scottishculturalgarden.org.

To Read More to the Story, with more text, more pics and LARGER print, visit ilrish.us or:

scan the code:



MILESTONE & SWEET SNAPS



1964. The Caledonian Pipe Band, Cleveland



1964, my first year marching in the Cleveland St Patrick's Day Parade

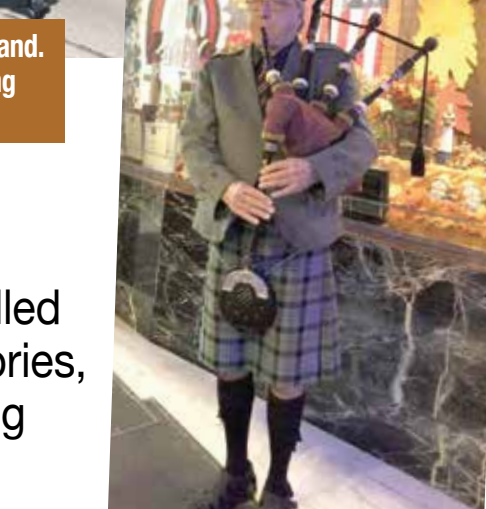


1987, North Coast Pipe Band, representing the Irish American Club East Side.



Irish American Club Eastside Pipe Band. The band was founded in 2001. Going strong ever since.

Bruce Greig
60 years a Piping, filled with wonderful memories, stories, and lifelong friendships.



Editors Corner

Continued from page 2

Government papers from that time.

I learned so much and connected so many events from throughout the Irish journey to what happened much, much later, through reading Mike's book. I thought so much of it that I want you to hear about it too. Not from me, but from Mike himself.

He will be speaking on the book at the West Side Irish American Club on Sunday June 23rd, at 2:00p.m. The WSIA is at 8559 Jennings Road, Olmsted Twp 44138, off the 480 & Stearns Road exit. Entry is free, and Mike will bring books to sign for you as well. I hope you will join us.

Hard to believe, but we wrapped up our 11th year sponsoring Speak Irish Cleveland classes with the generous support of our partner, P.J. McIntyre's. More than 30 students worked hard, studied hard and yes, even played hard, with a load of great stories and laughter, guest speakers and even a sing along or two in Irish.

We have video's and much more info on the class on our ilrish.us website. The next set of ten classes start September 10th; join our community of learners, who are also volunteers, helping at other events, and getting

together for concerts and such ~ we enjoy each other's company, and we would enjoy yours too. Registration is required, so reach out to me with any questions or to sign up.

There is so much more inside. **ilrish** is made in America. We have always been green and are proudly Irish, all year long.

...
Nuair a stapann an ceol, an damhsa déanam an amhlaidh (When the music stops, so does the dance)

John






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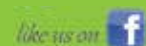
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6/1/2024	Cincinnati	Mens Football	Cincinnati	Detroit	League
6/1/2024	Pittsburgh	Carnegie	Pittsburgh	Cleveland	League
6/1/2024	Pittsburgh	Hurling	Pittsburgh B	Cleveland C	League
6/1/2024	Pittsburgh	Ladies Football	Pittsburgh	Cleveland	League
6/1/2024	Pittsburgh	Mens Football	Pittsburgh	Cleveland	League
6/1/2024	Rochester	Hurling	Rochester	Buffalo F	League
6/1/2024	Rochester	Mens Football	Rochester	Buffalo F	League
6/1/2024	Rochester	Ladies Football	Rochester	Buffalo F	League
6/8/2024	Akron	Hurling	Akron	Cleveland D	League
6/8/2024	Syracuse	Mens Football	Syracuse	Buffalo N	League
6/15/2024	Detroit	Mens Football	Detroit	Pittsburgh	League
6/22/2024	Albany	Hurling	Albany	Buffalo F	League
6/22/2024	Albany	Mens Football	Albany	Buffalo F	League
6/22/2024	Cleveland	Hurling	Cleveland C	Rochester	League
6/22/2024	Cleveland	Hurling	Cleveland D	Akron	League
6/22/2024	Cleveland	Hurling	Akron	Rochester	Exhibition
6/22/2024	Cleveland	Mens Football	Cleveland	Detroit	League
6/22/2024	Rochester	Ladies Football	Rochester	Pittsburgh	Exhibition
6/29/2024	Buffalo	Hurling	Buffalo F	Rochester	League
6/29/2024	Buffalo	Ladies Football	Buffalo F	Rochester	League
6/29/2024	Buffalo	Mens Football	Buffalo F	Rochester	Exhibition
6/29/2024	Buffalo	Mens Football	Buffalo H	Rochester	League
6/29/2024	Cincinnati	Ladies Football	Cincinnati	Cleveland	League
6/29/2024	Cincinnati	Mens Football	Cincinnati	Cleveland	League



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Father's Day
JUNE 16TH



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IRISH NEWS
& EVENTS?**

In Akron?
In Buffalo?
In Detroit?
In Toledo?

Beyond the Pale? In Your Town?

IF YOU DON'T SEND THEM, WE CAN'T PRINT THEM!

Submit news, events, releases, memories, milestones, ads and pics for inclusion in the *ilrish* What's the Craic 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.



Festival Focus



13th Motor City Irish Fest June 7-9

This year's festival headliners The Black Donnelly's, Sina Theil, The Kilmaine Saints, Blackthorn, Brother Crowe, The Codgers, McSpillin, Wakefire, Ironwood,

Crossbow and Enda Reilly. Plus The Leprecons

Featuring 20 bands/performers playing Irish and Celtic music in two tents, including Derek Warfield and the Young Wolfe Tones, and The Gobshites.

The family-friendly event also features a Cultural Tent that explores the history and culture of Ireland, and activities such as traditional Irish dancing featuring many local Irish Dance Schools. Also offered are dancing lessons, Irish football demonstrations, Hugh Irwin – The Kilted Magician, Pipe

Bands, a Kid's Tent featuring crafts and tin whistle lessons, vendors of Irish and Irish-themed goods and clothing, beer stations, and whiskey tastings (separate ticketing).

Festival hours are Friday – 5 – 11 pm, Saturday – Noon – 11 pm, Sunday – Noon Mass, Festival from 1 – 7 pm. Greenmead Historic Park in Livonia, MI. To purchase tickets, and for directions and lodging information, visit motorcityirishfest.com.

outdoor Mass in the amphitheater on Sunday morning is at 11:00 a.m. Reverend Thomas McCann, retired chaplain, will be the main celebrant. All are welcome.

Several area craft breweries will be on hand throughout the weekend, including Akronym, HiHo, Ignite, McArthur's, Missing Falls, and Missing Mountain, as well as Forever Craft Urban Winery. There will also be a whiskey tasting station, featuring Jameson and Tullamore D.E.W. from Ireland, and local Towpath Distillery bourbon.

This annual family-friendly event will feature FREE admission and FREE parking in city decks. Food and beverages will be available for purchase, as well as Irish items and crafts from independent vendors. You need not be Irish to enjoy!

<http://riverfrontirishfest.org/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Riverfront-Irish-Festival-Cuyahoga-Falls-Ohio-89250107183/>



29th Riverfront Irish Festival June 9-11

Cleveland's Marys Lane, Brigid's Cross, The New Barleycorn and Westside Steve; Dulahan from Dayton; and Akron's Callahan & O'Connor, Case & Cairde, and Celtic Rush take the stage. New for 2024 includes Toronto's Michael Darcy and the Atlantic Tramps; Baltimore's Celtic rockers Poehemia; Kalamazoo's On The Lash; Pittsburgh's The Low Kings; and Akron's Minstrels Grën and Emigrant's Wake.

Irish step-dancers from MacCommara Academy will perform on Saturday and Sunday afternoon. Those looking for bagpipers will be pleased to see both the Celtic Eagle Pipe Band and The Red Hackle Pipe and Drums.

In addition to the festival entertainment, vendors and food, the



Penn-Mar Irish Festival June 15

The Penn-Mar Irish Festival returns to the grassy grounds of The Markets at Shrewsbury on Saturday, June 15. This volunteer-run community celebration of Irish heritage features plenty of traditional and

Festival Focus

contemporary live Irish music, Irish dance groups, cultural talks and living history exhibits, non-profit organizations, Irish food, a children's area, and a variety of vendors offering quality Irish goods including gifts, clothing, jewelry, music, books, pottery, photography, stained glass, and more.

Eileen Ivers will once again headline with her amazing Universal Roots band. New for 2024, Eileen will also perform with The Brigideens, a fiery, female band that she formed in 2023 for a concert in Pittsburgh to honor Saint Brigid.

The lineup also includes Screaming Orphans, Enda Reilly, Cas Ceol, Cormorant's Fancy, The Emigsville Band, Hold Fast, Susquehanna Pipes & Drums, McGinley School of Irish Dance, Ni Riain School of Irish Dance, and Oh! Gills Irish Dancers.

The children's area will again offer free crafts, games, face painting, and more.

Some festival seating is provided, but lawn chairs and blankets are welcome. Please, no pets or outside food and beverages.

The Markets at Shrewsbury is located at 12025 Susquehanna Trail, Glen Rock, PA 17327 (in southern York County off I-83 between exits 4 and 8). Free parking and shuttle bus service will be provided at nearby locations (look for signs).

The Shrewsbury Hampton Inn, located a short drive from the festival, has a discounted room block and will provide two comp tickets when checking in on Friday. Use this link to book a room: <https://group.hampton-inn.com/q8o9d4>

For discounted advance festival tickets and complete details, please visit PennMarIrishFestival.com.

You can also follow updates on Facebook and Instagram (@PennMarIrish).

Marketing and volunteer opportunities are available in support of the festival.

For all inquiries, please email PennMarIrish@gmail.com.



3rd Annual Holland Waterfront Celtic Festival & Highland Games June 21-22

West Michigan Irish and Scottish (and others) will gather at the Ottawa County Fairgrounds on Ottawa Beach Road in Holland, Michigan for the 3rd Annual Holland Fest & Games, featuring 16 Irish and Celtic bands on two stages over two days.

The all-day festival is Saturday, June 22, 2024, preceded by a Friday evening, 21 & older "Ceilidh" (concert/party) under a huge "Irish Pub" Tent.

Scheduled to appear are Acoustic Vagabondi, Toby Bresnahan, Selkie, Uneven Ground, Belfast Gin, Enda Reilly, The Barley Saints, The Chelsea House Orchestra, Kennedy's Kitchen, The Conklin Ceili Band, Whorled, The Leprecons, Ironwood, and CrossBow.

Friday night's "Ceilidh" features Canada's favorites, The Mudmen. Saturday evening's grand finale features The Devil's Brigade (formerly The American Rogues).

Scottish Pipe and Drum bands will perform throughout the event; area dance companies will perform

Continued on page 10



June 15

10:30am-9pm

YORK COUNTY, PA

Irish Music & Dance
Vendors • Cultural Talks
Food • Kids Area

EILEEN IVERS
SCREAMING ORPHANS
The Brigideens • Enda Reilly
Cas Ceol • Cormorant's Fancy
Ian Carroll & The Patrick Players
Hold Fast • The Emigsville Band
Plus: Bagpipers & Irish Dancers



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TICKETS & INFO: PennMarIrishFestival.com

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July 19-21, 2024

Friday, 5-11 p.m. Saturday, 1-11 p.m. Sunday, 1-10 p.m.

Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds

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SCAN TO PURCHASE TICKETS

Festival Focus

Irish and Highland dance demonstrations; and the kids' area has games, coloring, temporary tattoos, and more.

Highland Games begin at 9:30 am, featuring more than 70 men and women athletes competing in nine events, including caber-tossing, hammer-throwing and other feats of strength. A dozen ethnic food tents/trucks will assure no one goes hungry, while 20 vendors of Celtic clothing and other merchandise will please shoppers.

A cash bar is available both Friday and Saturday, featuring Guinness, Harp, Smithwick's, Magners and other beers, plus wines, seltzers and more.

Friday tickets are \$22.50 and include free return admission on Saturday; Saturday tickets are \$12 p/ person, 15 & younger admitted free on Saturday.

Friday, June 21, 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM – "21 and older" Ceilidh. Saturday, June 22, 9:00 AM to 11:00 PM
Ottawa County Fairgrounds 1286 Ottawa Beach Road Holland, MI 49424

Info@hollandCelticFestival.org
www.facebook.com/HollandCelticFestival



47th Ohio Scottish Games & Celtic Festival June 21 - 23

From Friday's Calling of the Clans Event to Saturday's Grande Parade and Twilight Tattoo, this is one of Cleveland's most unique and fun

festivals. Competitive Jousting, featuring the Knights of Valour Jousting Troup features knights competing by scoring points with lance strikes.

(7:30 PM Friday evening; 3 PM & 7:30 PM Saturday Grandstands).

The renaissance period is represented by the Barony of the Cleftlands, Cleveland's Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA). The SCA is devoted to the research and re-creation of pre-seventeenth century skills, arts, combat, culture, and employing knowledge of history to enrich the lives of participants through events, demonstrations, and other educational presentations and activities.

Music and dance: Father, Son & Friends; The Prodigals, Bastard Bearded Irishmen, The Low Kings, On the Lash, Andrew McManus Trio, McNamara & Custy, and the Brass Band of the Western Reserve, the Leneghan School of Irish Dance, the Brady Campbell School of Irish Dance and the Cleveland Heights chapter of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.

Reenactments by the 42nd Highland Regiment of Foot, a Revolutionary War period reenactment group based out of Marion, OH. New in 2024: Birds of Prey demonstration & exhibit; darts, held in the Tavern.

Plus: Highland athletics: Caber Toss (telephone pole), pipe band competitions, border collie demonstrations, highland dance competitions, harp & fiddle competition, British Cars, genealogy, clan exhibits, workshops, whiskey tasting, kilted mile and over fifty food and merchandise vendors.

Friday: Gates open 4:45 PM - including the "Calling of the Clans" torch lighting at 9:45; Saturday at 8 AM for early morning Highland Games competitions. The Grand Parade begins at noon. Twilight Tattoo is at 6:00 PM and includes the

Festival Focus

massed pipes and drums, as well as performances by harp, fiddle, highland dancers and the Brass Band of the Western Reserve.

Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, Middleburgh Hts, Ohio. See ohioscottishgames.com for updates and info. •



3rd Annual Mahoning Valley Irish Fest July 19-20, 2024

Attendees can look forward to a delightful array of Irish American foods, captivating dance performances, soul-stirring music, eclectic vendors, and much more. This year, special attractions such as Kids' Day on Saturday 11:00 AM to 5:00 ensuring that young festivalgoers have a day packed with entertainment tailored just for them. Additionally, the inclusion of a neurodivergent tent underscores the festival's commitment to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all attendees.

For the whiskey enthusiasts, there will be offerings for an exclusive whiskey tasting event Friday and Saturday night.

The Mahoning Valley Irish Festival extends its heartfelt appreciation to the community for its continued support. Sponsorships, vendor spots, volunteers, basket raffle donations, and in-kind considerations are all vital to the success of this cherished event. Individuals and businesses interested in contributing to the festival's success are encouraged to reach out to Chairperson Shannon Lehn at

330-770-6785 or shannon@mvirish-festival.com.

The festival is proud to collaborate with Penguin City Brewing Company, bringing together the best of Irish culture and local craftsmanship for an unforgettable experience. Join us for a weekend filled with the warmth of Irish hospitality, the thrill of cultural exploration, and the joy of community camaraderie at the Third Annual Mahoning Valley Irish Festival at Penguin City Brewing Company. •



39th Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival July 19-21, 2024

Featuring: Gaelic Storm, Scythian, Eileen Ivers, Rory Makem, The Byrne Brothers, Crawley & Sofranko, Ian Gould, Ballinloch, New Barleycorn, The Low Kings, Seven Nations, The Narrowbacks, Ally the Piper, The Fitzgeralds, Andrew McManus Trio, Brother Crowe, Brigid's Cross & More.

John O'Brien Sr. started the festival in 1982 to celebrate Irish music, dancing, sports, and theater among Clevelanders. Currently, an estimated population of 1.6 million Irish people live in Ohio, with over 13% residing in the Greater Cleveland Metropolitan area alone.

"We didn't know it would become an annual thing," said O'Brien Sr. "We had nearly 4,000 people at the first one and they kept asking about the next one, so we

Continued on page 12

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AUG. 2-4, 2024

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- High Nelly Bike Rally
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- Celtic Vendors
- Highland Games
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kept it going.”

The only remaining family-run festival in the area, which was originally two days, moved to the fairgrounds in 1993, making way for more space to introduce new exhibits and activities. The event is known for its musical entertainment and draws national and international Irish bands.

The festival is thrilled to welcome internationally renowned artists Gaelic Storm, Eileen Ivers, and Rory Makem to this year's lineup, as well as several other regional and national acts.

There are a variety of activities for the whole family including a children's area with activities and crafts, camogie games, and lots of Irish history and culture to round out the whole weekend.

The festival will continue to be cashless for on-site admission, food, beverages, and festival merchandise. Parente said the progressive move is to help improve the guest experience and offer secure transactions. Other vendors may choose to accept cash payments for their merchandise.

Plus: Cultural and Children's

areas, Pipers, Dancers, Sports, Great food, beverage and treats. FREE Parking.

Berea Fairgrounds: Friday 5-11, Saturday 1 to 11, Sunday 1-10. Mass will be celebrated at 11:30 a.m. on the 20th. General admission is \$20.00 per day, weekend passes are \$50.00. Wristbands are \$10 for the Children's Area or \$35 for a family-pack. For more information: clevelandirish.org and on Facebook.



37th Dublin Irish Fest August 2 - 4

Explore one of the top Irish festivals in the U.S., drawing over 100,000 guests to Dublin, Ohio each year with 7 music stages, 60 acts, and more than 800 performers. The Dublin Irish Festival was



Festival Focus

voted in the top three for "Best Cultural Festival of 2023" by USA Today Readers.

This year's headliners include The High Kings, Socks in the Frying Pan, Teada, Gaelic Storm, Skerryvore, Talisk, Goitse, GADAN with Enda Scahill of We Banjo 3, JigJam, Ispíní na hÉireann, O'Jizo, The Fitzgeralds, Ally the Piper, PoulaPhuca, Drowsy Lads, Bastard Bearded Irishmen and John Whelan with his All Star Ceili Band.

Kick off your weekend with the Dublin Irish Festival 5K and end it with the Festival Finale, in-between there is something for everyone. There are a variety of learning experiences available for every guest that attends. Learn about Irish history, genealogy, instruments or Irish language. Animal lovers can meet Irish breeds and their owners at the Celtic Canine area. Bring your own instrument and find the sessions tent to play a jig with other aspiring musicians. Children have their own area at the Festival featuring crafts, games and entertainment. The festival is complete with over 90 shopping vendors and 30 food vendors.

Save some green and buy your tickets before the price increase on July 20.

For more Info: DublinIrishFestival.org, and follow the Festival on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube.

The Bow Tides, Onóir, Dublin City Ramblers, Seo Linn, The Byrne Brothers, The Peelers, Colm & Laura Keegan, Ally the Piper, Blame Not the Bard, Enda Reilly, Ian Gould, Trinity Irish Dancers, Wylde Nept, Dan Vaughn, Cedar Glen Pipes & Drums, Kellen O'Cullom, Des Moines Irish Session, Stu Ryan O'Brien, Hannah Flowers on the Harp and More on seven stages.

The Battle of the Iowa Irish Bands which takes place on Thursday, August 1st, 6:30pm. Cheer on your favorite and see who will win \$500 and a spot on an Iowa Irish fest stage Saturday, August 3rd!

Visit www.IowaIrishFest.com, get the Iowa Irish Fest Ap at the Apple App and Google Play stores to view schedule of events, map, manage your classes/workshops and much more. Follow Iowa Irish Fest on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/IowaIrishFest> to stay up to date. Tickets are on sale NOW!

Iowa Irish Fest is held in the Lincoln Park area of downtown Waterloo.



LAKWOOD ARTS FESTIVAL

Lakewood Arts Festival August 3

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



DOWNTOWN WATERLOO

Iowa Irish Fest August 2 - 4

Featuring: Scythian, Enter the Haggis, The High Kings, Elephant Sessions, The Screaming Orphans,



Festival Focus

photography, art glass, ceramics, jewelry, sculpture, fiber and more.

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

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

For more info: www.lakewoodartsfest.org.



Milwaukee Irish Fest August 15 - 18, 2024

While Celtic culture makes its home in Ireland and other Celtic nations, it has made an impact all over the world. At the

2024 Milwaukee Irish Fest, that global footprint will take center stage, with a newly announced lineup of a wide range of artists. Entertainment acts will descend on Milwaukee's lakefront from Ireland, Japan, Italy, Canada, and more.

Artists making their first trip to Milwaukee Irish Fest include O'Jizo (Tokyo), Gadan (Italy), and Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy (Canada). Plus: The Tumbling Paddies, Sinead O'Connor tribute concert (Saturday), with The Screaming Orphans and other artists honoring the Irish music icon. The Bow Tides, The High Kings, Byrne Brothers, Doolin', and more.

And as always, a host of local Irish dance schools will take the stage for thrilling dance performances. In addition to more than 100 music acts on 16 stages, the festival celebrates all areas of Celtic culture, including sports, educational classes, food and drink, and kids activities.



Chicago Gaelic Park Irish Fest August 23 - 25

Irish Fest 2024 features three stages of music and dance, a performing arts stage, a traditional Irish tea tent, wine tent, and the Leprechaun Tent with kidfriendly activities and entertainment, as well as shop and food vendors.

The music lineup includes first-time CGP Irish Fest performers: Uilleann piper/whistle player/composer, Conor Mallon from Keady, Co. Armagh; the Co. Donegal-based modern folk group, Onóir; and the German born, Irish-based multi-instrumentalist/singer/songwriter,

Continued on page 14

Michigan Irish Music Festival
Presented by FEFCU FAMILY FINANCIAL Credit Union

Sept. 12-15th
Celebrating 25 years

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"Our festival strives to keep the Irish culture alive in Southeast Michigan through this family-friendly event. We hope you'll join us!" -Kevin Murphy, Festival Co-Chairman



August 9-10-11, 2024
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www.OhioCelticFestival.com

Festival Focus

Sina Theil. The Byrne Brothers, JigJam, Gaelic Brew, plus local musicians The Larkin & Moran Brothers, Liam Durkin, and The Dirty Wellies.

The inclusion of the rock cover band 4Cast and three tribute bands—One of These Nights (A Tribute to the Eagles and their Solo Work), Dancing Queen: An ABBA Salute, and An Irish Heartbeat: A Musical Tribute to Van Morrison plus The Bagpipes & Drums of the Emerald Society and The Shannon Rovers.

Visit chicagogaelparkirishfest.org/irish-fest/ for information / to purchase admission tickets in advance at the best pricing. Parking is free and plentiful.

Chicago Gaelic Park, 6119 West 147th Street Oak Forest, Illinois. •



33rd Annual Pittsburgh Irish Festival
 September 6 - 8

The Pittsburgh Irish Festival welcomes Gaelic Storm, The Screaming Orphans, The Drowsy Lads, Morgan Bullock, Eileen Ivers and The Brigideens, Ally the Piper, Reverie Road, Bastard Bearded Irishman, Colm & Laura Keegan, The Low



IGNITE YOUR Irish Spirit

AUGUST 2-4, 2024 · COFFMAN PARK

A vibrant 3-day summer celebration that captures the essence of Irish culture in the heart of Dublin, Ohio.

Experience a variety of Irish entertainment with 7 music stages with more than 800 performers. Enjoy the richness of Irish culture with savory foods, delicious Irish whiskeys, literary presentations, hands-on workshops and athletic demonstrations. The Festival is complete with over 70 shopping vendors and 50 food vendors.



Purchase Tickets



38

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7

MUSIC STAGES

60

ACTS

800

PERFORMERS

Festival Focus

Kings, Donnie Irish, Shane Cook & The Woodchippers, Dennis Doyle, and Fiddle Frenzy. Local performers: Abbots Cross, Alan Irvine, Bastard Bearded Irishmen, Bealtaine, Bell School of Irish Dance, County Mayo, Devilish Merry, Fitzpatrick School of Irish Dance PGH, Mark Guiser, Mike Flaherty, Mike Gallagher, Pittsburgh Ceili Club, Pittsburgh Irish Festival Ceili Band, Rust Town Rounders, Sean Patrick Regan, Shovlin Academy of Irish Dance, Weekend at Blarney's.

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

Located at The Carrie Blast Furnaces National Historic Landmark. Tickets are available now.

About the Pittsburgh Irish Festival: The Irish Partnership of Pittsburgh d.b.a Pittsburgh Irish Festival, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation created to contribute to the rich cultural awareness of Irish history and tradition that exists in Pittsburgh. In addition to our three-day Celtic Celebration, the Pittsburgh Irish Festival has expanded into a year-round resource for education and cultural programs through the creation of the Irish Education Outreach Program. For more information, visit pghirishfest.org.



25th Michigan Irish Music Festival
 September 12 -15

Featuring Gaelic Storm, Kíla, Talisk, Aoife Scott, Seamus Kennedy, JigJam, Dave Curley & Colin Farrell, Siomha, The Friel Sisters, The Irish Music All Stars, Shane Hennessy, Cathal Ó Curráin & Marty Barry, Blackthorn, The Wee Heavies, Ally the Piper, On the Lash, Kennedy's Kitchen, Conklin Céilí Band, Enda Reilly, Ian Gould, Ironwood, Ardan Academy of Irish Dance, and The Mona Shores Fiddlers.

Tickets and complete festival and performer information can be found at www.michiganirish.org. Children 12 & under are free but need a ticket, which can be ordered at the time of purchase.

Stay tuned to the website and Michigan Irish Music Festival social media pages for additional updates.

Held at Heritage Landing in downtown Muskegon, Michigan! •

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Festival Focus



CUYAHOGA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

June 21-22, 2024

Gates Open Friday 4:45 PM - 10:30 PM

Saturday 8:00 AM - 10:30 PM

Calling of the Clans Event Friday at 9:45 PM

Grand Parade Noon Saturday

Tattoo 6:00 PM Saturday

Music entertainment includes Father, Son & Friends, The Prodigals, Bastard Bearded Irishmen, The Low Kings, On the Lash, Andrew McManus Trio and McNamara & Custy and the Brass Band of the Western Reserve. Dance group will include the Leneghan School of Irish Dance, The Brady Campbell School of Irish Dance, The Cleveland Hts chapter of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, Highland Athletics, Competitive Jousting, Birds of Prey, Border Collie Demonstration, Armored Combat, Renaissance Village, Living History with the 42nd Highland Regiment, Highland Dance, Harp & Fiddle Competition, Irish Music Competition, Children's Events, and Much More.



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SPEAK IRISH

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BOB CARNEY

The Celtic Family of Languages

The Celtic family of languages is divided into two branches: the Gaelic branch is composed of Irish, Scots Gaelic and Manx, and are similar to one another. Manx is native to the Isle of Man and is beginning to see a resurgence there.



The other branch consists of Welsh, Breton and Cornish, and differs dramatically from those in the Gaelic branch. Together, the two form one of the twelve branches of the Indo-European linguistic family.

Irish, Scots Gaelic and Manx are all descendants of “Old Irish.” There are many similarities in spelling and phrasing, but enough differences to make them distinct enough that a speaker of one will not be able to understand a speaker of the others, aside from a few words or phrases.

Irish speakers refer to Irish as Gaeilge (*gahl-ih gay*) when speaking in Irish, but call the language Irish when referring to it in English. Gaelic is usually used when talking about Scots Gaelic. The word gaeilge is derived from an Old Irish word for Irishman, *goidel* (*goy-del*).

Dialects

There are three regional dialects, Ulster, Munster, and Connacht, along with an official dialect that was established in 1950 as part of a language reform. That official dialect is what is taught in schools and is used in many self-learning materials.

There are eighteen letters in the Irish alphabet, abcdefghilmnoprstu, although you will see the remaining letters of the English alphabet used in “loan words.” Vowels can be long or short, indicated by a mark over the vowel called a fada, á é í ó ú, which means long. Consonants can be broad or slender. There are no word for yes or no; you can’t have something; something is either with you or on you.

Sentence structure is common to other European languages, verb – noun – adjective. Spelling looks confusing at first, but you will find that vowels that appear to be unnecessary or extra, are there to aid in the pronunciation of the consonants.

English is the most widely spoken language in Ireland, with over 80% of the population using it as their first language. Irish is the official first language of the country and is spoken by a little over 40% of the population. Polish is the third most common language, spoken by 3% of Ireland’s population.

Scottish Language

The Scots Language Centre lists Scots Gaelic, Scots and English as the three languages spoken in Scotland. We know that Scots Gaelic is derived from Old Irish, but Scots is a collective name for Scottish dialects that evolved from Old English. It is no longer considered a dialect of English.

It is recognized as a language unto itself. Robert Burns is probably the most well known writer of Scots.

Scots Gaelic shares many of the same things as Irish. It uses the same eighteen letters as Irish and also has regional dialects, over twelve are recognized. A fada is also used to indicate a long vowel, although the direction of the fada is reversed, `à è ì ó ù.

Lenition occurs in both Scots Gaelic and Irish: it is the lightening or softening of a consonant. On paper it takes the form of the letter h being inserted after the consonant that we wish to soften. The difficulty for beginners in both languages is the sounds some of the consonants make when lenited.

One very noticeable difference is the presence of a word for yes and a word for no in Scots Gaelic. Tha (*ha*) is used for yes, and chan

eil (*chan yayl*) is the word for no. In Irish, you must answer with the appropriate verb that was used in posing a question. Ar mhaith leat rud éigin a ól? (*are wah laht rud ay-gin ah ole*) Would you like something to drink? Ba mhaith (*buh wah*) I would.

One thing I have mentioned many times is to use your few words or phrases of Irish or Scots Gaelic as often as possible. That means in daily conversation. It can become very easy to intersperse Scots Gaelic or Irish in our use of English.

Stephen King wrote a book a while back, that had one of the main characters spice up his English conversations with Spanish, he never used yes, always sí. It really had no bearing on the story, but made the character more interesting. I can’t promise, but if you do the same with Irish or Scots Gaelic, maybe you too will become more interesting!

Over the years I’ve put together a list of words and phrases that I call Everyday Irish. I thought we could do the same with Scots Gaelic and see how they compare.

For the purpose of conversations in English, we’ll use a couple of words to indicate a positive or negative response to questions. Our examples will start with the English, then Scots Gaelic, and it’s phonetic spelling, followed by the Irish and it’s phonetic spelling.

Yes – tha (*ha*) - sea (*shah*) No – chan eil (*chan yayl*) - ní hea (*nee hah*)

Hello – halò (*ha-lo*) – haigh (*hi*) Good morning – Madainn mhath (*mateen vah*) – Maidin mhaith (*moh-jin wah*)

Good evening – Feasgar math (*fes-kar mah*)* - Tráthnóna maith (*trah-nóna mah*) * There is a similar word in Irish that also means evening feascar (*fes-kar*)

Good night – Oidhche mhath (*oychae vah*) - Oíche mhaith (*ee-ha wah*)

Good day – Latha math (*laah mah*) – Lá bréa (*lah brah*)

How are you? – Ciamar a tha thu? (*keemar ae haa oo*) - Conas atá tú? (*kohn-us ah-taw too*)

I’m good – Tha gu math (*ha goo mah*) - Tá mé go maith (*taw may guh mah*)

Very good – Glè mhath (*glay vah*) – An mhaith (*ahn wah*) Not bad – Chan eil dona (*chan yeyll donnae*) – Go dona (*guh duh-na*)

Excuse me – Gabh mo leisgeul (*gav mo lesh-kael*) - Gabh mo leithscéal (*guh mo lesh-kale*)

Thank you – Tapadh lebh (*taphae leyv*) – Go raibh maith agat (*gorra mah ah-gut*)

Many thanks – Mòran taing (*mohraen tigh-ng*) – Go raibh míle maith agat (*gorra meela mag ah-gut*)

You’re welcome – ‘Se ur beatha (*shey oor behe*) – Tá fáilte romhat (*taw fahl-cha roe-it*)

What is your name? – De an t-ainm a tha oirbh? (*je un tenem a herev*) – Cén t-ainm atá ort? (*kayn tan-um ah-taw ort*)

I’m ... – Is mise .. (*iss meesha*) - Irish is the same, Is mise ... (*iss meesha*)

Goodbye – Mar sin leibh (*mar shum leev*) – Slán (*slawn*)

See you – Tioraidh (*cheerie*) – Feicfidh mé thú (*feck-ee may who*)

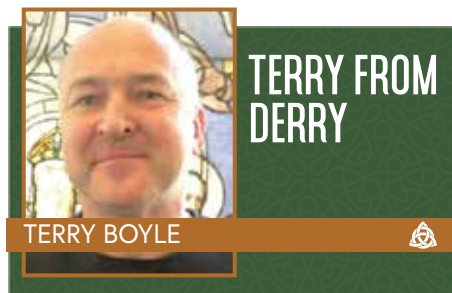
Ohio Scottish Games

Irish or Scottish, I hope you get out to The Ohio Scottish Games, June 21 and 22 and experience some of Scotland’s culture and language for yourself. You might even enjoy a glass of uisge beatha (*ishke behe*) or uisce beatha (*ish-ka ba-ha*) both mean water of life, whisky or if you’re not a Scotch drinker, whiskey. Remember to raise your glass and say “Salinte mhath” (*slan-juh vah*) or “Sláinte maith” (*slawn-cha mah*) Good health! •

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

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TERRY FROM DERRY

TERRY BOYLE

Breaking Hearts

You have to keep breaking your heart until it opens

–Rumi

If you’re like me, you read the above statement (Rumi is a medieval Sufi mystic) and think how very profound it sounds. No doubt you’ve already encountered a lot of internet mystics bombarding you with similar sage advice. There are daily meditations on how to get through the day.

I’m not knocking the attempts to make us feel better, but sometimes there’s no quick fix in life. As Antonio in Shakespeare’s *Merchant of Venice* says; *In sooth I know not why I am so sad. It wearies me, you say it wearies you. But how I caught it, found it, or came by it, What stuff ‘tis made of, whereof it is born, I am to learn. And such a want-wit sadness makes of me, That I have much ado to know myself.*

Sometimes we’re hit by a malaise that refuses to be defined as anything other than a melancholic feeling. We might not even know the origins or cause of such a feeling. This lackluster state of being is often attributed to depression.

I’m no doctor, at least of medicine, but from what I’ve read, true depression is the result of a chemical imbalance that can be corrected with the right sort of medication. Other feelings of depression, or what we term depression, can be the result of a traumatic loss or a catastrophic event.

These feelings have an obvious cause. In other words, there is a cause-and-effect to our sadness. What Antonio seems to be

describing is that free-floating sense of anxiety that is simply a part of life. In the play, Antonio, who has pledged a pound of his flesh to Shylock, is freed of his bond by the clever wrangling of Portia.

She brilliantly finds the legal loophole (you can have the flesh if you don’t spill any blood), which frees Antonio from his bizarre contract. You would think that a man who has been living under a death sentence would be ecstatic but he’s not.

The play, for the most part, has a happy ending. Couples are paired together, and Shylock is forced to become his worst nightmare, a Christian, but at least his depression is rooted in a definite cause.

Pervasive Melancholy

It is Antonio who stands apart as being plagued with a pervasive melancholy. Critics argue over what the cause of the despondency is as if there has to be a definite cause.

We are uncomfortable with things that cannot be defined. There has to be a reason, a cause, to give us a sense of security. To acknowledge that we cannot understand or know the cause would be to admit to the unknown, which leaves us feeling uncertain.

However, we live in a time of uncertainty. Our world has been shifting away from the concrete answers for a long time. The modern age, with its scientific discoveries, has left us bereft of clear certainties.

Religion, for example, offered us some understanding of the meaning of life. But in the 19th century, with the rise of Higher Criticism, we see that sacred texts are not as infallible as we previously thought.

The writers of these texts were flawed human beings trying to make sense of their world. They were influenced by the culture and politics of their time. Their understanding of life was determined by what they knew, and what they knew was limited. We now look upon those texts with some degree of uncertainty and skepticism. Our modern age distrusts such absolutes for good reason. We have evolved and discovered that what we thought we knew is not entirely certain. Scientists, for example, learned that sub-atomic molecules did not operate as expected. They also

revealed to us that our objectivity is limited by observation.

The ramifications of these discoveries lead us to a place of unknowing. We’re forced to acknowledge that what we thought we understood as truth is no longer absolutely true, which leaves us unsure about who we are and where we’re heading as a people.

Added to this existential insecurity are the radical changes in our world. We’ve moved into a phase of environmental changes that cannot be undone. With the onset of global warming, we have yet to see the consequences of our actions.

Our refusal to change our ways will lead us to experience many unknowns. Rising tides will threaten the lives of many, and changes in weather patterns will prove challenging for all of us.

Added to the environmental changes are the political changes. New threats in the Middle East keep us wondering if these events will spill over into something more global. Equally, the conflict between Russia and Ukraine has universal consequences.

Conflicts such as these keep us at the tipping point of another world war. There is also another concern that is closer to home, and that is the erosion of democracy. We’ve seen from the last U.S. elections how fragile our democracy is.

Almost 4 years have passed since the 2020 election, and we’ve discovered how a large group of individuals tried to undermine the right of the majority to elect

their respective candidate. Such conspiratorial actions have seriously damaged our trust in democracy.

Inspired by a man who lies, and cheats to get his way, these people have abandoned the democratic process and become the enemy within. Since we find ourselves in a vacuum of political idealism, we are prey to the cynics who pull at the vestiges of a system that has prevented us from falling into fascism. Should these people have their way, and there is no guarantee that they won’t, we will find that our anxiety has a definite cause, and no amount of sage advice will eradicate a political bully.

If we’re feeling anxious, and suffer from this sense of free-floating anxiety, it’s because the world is changing, and these changes seriously affect our mood. But we cannot allow those feelings to leave us powerless.

It’s not enough to accept things as they are when we can do something to change them. Antonio bemoans his condition. His inability to engage with the world around him disempowers him. He is incapable of changing his feelings because he is resigned to them.

We all have a choice. We can accept things as they are and do nothing, or we can determine to make ourselves better by trying to change the world around us for the better. •

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On this day in
IRISH HISTORY
JUNE

BY TERRENCE J. KENNEALLY

1 June 1997 - A statement from Tony Blair was read at an event in Co. Cork commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Famine.

4 June 1984 - Ronald Reagan became the second U.S. President to address a joint session of the Oireachtas. John F. Kennedy had given a speech to members of the Dail and the Seanad 21 years earlier, in 1963.

10 June 1904 - James Joyce met Nora Barnacle for the first time, while walking down Nassau St. in Dublin.

14 June 1690 - William of Orange landed at Carrick Fergus, Co. Antrim. This was his first time to set foot on Irish soil in the lead up to the Battle of the Boyne.

20 June 1631 - The village of Baltimore, Co. Cork was attacked by Barbary pirates, the worst such incident in either Ireland or Great Britain. In all, 107 people were kidnapped and taken to Algeria, North Africa.

21 June 1877 - 10 alleged members of the Molly Maguires, a secret society of Irish coal miners, were hanged in Pennsylvania.

24 June 1993 - Homosexuality was decriminalized in Ireland, specifically the practice of homosexual acts between consenting adults.

26 June 1996 - Journalist Veronica Guerin was shot dead when two men ambushed her car at a traffic light in Newlands Cross, Co. Dublin.

28 June 1922 - Michael Collins bombarded the Four Courts on 28 June 1922. The Irish Civil War had begun.

HEALTH MATTERS

A Proactive Approach to Longevity

By Tamer Said, M.D.

Did you know that women live longer than men? That's right – on average, men live five years less than women. However, this discrepancy is not just a matter of fate. While there are a range of conditions that disproportionately affect men – things like obesity, alcohol and tobacco use, heart disease, diabetes, stroke, as well as prostate, lung, and colorectal cancer – all of these conditions are preventable and/or manageable.

You can also certainly extend your life expectancy by making some small but impactful changes. June is Men's Health Month; now may be the perfect time to start.

Healthy Habits

A lot of things that happen when you're older actually start when you're younger, so you want to start early when it comes to staying on top of your health. The first step is finding a primary care doctor who can help you address any habits that are detrimental to your well-being.

Men can also have a habit of brushing off small health concerns until they've grown into bigger problems. That's why having a primary care physician you trust is so important – they can help pinpoint any potential health problems early, so you get the care you need right away.

Routine Screenings

The best way to catch problems early is to stay on top of important age-appropriate health screenings. For men, it is particularly important to be screened for conditions like diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular disease. These screenings, which should ideally start in a man's 20s



and continue regularly throughout life, can detect early signs of health issues, and allow for timely intervention and management.

As men age, additional screenings become crucial, including those for prostate and colorectal cancer. With rising incidences of colorectal cancer in younger individuals, screening for this disease can start now at age 45.

Nourish and Move

Eating a healthy diet and exercising regularly can significantly reduce your risk of developing chronic diseases by helping you maintain optimal health. Focus on eating more unprocessed, organic foods and stay hydrated by drinking at least 64 ounces of water daily.

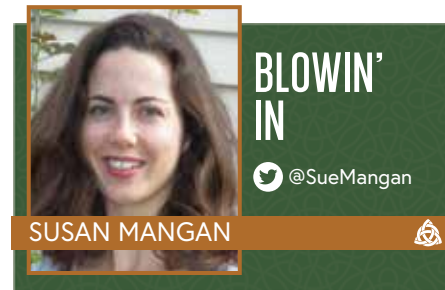
It's also important to get moving, so plan regular physical activity, with the goal of doing at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity activity a week or 75 minutes of vigorous intensity activity a week. It may sound like a lot, but you can hit that by doing just 20 or 30

minutes of exercise for three or four days a week.

Think Long Term

Men's Health Month serves as a timely reminder for men to prioritize their health and well-being. Ultimately, the key to longevity lies in empowerment – making those informed choices about their health, prioritizing self-care, and seeking out preventive healthcare measures. By making positive changes today, men can pave the way for a healthier and happier future.

Tamer Said, M.D. is a family medicine physician and a geriatrician with Mercy Health – Lorain Family Health Center. He received his medical degree from Ain Shams University Faculty of Medicine and has been in practice for more than 20 years.



Late Spring

Seedlings fall from trees. Oak, ash, maple. Parchment thin, helicopters twirl with ballerina steps. Wisps of spent spring blooms land atop my Springer Spaniel's ears.

Peacefully, she lays in new mown grass. Ears perked, my spaniel listens to chirping robins and trumpeting geese. She rolls this way and that in the spring green lawn, wet after a sudden, sunset rain shower.

It is the twilight of my fifty-fifth year on this magnificent earth. I am thinking about those I love who have passed.

Approaching storm clouds on the distant horizon color my reflections in surreal shades of violet sadness and pale pink light. I inhale the scent of lilacs. Sweetness intensifies with encroaching rain. Thick with pollen, the air is only beginning to soften after the hardness of a cold winter.

I am content with memory. Satisfied with the present moment, simple and soft; lulled by wine and the air sound of lake gulls and geese, ducks and doves that mourn.

Melancholy and remembrance entwine with burgeoning ivy that trails on musty earth.

My thoughts turn to a moment spent in an Irish field with someone I love. Foxglove and delphinium grew along the banks of forgotten streams. She told me the sad story of her aunt, a young girl, who drowned in a shallow pool and was found staring toward the innocence of a spring blue sky.

Two years and ten months was all the girl had on this earth. Such



a short time to watch the lambs play in the field.

Tonight, I think back on the fleeting hour I spent in that same field listening to phantom voices from June 12, 1912, when the air was rich with dreams. A day in late spring when the sun set with finality. Mary, I hope my verse gives you rest.●

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.



“The Strand Beyond the Meadow”

By Susan Mangan

Ghosts walk along the strand leaving phantom traces.

The tide recedes. I try to grab hold of the vision, settling my feet in a past surrounded by soft grass and constellations of bluebells.

Bladderwrack rushes a cottage worn down by memory, capsized amid the ferns.

Ruthless, foxglove rises like a tombstone. “Ahh Mary, I’m collecting a fairy’s hand.”

One violet cap for each finger, I begin to pluck the blooms. A nursery game to help me forget the stream-sound.

Fast-running waters flood the tide pool, catching the loose threads of dirty lace that hang from your skirt.

White foam slices over sharp stones.

Tentacles of pond weed wrap determinedly around your pale, thin ankles.

Gran told us, “Sure, it’s soon to blow a storm. More rain, more rain.” But the foxglove calls us to fairy games.

The meadow falls to the sandy banks, bowing to rushing water.

“Steady on Mary. Reach for the earth.”

I can almost see the fairy’s hand tangled in pond weed and lichen.

“Ahh, Mary.”

Waif child caught in the fairy’s lair, tied to the shallow pool like the funeral plait in your hair.





Beasts of Burden

My Uncle was a city guy. He worked in concrete and always lived surrounded by it. His concrete boss took him out on the lake one weekend for his first experience in the natural world, outside of the Metro Parks. He was no Santiago, but Lake Erie is devoid of marlin.

To the surprise of all, my uncle did land a walleye or two, salao for the fish and all those present for the exponentially embellished recountings. He became fond of including what he believed to be familiar and primarily nature-based colloquialisms.

Jobu could not help him with analogies any more than curveballs. “It only rains because it’s too cold for snow.” He would then pause like he just completed a homily, so we could have a moment to ponder.

Gerald of Wales

There was no harm intended and no one would accuse him of plagiarism: he was just reciting what he thought to be true. Historical narratives can also be repetitively reiterated devoid of a factual or data-based foundation.

These generational historical colloquialisms may be flawed as a primary source and a reference. In the history of the Irish people, it could be argued that Gerald of Wales was a historian whose biased narrative still is embedded in our understanding of our history.

Gerald was born in the 12th Century to a prominent Norman-Welsh family. His father was a Norman knight and his mother was

the offspring of a Norman lord and a Welsh princess.

Gerald was a priest and a historian. He served king Henry II of England as a clerk and chaplain. He was well traveled and made detailed accounts of what he witnessed.

It was Henry who invaded Ireland in 1171. The Treaty of Windsor (1175) established shared control with Ruaidrí Ua Conchobair, a treaty that did not last.

Henry declared his ten-year-old son John as “Lord of Ireland” in 1177. The Irish were not consulted. Gerald was John’s tutor and also accompanied him to Ireland in 1185.

Topographia Hibernica (Topography of Ireland) and *Expugnatio Hibernica* (Conquest of Ireland) were products of Gerald’s travels in Ireland. *Topographia Hibernica* is divided into three parts; the third is what we reference today.

It focused on the people and their culture. We will also glance at similar statements that are to be found in *Expugnatio Hibernica*.

Gerald only traveled to Leinster, Meath and parts of Munster and Ulster. He relied on discussion with those of a similar English lens and paradigm. “They (Irish) are a wild and inhospitable people.” In *Topographia*, Gerald states, “They live on beasts only, and live like beasts.”, and that the Irish “are so barbarous that they cannot be said to have any culture,” from *Topographia*.

Gerald also notes that the Irish are extremely lazy and practice treachery. In *Expugnatio*, he states the Irish are a hostile race and that the British have a rightful claim to Ireland.

Canal Labor

In general, this is not news to the Irish or any other culture that has been marginalized to justify empire. As my uncle would say, “Second verse, all over again.”

That was a few Henrys later. Yet, the accounts of the Irish on the canals maintain the same themes as old Gerald. Eileen McMahon’s, *Canal Diggers, Church Builders: Dispelling Stereotypes of the Irish on the Illinois & Michigan Canal*

Corridor, cites British author James Silk Buckingham’s travel accounts. “The large majority (Irish) are ignorant and poor...but they are drunken, dirty, indolent and riotous,”

Buckingham explains and concludes the Irish are “objects of dislike and fear.” Those opinions, only 250 years or so after Gerald, gained Buckingham an English government pension.

Gerald and Buckingham were too early in the historical record to have read, *The Mind of Primitive Man (1911)*, by Franz Boas. He utilizes the concept of cultural relativity to dismiss the claims of superiority of a group of humans vis á vis another group of humans, there is no such thing as a primitive man.

However, when canal labor discussed, we contextually hear the same opinions of Gerald toward the Irish. It is most often expressed as “unskilled labor” on what historian Dennis Clark called, “this great Irish dig.”

That connection is not so subtle. Historians often make it part of a singular narrative, repeating a centuries old bias, “Unskilled labor” that was performed by those who had no real skills just their labor.

It is not descriptive statement of their labor. It was descriptive statement of the people who performed that labor. Beasts who are no more than beasts of burden, to paraphrase Gerald.

We do not often hear the stories of William Byrne, who immigrated from Ireland in 1812 and after a brief time as a canal worker became “a good mechanic” and was known as a “mentally superior man,” as the Byrnes are known to this day. Michael O’Conner, who immigrated in 1838, was a canal worker and when he died in 1866, gave each of his four sons 80 acres of land. David Weber, a Pennsylvania canal contractor, claimed an Irishman could outwork “three raw Hollanders (Germans).”

Yet, to offer these retorts are in part, an internalization of that same bias. Last month, I offered the Irish names who were canal contractors to illustrate we were not just laborers. Although accurate, in doing so the biased belief towards

“unskilled labor” is unchallenged. It is essentially stipulated to and reinforced. That is often the opinion of those who have never dug a ditch.

American canaling was not easy work, but it was available work. Those who worked the canals were initially locals near canal construction. The Irish soon replaced that labor force and were then augmented by German immigrants.

Canal Skilled Labor

Despite the numbers of Germans on the canals, history depicts them as skilled labor. Same shovel, same pick, but a separate cultural appraisal. German immigration analysis focuses on the period following the canals.

As ushistory.org states, “Unlike the Irish, many had enough money to journey to the Midwest in search of farmland and work.” Apparently, the Germans who worked on the canals in Ohio and settled in Cleveland did not get that memo, nor did Michael O’Conner.

Next month we shall continue to discuss canal immigration and migration. We will focus on the innovations made on the canal and by the canal workers. It is these contributions that are part of the re-evaluation of the immigrant labor dichotomy. That, I submit, will show there is no such thing as unskilled labor. •

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 and a Member of the Board for the Irish American Archives Society and a member of the Planning Committee for the St. Malachi Run.

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Taste of Springtime

With the summer months here, we want to enjoy tasty food, but not get stuck in the kitchen when we could be out enjoying all the fun and relaxing things to do now that the weather is warm. These pork chops are quick and simple to make but come with lots of flavor.

Grilled Pork Chops in a Mushroom Stout Sauce

Makes 4 servings

Ingredients:

- 8 Pork Chops Any variety and thickness works great with this recipe
- 3 tablespoons Season Salt
- 2 tablespoons Garlic Powder
- 1 teaspoon Onion Powders
- 1 teaspoon Black Pepper
- 1 bottle Guinness Stout
- 2 tablespoons Brown or Stone-Ground Mustard
- 1 package Sliced or Whole

Mushrooms. Any variety

- 2 tablespoons Butter
- 2 Sprigs Thyme Leaves (Optional)
- 1 teaspoon Kosher Salt
- 3 tablespoons Light Brown Sugar
- 1/3 cup Heavy Cream

Prepare pork chops by combining the season salt, garlic powder, onion powder, and black pepper and liberally sprinkling both sides of the chops with the spice mixture.

Let sit while heating the grill or pan for cooking them.

While you cook the pork chops, prepare the mushroom stout sauce.

In a skillet over medium-high heat, cook the butter, mushrooms, salt, thyme, 3/4 of the bottle of Guinness. Drink the rest.

Cook at a strong simmer for approximately 20 minutes until the liquid reduces by half. Remove the thyme and stir in the mustard and brown sugar until dissolved.

Add in the heavy cream and reduce the temperature to low.

Cook for 2-3 minutes.

It is now ready to serve over the top of your grilled pork chops. •

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

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Ohio School of Falconry

“And just as it seemed impossible for her to fall any faster, she’d change her shape again. Shrugging one shoulder sharply forward to slice through the molecules of resistant air, she dropped away from the astonished cameraman, cutting the sky in two at a velocity of over 200 miles an hour.”

–Excerpt from Helen Macdonald’s book *Falcon*.

If you’ve ever been lucky enough to see a peregrine hunt, you will be excited to hear of The Ohio School of Falconry’s participation in The Ohio Scottish Games. We spoke with Joe Dorrian, founder of the school, and discussed their mission and what we might expect to see at the Games.

Irish: How did you become interested in the sport of

falconry?

I was a student at St. Timothy’s, here in Columbus, in Mr. Mooney’s fifth grade class. He gave us a book to read called *“My Side of the Mountain.”*

It’s about a little boy who leaves home to live in the forest in a hollowed out tree. He captures and trains a peregrine falcon to hunt rabbits. I was hooked! For the next couple of years, I had it in my head that I would capture a falcon and he could live in the garage in the place that I had reserved for the pony that never came. But, by high school, girls, sports and other things took over.

Fast forward thirty years, I received a gift card and thought about what interested me and I bought a book on falconry. It was just before going on vacation with my wife and family to Florida.

I didn’t leave the hotel room, I read the book over and over and reignited my passion. There is a saying in falconry, ‘One bird, one wife, two birds, no wife, three birds, no life.’

I now have over twenty birds as part of the school and my wife is a saint! Some of the birds live in the house with us during the colder months. My kids have learned to work with them and handle them as they were growing up.

Irish: How did the school come about?

My adult day job has been in adult education, leadership development, team development, executive coaching, that sort of thing. I was looking for a way to marry my vocation with my avocation and I was able to create a position for myself with the State of Ohio as an apprentice director.

Most states have someone who is responsible for bringing new people to the sport of falconry. I held that position from 2009 – 2015.

I became frustrated though, because I was restricted with what I could and couldn’t do. It’s illegal to handle a bird of prey unless you are a licensed falconer, raptor rehabilitator or educator. So I came up with the idea of a school.

There is a type of permit you can get from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that started back in the 90s.

A couple came over from the U.K. and started a school up in Vermont, called the British School of Falconry. They had petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to give them a permit that allows Master Falconers to have people come in for classes and be able to handle birds and have them fly to them under their supervision.

In 2014, I was issued the sixth permit in the U.S.; we were the first ones to open in about 15 years, and only one out of two of the six

that wasn’t associated with a resort. Most of those charge you between \$500 and \$600 to handle a bird or have it fly to you. They focus on the experience and very little on the education aspect.

We didn’t want to be like that, with the help of Kate Martin, who has West Coast Falconry, we developed our mission statement. It’s simple: conservation, preservation and education on the sport of falconry.

Education creates the revenue, the Fish and Wildlife Service forces us to be a for-profit. That in turn helps us support raptor rehabilitators across the state of Ohio, supplying them with much needed food (locally the Ohio School of Falconry donates food to The Medina Raptor Centre). That’s a big part of what

we do. We’ve also shared our knowledge with other start up falconry schools across the country; we just ask that they support their local raptor rehabilitators, like we do.

We opened in 2014, our first students were a married couple who were teachers at St. Charles, a Catholic high school here in Columbus. Now eleven years later, we’ve had thousands come through our doors.

Irish: Where are you located?

We teach at three locations: twice a month in Medina at Issac Walton, for the Cincinnati/ Dayton area, we use a YMCA facility at Camp Kern; our home base is here in Columbus at Camp Mary Orton, which was actually established to help take care of the poor Irish community.

We offer a variety of programs, starting with our introductory to falconry or Falconry 101. Next is Walk with Hawks, Falconry 201; here you learn to handle birds of prey and have them fly to you. We have an Owl Encounter and a couple of other programs.



We strive to get people up close and personal and understand the history of the sport. It goes back at least 6,000 years, originating in the far east. There is a tapestry from Japan that’s been dated at 6,000 years old that depicts a falconer hunting with a goshawk.

We also know the sport made it westward because of Genghis Kahn and Kublai Kahn. When they went on a march they would take two hundred falconers with them and each would have two or three birds that they would be responsible for. They would be catching food for the troops.

So they exposed the Middle East and Europe to falconry. It kind of died out in Europe for a time but then came back as a result of the Crusades. Some people believe it was the Romans that brought the sport to

Britain and Ireland.

Some call falconry “the oldest sport,” but in it’s origins, it was a sustenance sport, a way of putting food on the table, and if we’re saying that, then archery or hunting would be much older. Either way, I’ll take it, it gives falconry a little more glamour. Within the last ten years, falconry has been recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Sport.

Irish: What can we expect to see at The Ohio Scottish Games June 21 and 22?

A lot of bad dad jokes to start. We’ll have between five and seven different types of raptors there, representing Europe, Africa, Asia and North America. Owls, hawks, buzzards, the eagle might even show up.

We talk about the sport and it’s rich history as we walk around with these birds so you can see them up close. We’ll also do flights; we always try to get people involved as part of the program.

I’m not sure how many shows we’ll be doing each day yet. But the area we’ll be in, we’ll be flying birds and we’ll get a couple of people out of the audience and have

a raptor fly to their glove. We also do some flying demonstrations to show the bird’s abilities.

The shows run about an hour and we’ll also have birds staked out so you can get a better look at them and we can answer questions about them. We’ll also have information and some really cool merchandise.

Hope to see everyone there!●

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

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- 8- The New Barleycorn
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- 15- The Other Brothers
- 21- Doug Kaufman
- 22- Jay Sparrow
- 28- Music Trivia
- 29- Crawley and Sofranko

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Introducing Your 2024 Ohio Rose of Tralee Applicants!



Aoife Zuercher

Aoife Zuercher

Sponsor: Gormley's Pub
Aoife, a 22-year-old from Cleveland, is a recent graduate of Ohio University, with honors degrees in Chemistry and Mathematics. She will pursue a PhD in Materials Engineering at the University of Maryland next year. Aoife is a published author through her research at NASA and OU.

She is passionate about advocating for women in science and a sustainable future through scientific discoveries. Aoife has been active in the Cleveland Irish community since she was young, being a part of the Burke School of Irish Dance for 12 years and currently on the Gaelic football team and bartending at Gormley's Pub.

Aoife's Irish heritage stems from her mother, who grew up in Dublin, and her father's family, from Derry. Irish culture flows through her blood and emerges in her everyday life with her lively family and supportive Irish friends. She would be proud to represent Ohio at the Rose of Tralee Festival.



Brigid Devlin

Brigid Devlin

Sponsor: Irish Heritage Center of Cincinnati

Brigid Devlin, age 29, hails from next door in Michigan. While she is a maize and blue girl through and through, she's loved every visit to Ohio that she's had, which is quite a few, given her love of traveling!

She's currently a student at Schoolcraft Community College, where she's earning an associate in sound recording technology, while applying to grad schools for ethnomusicology. Her associate degree will help support her love of music; she's played piano and harp and takes voice lessons.

Her Irish heritage is of great importance to her. Brigid took traditional music lessons for both harp and voice, even competing in a few fleadhhs. She has attended many Irish language classes and events and is excited to build that community up in the metro Detroit area. Brigid is excited to participate in the Rose of Tralee competition and to be surrounded by like-minded individuals.



Ciara Duffy

Ciara Duffy

Sponsor: Bua Irish Whiskey Pub
Ciara is 29, was born in Dublin, Ireland, and moved to Westmeath when she was eight. She grew up there. She moved to Columbus in December of 2020, but it's not her first time in the U.S., as she spent her last 18 months of school in New Mexico, graduating high school there.

Ciara went home to Ireland to go to college and got her BSc in Sports Science with Exercise Physiology at Athlone Institute of Technology (Technological University of the Shannon).

During and after college she worked with the Westmeath Senior Ladies Football Team, and now is part of the Columbus Gaelic Football Team, which is trying to return after Covid. Ciara works at OSU as a Clinical Research Coordinator with the Cardiovascular Medicine department. She really loves getting to work with new technology, medications and treatment methods with the Physicians and patients and seeing how technology and treatments are improving.



Kaitlin Campbell

Kaitlin Campbell

Sponsor: P.J. McIntyre's Irish Pub

Kaitlin Campbell, age 19, is from Westlake, Ohio, but traces her Irish heritage to County Mayo through both her grandparents, who immigrated to the United States. She is currently studying Marine, Freshwater, and Environmental Biology at Ohio University, where she is also a member of the Cutler Scholars Program and Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority.

In her free time, she enjoys reading, spending time outdoors, going to art museums, and watching movies. Her future career aspirations include wanting to contribute to the conservation of sharks and sea turtle species through education and research, and possibly having her own show on Discovery Channel's Shark Week.



June 2024



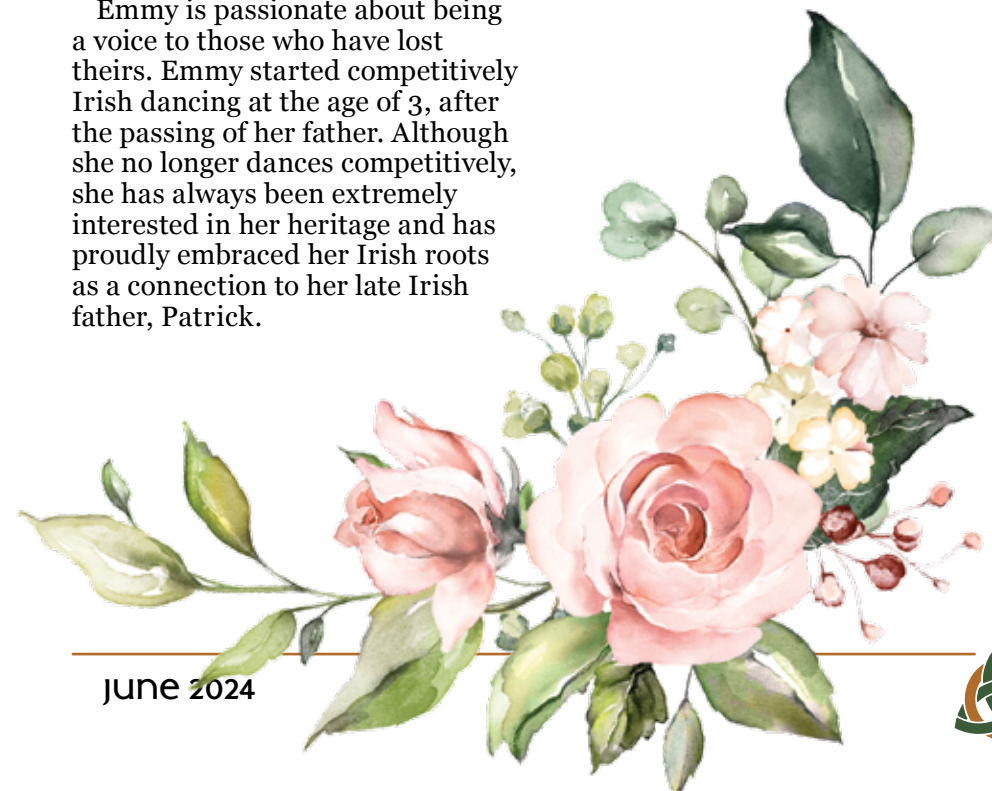
Mary Heinrich

Mary Heinrich

Sponsor: iIrish newsmagazine
Mary Eileen, otherwise known as Emmy, age 29, was born and raised outside of Cleveland, Ohio. She is currently balancing three jobs, while pursuing her goal of becoming a Pharmacy Technician.

Emmy enjoys traveling, reading, writing poetry, and following true crime events/podcasts. In her free time, she finds joy in giving back to her community in any way she can. She actively donates to her local animal shelters, as well as nearby food shelters.

Emmy is passionate about being a voice to those who have lost theirs. Emmy started competitively Irish dancing at the age of 3, after the passing of her father. Although she no longer dances competitively, she has always been extremely interested in her heritage and has proudly embraced her Irish roots as a connection to her late Irish father, Patrick.



June 2024



Morgan Campbell

Morgan Campbell

Sponsor: Armada Risk Partners
Morgan is a 21-year-old Data Analyst from Westlake. Her Irish roots stem back to her grandparents, who immigrated from County Mayo, Ireland. In her free time, Morgan enjoys a variety of activities, including running, baking, golfing, jigsaw puzzles, traveling, and volunteering at her local animal shelter. She is excited for the opportunity to connect with her cultural heritage and meet successful women with similar backgrounds.



Samantha Stack

Samantha Stack

Sponsor: Quinn Irish Radio
Samantha, age 20, is from Mentor Ohio, where she works as a Classroom Assistant at an integrated preschool. There she assists in educating children with special needs, ages 3-5.

Samantha also attends school part-time, pursuing an inclusive early childhood education degree. She is dedicated to being the best she can be for her students.

During the summer months, Samantha works as a swim instructor, giving swim lessons to kids in her community. She has been a competitive swimmer from an early age and enjoys spending her free time in the pool. She also enjoys going thrifting, cooking, and spending time with friends and family.

Samantha's Irish heritage comes from her great grandparents, James Stack and Johanna Stack, who immigrated from County Kerry, Ireland in 1919. As a former flight attendant who is passionate about traveling, Samantha is excited for this opportunity to explore the world outside her hometown in Ohio.



Sarah Gallagher

Sarah Gallagher

Sponsor: The Bare Solutions
Sarah Gallagher is 25, from Cleveland, Ohio. She currently works as a nurse at MetroHealth, on a general surgery floor.

Growing up in the city, she has become a devoted fan of all Cleveland sports teams, frequently attending games throughout the year. Her passion for Ireland stems from her family roots; both her maternal grandparents immigrated from Ireland, and her father was born and raised in County Mayo before moving to Cleveland in the 1990s. She cherishes her Irish heritage and enjoys visiting her family there to experience the beauty of the country. •

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MEGAN LARDIE

You're a Grand Old Flag

Every country has a flag that stands for its nation's land, people, and government. A national flag is an important symbol to the country and the culture.

President Woodrow Wilson is credited with making June 14th Flag Day in the United States, but it is not a federal holiday. It is a day to honor the American flag and all the traditions associated with the flag. June 14, 1777, is the day when the United States approved the design for the flag.

Who Really Designed the Flag?

History tells the story that Betsy Ross created the first American flag, but there is no evidence that she contributed to the design. In 1870, her grandson held a press conference to inform the public of her role.

It is now believed that Francis Hopkinson, a congressman from New Jersey, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, designed the American Flag. The design was not made official until 1912, when a government order adopted the current design.

Although the design of the flag has changed over the years, the colors and the stripes have remained the same. The thirteen stripes on the flag represent the first colonies that were established in the New World. The red and white stand for courage and purity of the

nation. The fifty stars represent the fifty states, but that number has changed many times over the years. The first flag had thirteen stars all in a circle to show equality.

Rules and Traditions

There are lots of rules and traditions concerning the American Flag. Here are just a few things that you might not know: the flag should always be lit up by sunlight or by another light while on display.

It used to be illegal to burn an American Flag as an act of protest, but the Supreme Court ruled that burning a flag is a First Amendment right. The American Flag should never touch the floor and should never be used as clothing, bedding, or curtains. Draping an American Flag over a coffin is not only for military personnel, but anyone who wishes may have a flag over their coffin. And there is a proper way to fold an American Flag!

Ireland's Flag Day

Ireland celebrates their national flag in March. The national flag of Ireland is green, white, and orange. The green represents Irish Catholics. The Orange represents Irish Protestants, and the white represents a lasting truce (reconciliation) between both groups. Today, many believe that the white of the flag means peace, respect, and inclusion of all people! •



Kids in the Kitchen

Red, White, and Blue Fruit Cups

Ingredients:

- 1-pint fresh strawberries
- 1-pint fresh blueberries
- 1-pint fresh blackberries
- ¼ cup sugar
- 1-pint heavy whipping cream (or store-bought whip cream)

Directions:

Slice strawberries and combine in a bowl with blue and/or blackberries. Sprinkle with 2 teaspoons of sugar. Whip heavy cream until soft peaks form and sweeten with remaining sugar. (Omit this step if you are using store bought whip cream) Serve berries in small cups and top with generous spoonful's of whip cream.

Literature Corner

Sophia's War: A Tale of the Revolution

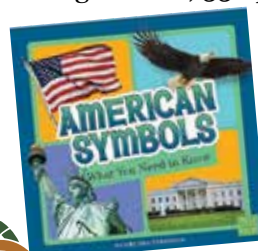
by Avi
The year is 1776, Sophia witnesses an execution and is horrified by it. She decides to do all she can to help the American cause in the Revolutionary War. Sophia becomes a spy and works as a maid in the home of the supreme commander of the British Army in America.

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There is a new Sunday session
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DANCE DANCE

CATHERINE DUPLISA

learning soft shoes, also known as light shoes or gillies, first. Typically, beginners will either learn the light jig or reel as the first dance, and once mastered, move on to learn the other.

Girls will also learn a slip jig, but it is a dance designated to the female dancers, known for its elegance and beauty. In Europe, many dancers learn the single jig or hop jig as well, but in North America it is less common to learn.

The speed of the music slows down as a dancer progresses through the competitive levels for both the reel and slip jig, and the jig is only done in the earlier grades, but not in the championship levels. When performing a soft shoe or light shoe dance, the arch of the foot with beautiful points as well as extension, toe height, and powerful lift are some of the skills to master.

Hard Shoe

Dancers typically start learning hard shoe in their second year, as it takes a great level of skill and practice to dance on fiberglass tips

and heels. These are the shoes that people sometimes say "tap shoes" because they make noise or the rhythm of the dance.

The execution of soft shoe skills are still required in hard shoe, but there is now an added level of complex foot rhythm and kicks with clicks that are more challenging. Students typically start learning the hard shoe in their second year of dance but continue to learn more complex steps and movements over the years.

First, students learn traditional or fast speeds of treble jig and hornpipe, with a bit simpler rhythm as well as traditional set dances that are to be done the same way around the world. The choreography is not up to each school, rather dancers learn each set dance the same way no matter what state, country, or continent they live in.

As dancers progress through the grades of competition, just like the soft shoe dances, the speed slows down for the hornpipe and treble jig and the rhythm and choreography of each dance becomes more challenging and complex. At age ten, dancers are able to learn choice set dances and the teacher(s) in each school get to choose the set tune, speed, and fabricate the entire dance from start to finish.



These are typically very interesting to watch because of the intricacy of the footwork and the attention to detail in the creation to ensure the set showcases each dancers' strengths and talents. When performing the set dance, dancers are alone on stage, and it is a true showcase of talent.

These specialized shoes come at a decent cost, ranging from about fifty dollars for the cheapest pair of soft shoes up to two hundred dollars for the higher end hard shoes. Dancers grow out of shoes, just as kids do, and this can become quite costly in this competitive sport. Luckily the Irish dance community is very good about passing on the outgrown shoes to younger dancers in their schools, and the virtual resale world has made buying used shoes more accessible to all.

Having the right shoes is an important piece to successful dance journey. Finding the right fit and style to suit each dancer takes some time to learn and understand. Many of the vendors do offer sizing help and will fit dancers onsite at competitions, and teachers will also check to make sure the shoes are a good fit.

Who knew there was so much to know about the shoes Irish dancers wear? The shoes are just one piece of the puzzle. In future columns, you will learn about the costumes, hair, and makeup that also go into the competitive Irish dance journey.

To Read More to the Story, with more text, more pics and LARGER print, visit ilrish.us or:

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safe home



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.

Irish is greatly saddened at the loss of Irish Crossword Puzzle columnist Linda Fulton Burke, a dedicated, generous, and talented part of our Irish writing community for more than 14 years. She has held many positions of leadership, in person and in example, for others. Greater Cleveland is so much better for working with and knowing Linda. May she rest in peace and watch over her loved ones forevermore.

LINDA BURKE

(October 24, 1947 – April 26th, 2024)

Linda (nee Fulton) Burke, 76, of Willowick, passed away Friday, April 26, 2024, at home. Born October 24, 1947, in Indiana, Pa., Linda was a Lake County resident for 71 years, living

in Eastlake and Timberlake before moving to Willowick 20 years ago. Linda was a retired teacher for the Mentor Schools. She was a member of both the Eastside and Westside Irish American Clubs and was a longtime board member for the Eastside, where she held various positions, including President.

Linda served the Irish community, volunteering her time to the United Irish Societies of Greater Cleveland, Irish American News and the Ohio Celtic Festival.

She was the beloved wife of James E. Burke; loving mother of Bridget (nee Caffrey) (Michael) Piotrowski, Patrick Caffrey and Brendan

Casey McCullough; cherished grandmother of Liam and Owen Piotrowski and Erin and Jaylon Ryant; and dearest sister of Karen (nee Fulton) Hansen.

Linda is preceded in death by her parents, Melvin R. and Ruth V. (nee Flick) Fulton.

To leave condolences for the family or to order flowers, visit *Obituary courtesy of McMahan, Coyne, Vitantonio Funeral Homes

JOHN P. "JACK" KILROY

(November 12, 1952 - May 11, 2024)

JOHN P. "JACK" KILROY, age 71, beloved husband of Suzana Figueira; father of Sean Kilroy and Nicholas Hahn (Amanda); son of the late Mary (nee Ward) and John B. Kilroy; brother of Mary Jo Kilroy (Bob Handelman), Retta Furlan

(Patrick), Liz Kilroy (Paco Hernandez) and Marty Kilroy (Denise); uncle, great-uncle, cousin and dear friend of many. Passed away May 11, 2024.

Relatives and friends are invited to meet for a Celebration of Jack's Life Sunday, July 21, at 2:00 P.M. at the West Side Irish American Club (8559 Jennings Rd., Olmsted Twp. 44138) with fellowship and music to follow.

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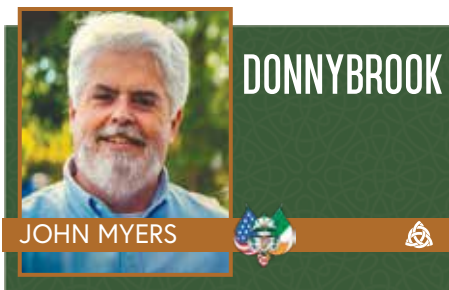


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DONNYBROOK

JOHN MYERS

For the Love of Pete

When Pete Leneghan lost his fight with cancer several years ago, he left controlling interest of his cherished creation, Stone Mad Pub and Restaurant, to his Godson and Nephew, Bryan Leneghan, a fellow stand-out soccer player (although the gift may have been with some reservation, as Bryan was a stand-out soccer player on St. Ignatius H.S. State Championship teams,

chief rival of Pete's much loved alma mater, St. Edward H.S.). Pete left a minority ownership interest in the business to Stone Mad's longtime manager, Eileen Sammon.

While the passing of this family legacy to Bryan came as a surprise, he jumped right into the mix. He brought his degree from Ohio University, his financial services industry experience, discipline from the soccer field and combined it with his Leneghan/Campbell family DNA in hospitality and a strong motivation to honor his Uncle Pete to Stone Mad (a bigger challenge than he first realized).

In the last few years of Pete's life, his time and energies were necessarily focused on his health and literally, the fight for his life. Stone Mads books and bottom line suffered as a result. But the story moves in a good direction; Bryan, even facing the unprecedented COVID crisis was able to bring order to the books, eliminate back taxes and pay down outstanding business debt. His stewardship positioned this legacy business so that it could be transferred to new

owners who understood and shared Pete's goals.

Stone Mad's New Owners

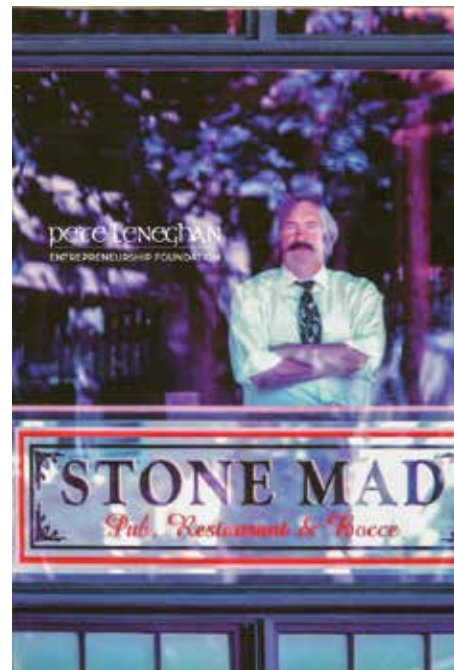
The story gets even better, as the new owners, Noelle Sayles and Nick Noyes, have history with Stone Mad and wish to renew the vision Pete had for the corner of W. 65th and Herman Avenue. For frequent visitors to Stone Mad, one can take its distinctiveness for granted; the hand-blown glass chandeliers, intricate walnut woodwork, hand wrought metallurgy, artesian laid mosaic tiled bathrooms, cut stone patio & individualized painted ceilings and an indoor bocce ball court, all remarkable.

Also note the mural in the walnut dining room; Pete asked a friend he made from his time in NYC to paint this picture. If you look closely, one can see Pete hidden in plain view at the center of the mural. He wanted a drawing to represent his own time/history, as well as his Leneghan/Campbell family's history in NYC.

Pete left Cleveland to join Jimmy Campbell, who owned the only horse stable in Manhattan and was at the center of the Horse Carriage Tradition in NYC. With the funds he made by selling his carriage license, he was able to fund his Stone Mad vision for the Gordon Square neighborhood.

One account of Seamus Murphy's book, 'Stone Mad,' which inspired Pete's choice for the pubs name, focuses on "His artistic feeling for quality responded to his workmate's reverence for the 'well-made thing.' Many who watched Stone Mad being built were both amazed and frustrated by the sometimes-slow pace at which progress was made.

But all now have a much better understanding and 'reverence' for what Pete was doing and more importantly what he accomplished. A gift to our community to have a place of hospitality which has a true sense of place, a place of welcome and distinction.



St. Patrick's Day 2024

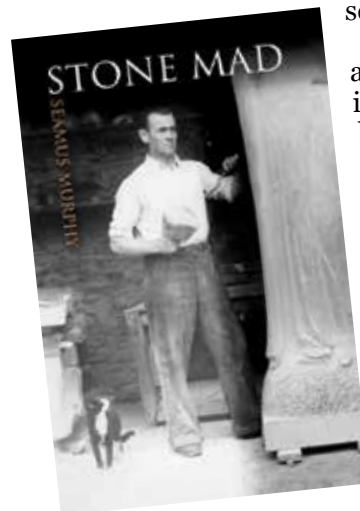
Stone Mad transferred to new ownership this past St. Patrick's Day weekend. The husband-and-wife team of Noelle and Nick shared that "although we view Stone Mad as a great investment, our primary motivation was sentimental."

Noel has worked a number of years in hospitality as a bartender and server, including several years at the start of Stone Mad. Noelle is pictured in her server's uniform in the family & staff photo hanging over the bocce court.

While working at Stone Mad, Noelle made a pilgrimage to

Ireland. Pete made sure his Mayo cousins, specifically John Leneghan, showed Noelle a hundred thousand welcomes upon her arrival.

It was a magical coincidence that John Leneghan of Westport, Co. Mayo, who was present at the opening of Stone Mad in 2008, unexpectedly was in Cleveland, at the Pub, with Noelle, Nick and Bryan, at the exact moment the property recently transferred; talk about coming full circle. It felt like affirmation by Pete of the new stewards of Stone Mad.



They further shared: "our primary intention is to make sure Stone Mad is preserved thoughtfully and to continue on the legacy and vision Pete started in 2008. We were not looking to buy a restaurant, but we were inspired to own this restaurant," shared Noelle.

It is planned that the annual Pete Leneghan Entrepreneurship Foundation Run will continue to be held at Stone Mad the first Sunday of each September. It doesn't get any better than that.

Stop in and say hello to both the new and the familiar; t's one of the best patios anywhere. All the best to Noelle and Nick, whose sentiment and wisdom saw fit to be guardians of this remarkable place.

It's Lammy Season

The polls show Kier Starmer's Labor Party in the U.K. holding a commanding lead over the sitting Tory government of Rushi Sunyak. If the Tories take a huge hit in local elections this month, look for a loud cry for a new parliamentary general election.

If so, it is expected that the Labor Party's Foreign Minister would be David Lammy, the son of Guyanese immigrants to the U.K. Lammy, in his early fifties, has deep American ties, having spent his youthful summers with cousins in N.Y.C., earning a master's degree at Harvard Law, and even canvassing for candidate Barack Obama in 2008. Will Labor's likely ascendancy provide new opportunities for Irish and U.K. relations?

Will Lammy's American sensibilities provide openings for a fresh approach to a Northern Ireland border poll? Expect the current stagnation and indifference to matters in the North of Ireland from Westminster will mercifully come to an early end. One hopes a new Labor Government combined with a very willing President Biden will reinvigorate the Good Friday Accords and lay the foundation for an all-island election in Ireland. •

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

GAA Games all month long as march to the National Championships continues. See Fields of Glory Column for schedule.

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8th – Submission deadline for ad reservation, Send Me News events

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13th – Shamrock Club of Columbus Irish Festival

18th – West Side Irish American Club (WSIA) Monthly Meeting

19th to 21st – Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival

19th to 20th – Mahoning Valley Irish Festival

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Three Festivals

James Joyce gave the world *The Dubliners* as a rationale for leaving behind a stultifying environment, which nonetheless kept hold of him until he died. His scathing indictment of Dublin as a center of paralysis lasted because his literary assessment was so finely written, and because Irish politics and social expectations remained rigid and restrictive. Such is the account given by Fintan O'Toole in his exceptional *We Don't Know Ourselves, A Personal History of Modern Ireland*, a book that should be required reading for Irish

Americans over fifty. Well, for everyone of Irish descent. I have reflected when teaching Irish literature, which always necessitates teaching Irish history, why I spend so much time on the revolutionary era and then jump to contemporary literature with little attention to writers of mid-twentieth century. Part of the reason is that Ireland, especially in Dublin, stayed bound to isolation and nationalism, reluctant to internationalize, economically or culturally, until it got shaken up, or shook itself up, in a single decade: the 1990's. In ten years, Mary Robinson was elected as the first female president, the Celtic Tiger bounded in (and out), the Belfast Agreement was signed, and Ireland adopted the Euro. In the past two decades, Ireland has amended parts of its Constitution, faced up to its shameful treatment of women and children through the Magdalene laundries, and begun to address gender and sexual orientation inequities, migrant populations, drug issues,

and other concerns. From Eamon De Valera to Leo Varadkar in a century? And the appointment of a Sinn Fein leader, Michelle O'Neill, as first minister in Northern Ireland? That sweep of history is brisk and broad. And it is hard to take its account, especially as subjects to it. But literature and art come to our rescue, because they always: Reveal what is going on in society before the society even knows itself. Enable the reader/observer to figure out the dynamics that inhibit progress or freedom. You can test this claim for yourself by thinking about *Antigone* or *Hamilton*. The Irish, like many other societies, certainly those once in the colonial grasp, knew there was a vital connection, not an accidental one, between art and social change. Douglas Hyde, Patrick Pearse, and W.B. Yeats cajoled the nation into revolution through eloquence, mythmaking, and drama. The Irish have always embraced

the link between what is and what is desired, and social change has always been anticipated and motivated by artistic expression. That is why I am recommending two prominent arts festivals which take place in Dublin and speak to current issues in Ireland, bring global concerns into prominence and recognition, and position Dublin as a center of international global importance. Note, too, that they are supported and funded by the Dublin City Arts Office, because the local government believes the "arts are at the heart of Dublin's cultural identity and quality of life." (<https://www.dublincityartsoffice.ie>). Just ended – but an annual event - is the International Literature Festival Dublin, which celebrates the "city where books are treasured." Dublin is a UNESCO City of Literature, one of fifty-three in the world, so designated because literature plays a vital role in the city and is brought into every educational setting, from schools to community centers. Walking James Joyces' *Ulysses*,

seeing the Book of Kells at Trinity College, and taking in a play at the Abbey Theater are among the well-known, commemorative, highlights of visiting Dublin. **International Literature Festival** The International Literature Festival in Dublin is also celebratory – and fun—but it also challenges and reveals what is going on in society through the lens of contemporary writing. The International Literature Festival takes place over ten days in May and offers over 200 activities from panels to performances to walking tours. Most of all, it brings together superb writers: this year, Marilynne Robinson, whom I estimate among the most important contemporary American novelists (Barack Obama agrees), spoke, as did the magnificent Colm Toibin (Their forthcoming novels are *Genesis* and *Long Island*, respectively). Were that not tempting enough, Marlon James, Claire Messud, Jhumpa Lahiri, Marian Keyes, Andrey Kurkov, Amor Towles, Kevin Barry, were also on the program. Take a look at the 2024 program and sign up for information about forthcoming events at <https://ilfdublin.com/whats-on/festival/>. Don't imagine you would encounter staid panels or dry discussions—this festival energizes! And it is family oriented. A second internationally prominent arts event is the Dublin Theater Festival. While the program will be announced in July, the dates are already set: Sept. 26 to Oct. 13. This festival, founded in 1958 and among Europe's oldest, premieres major new pieces of Irish theater, and it always offers a bracing selection of international works that would be very hard to see otherwise. Every major Irish playwright has had works performed there, or as Samuel Beckett did, conspicuously withdrawn them to protest external censorship. Staged at various venues around the city, it also wants its goers to leave Dublin wise to its many



histories and economies. My good friend, the prominent theater scholar Professor Marcia Blumberg from York University in Toronto, recounts the time she was part of a theater audience which was physically re-located from one part of the city to another. It is this kind of theatrical innovation and site-specific drama that marks the festival's programming. Like the Edinburgh Festival, the Dublin Theater Festival is a mecca for drama and dance enthusiasts and theater scholars since it offers cutting-edge, compelling, and provocative works. If, like me, you love the works performed at St. Ann's Warehouse, the Irish Rep, and the NY Public Theater, you would want to start heading to Dublin in the fall. Information is at <https://dublintheatrefestival.ie/>. Though not taking place in Dublin, I want to again hail the Galway Arts Festival, happening soon from July 15 to July 28. The craic is on with art installations, traditional music in bars, major acts under the Heineken big tent, and lots of theater. The Druid, one of the best theater companies in the world, will perform Samuel Beckett's *Endgame*. (<https://www.druid.ie/>). I take it as a personal

mission to stamp out fear of Samuel Beckett. He is hilarious. And easily understood, at least viscerally. *Endgame* can be taken as an answer to the eternal question posed by The Clash: "Should I Stay, or Should I Go?" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xMaE6toi4mk>) Unlike the punkers, Beckett knew indecision was endemic to the human condition. *Endgame* will no doubt transfer to Dublin in the fall, so that may be a second opportunity to see a play by the most important playwright next to Shakespeare, Brecht, and Chekhov. Information about other Galway Arts Festival can be found at <https://www.giaf.ie/festival/events>. You can still get there! The train from Aer Lingus' flight to Dublin takes you to Eyre Square, Galway, and directly to the festival in about two hours. •



1. The Neolithic passage tomb at Newgrange is located in what county?
2. Who was the oldest signatory of the Proclamation of the Republic in 1916?
3. Limerick Castle is also known as?
4. Ireland is known as the land of saints and _____.
5. Many Earls had to go to Europe after the Battle of Kinsale. This was known as the _____ of the Earls.
6. The ruling class of wealthy landowners in the 18th century was called the _____.
7. What city is referred to in "The Town I Love So Well?"
8. Four Irishmen have won the Noble Prize for Literature. Who are they?
9. What Irish movie star of Irish ancestry starred in the movie "Michael Collins?"
10. What famous brigade is memorialized by a Celtic cross at Gettysburg?

1. Co. Meath
2. Thomas Ashe
3. King John's Castle
4. Sinners
5. Flight of the Earls
6. Ascendancy
7. Derry
8. William Butler Yeats, George Bernard Shaw, Samuel Beckett and Seamus Heaney
9. Liam Neeson
10. The Irish Brigade

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Leinster House

Leinster House is a government building in Dublin, Ireland that is the home of two houses of the Oireachtas Éireann (pron: *oh-rock-tas eh-r-ih-an*), the parliament of Ireland, which is composed of the Dáil Éireann (pron: *doyle eh-r-ih-an*) and the Seanad Éireann (*sen-ahd eh-r-ih-an*). It was originally built as a mansion for the Duke of Leinster.

Ireland's original parliament over the centuries had met in a number of locations, most notably in the Irish



Leinster House, Dublin, Ireland

Houses of Parliament at College Green, next to Trinity College Dublin (it is now the Bank of Ireland building). Its medieval parliament consisted of two houses, a House of Commons and a House of Lords.

The House of Lords senior member was the Earl of Kildare, James

FitzGerald. Like all the aristocrats of the period, for the duration of the parliamentary sessions, he and his family resided in a Dublin residence.

From the late eighteenth century, Leinster House (then known as Kildare House) was the Earl of Kildare's official Dublin residence. It was built in 1745-48 by James FitzGerald, 20th Earl of Kildare, and located on the south side of the city.

The building was designed by German architect Richard Cassels. Some of the later elements and interior were designed by English architect, Isaac Ware.

In the history of aristocratic residences in Dublin, no other mansion was equal to Kildare House for its size or status. When the Earl was made the first Duke of Leinster in 1766, the family's Dublin residence was renamed Leinster House, the name it carries today.

With the passage of the Act of Union in 1800, Ireland ceased to have its own parliament. As a result, increasing numbers of the Irish aristocracy stopped coming to Dublin, selling off their Dublin residences to buy residences in London, where the new united parliament met.

In 1815, the 3rd Duke of Leinster sold Leinster House to the Royal Dublin Society (RDS). The RDS is an Irish philanthropic organization and club, which was founded on June 25, 1731, with the aim to see Ireland thrive culturally and

economically. In 1853 the Great Industrial Exhibition was hosted on its grounds.

National Library

At the end of the nineteenth century, two new wings were added to the left and right side of the original building. The Natural History Museum was added in 1832. In 1877 a wing that housed both the National Library of Ireland and the National Museum of Ireland was added.

The Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921 provided for the creation of an Irish government to be known as the Irish Free State. As plans were made to bring the new state into being, the Provisional Government sought a meeting venue for the newly created Oireachtas.

Within weeks of the opening of the Oireachtas, Michael Collins decided to rent the Leinster House complex temporarily for use. It housed a large lecture theatre that could easily be adapted to the needs of the Oireachtas.

On September 9, 1922, the Third Dáil met in Leinster House, without the anti-Treaty members, who boycotted it. In 1924 plans to relocate permanently were abandoned and Leinster House was purchased by the government, officially becoming the seat of Irish Free State Parliament.

Today, on the Merrion Square side of the building, a large



triangular monument known as The Cenotaph stands, commemorating three founding figures of Irish independence, President of Dáil Éireann, Arthur Griffith, who died in 1922; Michael Collins who was shot and killed in an ambush by anti-treaty forces in 1922; and Kevin O'Higgins, the Chairman of the Provisional Government, who was assassinated in 1927. It was erected in 1950 and bears the inscription, "Do Chum Glóire Dé agus Onóra na hÉireann" (For the Glory of God and the Honor of Ireland).

Its Kildare Street frontage used to be dominated by a large seated bronze statue of Queen Victoria, first unveiled by King Edward VII in 1908. As it was considered inappropriate to have the British Queen overlooking the Irish parliament, it was relocated to the Royal Hospital Kilmainham in 1948. In 1987 it was removed from Dublin and re-erected in front of the Queen Victoria Building in Sydney, Australia (it's historically ironic for Queen Victoria's statue to be exiled to Australia).

James Hoban Builder of The White House

If you can't get to Dublin to view the Leinster House, you can view a couple of reasonable facsimiles here in the US, thanks to Irish-born architect James Hoban (1755-1831). Hoban was born in County Kilkenny and was trained in architecture at the Dublin Society School of Architectural Drawing. He left Ireland for Philadelphia around 1785.

From Philadelphia, he moved to

Charleston, South Carolina and set up an architectural practice with fellow Irishman Pierce Purcell, a master builder. They designed numerous buildings in Charleston, including the state capital in Columbia and the Charleston County Courthouse, which may have been his first success and is somewhat similar in design to the Leinster House.

President George Washington visited Charleston, South Carolina, in May 1791 on his Southern Tour, and was impressed by the County Courthouse then under construction. Washington is reputed to have met with Hoban during the visit.

The following year, Washington summoned the architect to Philadelphia and met with him in June 1792 (Philadelphia was then the temporary national capital). The following month, Hoban was named

the winner of the design competition for The White House in Washington, D.C.

The design of the upper floors includes elements based on the Leinster House. The first floor windows with alternate triangular and segmented gables are directly inspired by the Irish building. It is likely that the Hoban was introduced to the Leinster House mansion when the Earl of Kildare became the Duke of Leinster in 1766.

Hoban remembered the grand estate in Dublin and used it for the building. Construction of the White House began in 1792 and was completed in 1800. John and Abigail Adams were its first occupants. The building was burned by the British in 1814 during the War of 1812.

Hoban died in Washington, D.C. on December 8, 1831. He is buried at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Washington, D.C. •

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Awe Full

We started getting hyped about the full solar eclipse last September. Six months of mounting hype and hope for an event that we knew in advance was only going to last about four minutes. Nope, I am not going to complain about it. But I was prepared to add it to the list of events that never met the expectations.

That was not the case this time. For once the omnipresent clouds parted just in time and the people of NE Ohio got to see

a show so primal and majestic that only nature could produce. Equally inspiring were the reactions of our friends and neighbors. Hearing them express their wonder in whoops, shouts, applause and fireworks was moving.

It was like the circus came to our backyard for the afternoon. The large, universal event assumed a neighborhood, communal feel. Sharing that magic was magic in itself.

People often say that they go to Ireland for the pubs and the Irish people themselves. Believe that they go looking for some of that magic and awe too. It is just harder to talk about. Ireland is, after all, a stunning place.

So here we are, at the beginning of vacation season. What better time to attempt to list some of the places that I have been to and that I found awe-inspiring.

Will this list be conclusive? Of course, not as soon as I hit send I will give myself a Homer Simpson slap on the forehead for what I left out. But it is a good start for



those looking to chase that awe, Indiana Jones style.

Antrim

Here goes. Starting at the top of the island, Antrim, N.I., is amazing. There are loads of sites there that are genuinely spectacular; like the atmospheric and menacing Dark Hedge, a lane of twisted oaks, and the moody coastline with its stony beaches and caves.

But the site that is world heritage worthy is The Giant's Causeway. It

is an otherworldly amalgamation of stovepipe-shaped rocks. The varied hexagonal pillars stretch out into the Irish Sea, earning them the name causeway.

Legend goes that folk hero Finn McCool built them as a bridge so he could walk to Scotland to hammer one of his enemies. This site is in the North, and therefore managed by the English National Trust, so plan to visit during museum hours. I have to say, years ago, it was wide open and a little more amazing for it.

Driving down the west coast, you can't miss another of Ireland's iconic sights, Ben Bulbin. I have been assured that it is just tall enough to qualify as a mountain.

Its anthropomorphous electric green profile peers down on Sligo town. Its appearance can make the Ben seem more like a name than the word for mountain.

Ben Bulbin's peak is unlike any other you would ever see. It is as flat as a 50s buzz cut. Yeats even wrote a poem about it. A climber who reaches the top has a unique experience. Instead of hanging on for your life, you can relax and have a nice level walk around while taking in panoramic views of town,

mountain and coast.

The Cliffs of Moher

Continuing the southern journey along the west coast, you come upon the picturesque postcard essential, the Cliffs of Moher. On approach, it almost looks like nothing unusual, until you get close to the edge. As you look down over the 700-foot precipice, the Cliffs look like primary evidence for how continents shift.

Watching the Atlantic Ocean pound the shore as seabirds soar in and out, is timeless. It is hard to imagine that anyone could come or go from this place. However, all this is on a good day. If the weather is less than great, the Cliffs are tricky. The wind is deceptively strong.

Our favorite view of the Cliffs was not from the top but from the bottom. The Aran Island ferry provides the opportunity to look up and really feel the majesty of the Cliffs.

The Burren

County Clare is also home to another world heritage spot, the Burren. It is a craggy and inhospitable place that does have a strange appeal. That moon-like place is now believed to be the first part of the island to be inhabited by early humans.

The Burren is so unique that it is host to plants that only thrive there. It is a surreal looking place, with a lingering, ethereal beauty.

A traveler can get satiated quicker than they might expect, amidst all this wonder. It is hard to take it all in, and sometimes, a traveler can lapse into tourist mode, mechanically looking, snapping a photo and moving on. At those moments, the occasionally appalling Irish weather is a blessing.

Nothing like sideways lashing rain to make a person contemplate where they had just been. Sometimes that bad weather gives a traveler time to rest and regroup, and prepare for more natural wonders.

The places that made my list did so because they are singular natural beauties. I came across a seanfhocal (a proverb) the other day. It said that to know someone

or something well, you had to meet or experience it at least seven times.

While I listed unique monuments, that is not all that there is to be experienced in Ireland. Throw a stone anywhere and there is something of historical or natural significance where it landed.

Look around the countryside; there are small wonders to be found. Probably well after seven meetings of the area surrounding my husband's family home, I found some surprising things.

Just down the road, there stands a weather-beaten Celtic Cross that is at least two thousand years old. The local cows are so impressed that they use it for a side scratcher. Up the other direction and across a field is the coronation stone of King Daithi, centuries old as well. There is more of course, but it was the seven times meeting that had been unlocked. A place that I thought that I knew well, was new again.

The French word for now is *maintenant*. That word feels long and lacks the snap of something that should convey urgency. The Latin root of the word is main, which is hand. Teased out, it translates to the idea of time in your hand.

That idea connected to the seven meetings for me. Holding time in your hand each time you experience a place, really seeing it, being present. A modern and tall order, so sometimes just try to look at things through a different lens. That is awe too.

That idea feels like good travel advice for Ireland. It is tempting to try to pack it all in and see the country in three days.

I would posit that it is better to have the seven meetings just about anywhere. If this is not a travel year, I think that this concept works for staycations too. We don't always need to chase the awe. The seven meetings might be waiting and closer than you think. ●

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Father's Day

On June 16, we will be celebrating Father's Day. Do you know the history of Father's Day? The first time that Father's Day was celebrated in the United States was on July 5, 1908, in a West Virginia Church. This was a local remembrance of the men who died in the worst mining accident in U.S. history.

In 1909, Sonora Smart Dodd tried to establish an official equivalent to Mother's Day. She had been raised along with her five siblings by a Civil War Veteran who was a widower. She went to local churches, the YMCA, local businesses and local government to support her idea of honoring Fathers. It was successful and the first statewide Father's Day was celebrated in the State of Washington on June 19, 1910.

President Wilson tried to have Father's Day as a National holiday in 1913, but it did not pass in Congress. In 1921 President Coolidge signed

a resolution "to establish more intimate relations between fathers and their children and to impress upon fathers the full measure of their obligations."

It took more than 40 years after President Coolidge's resolution before another president acted. President Johnson signed an executive order that Father's Day would be celebrated on the third Sunday in June. Although three presidents wrote in favor of celebrating our fathers, they did not pass legislation ratifying the holiday.

In 1970, Congress passed Joint Resolution 187 that called for the nation to "offer public and private expressions of such day to the abiding love and gratitude which they bear for their fathers." In 1972, President Richard Nixon signed the resolution into law; since then, Father's Day has been a National Holiday.

I would like to wish all of our fathers a Happy Father's Day, and I quote from *My Irish Father*, author unknown.

"God made a special person with a twinkle in his eyes. A smile upon his loving face. A person strong and wise. He called this man my father. A descendant of the sod. My Irish Father here on earth. My special gift from God."

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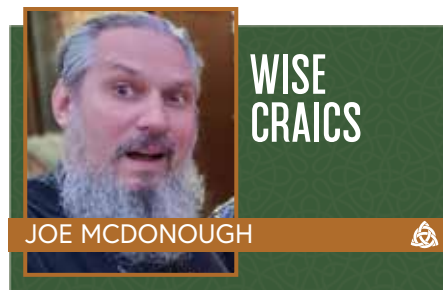
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Feeling Randy

A farmer has 200 hens, but no rooster, and he wants chicks. So, he goes down the road to the next farmer and asks if he has a rooster which he would sell. The other farmer says, "Yeah, I've got this great rooster, named Randy. He'll service every chicken you got, no problem."

Well, Randy the rooster costs a lot of money, but the farmer decides he'll be worth it. So he buys Randy. The farmer takes Randy home and sets him down in the barnyard first, giving the rooster a pep talk. "Randy, I want you to pace yourself now. You've got a lot of chickens to service here, and you cost me a lot of money. Consequently, I'll need you to do a good job. So, take your time and have some fun," the farmer said, with a chuckle.

Randy seemed to understand, and when the farmer points toward the henhouse, he takes off like a shot. WHAM! Randy nails every hen in the henhouse — three or four times. The farmer is in shock.

Later, the farmer hears a commotion in the duck pen, and sure enough, Randy is in there. Later still, the farmer sees Randy after a flock of geese, down by the lake. Once again — WHAM! He gets

all the geese. By sunset, Randy is out in the fields chasing quail and pheasants.

The farmer is distraught — worried that his expensive rooster won't even last 24 hours. Sure enough, the farmer goes to bed and wakes up the next day, to find Randy dead as a doorknob — stone cold in the middle of the yard. Buzzards are circling overhead.

The farmer, saddened by the loss of such a colorful — and expensive — animal, shakes his head and says, "Oh, Randy, I told you to pace yourself. I tried to get you to slow down, now look what you've done to yourself."

Randy opens one eye, nods toward the buzzards circling in the sky and says, "Shhh. They're getting closer."

Hiring The Daft

Paddy and Mick go down to the local job center. There is a big sign on the door saying, "Interviews for deaf people only." Nevertheless, they decide to put on an act.

Paddy walks into the office, and the interviewer says; "Shut the door." He does, and the interviewer says to Paddy, "You're not deaf at all. Get out."

Paddy comes out and tells Mick; "Whatever you do, don't shut the door" Mick goes into the office and the man says the same, "Shut the door." Mick replies, "Shut it yourself."

Enunciate

At a wedding ceremony, the priest asked that if anyone had anything to say concerning the union of the bride and groom, it was their time to stand up and speak or forever hold their peace.

The moment of silence was broken by a young beautiful lady, carrying a child. She started walking slowly to the priest.

Everything quickly turns to chaos. The bride slaps the groom. The grooms mother faints. The groomsmen started giving each other looks wondering how best to help save the situation.

The priest asked the lady; "Can you tell us why you came forward? What do you have to say?"

The woman replied, "We can't hear in the back."

Resurrected Rabbit

A man was driving along the highway and saw a rabbit hopping across the middle of the road. He swerved to avoid hitting the rabbit, but unfortunately, the rabbit jumped in front of the car and was hit. The driver, being a sensitive man as well as an animal lover, pulled over to the side of the road, and got out to see what had become of the rabbit.

Much to his dismay, the rabbit was dead. The driver felt so awful, he began to cry.

A woman driving down the highway saw the man crying on the side of the road and pulled over. She stepped out of her car and asked the man what was wrong.

"I feel terrible," he explained, "I accidentally hit this rabbit and killed it."

The woman told the man not to worry. She knew what to do. She went to her car trunk and pulled out a spray can. She walked over to the limp, dead rabbit, and sprayed the contents of the can onto the rabbit.

Miraculously the rabbit came to life, jumped up, waved its paw at the two humans and hopped down

the road. 50 meters away the rabbit stopped, turned around, waved and hopped down the road, another 50 meters, turned, waved and hopped another 50 meters. The man was astonished. He couldn't figure out what substance could be in the woman's spray can!!

He ran over to the woman and demanded, "What is in your spray can? What did you spray on that rabbit?"

The woman turned the can around so that the man could read the label. It said: "Hair spray. Restores life to dead hair. Adds permanent wave."

Dorky Stork

Two storks are sitting in their nest: a father stork and baby stork. The baby stork is crying and crying, and father stork is trying to calm him. "Don't worry, son. Your mother will come back. She's only bringing people babies and making them happy."

The next night, it's father's turn to do the job. Mother and son are sitting in the nest, the baby stork is crying, and mother is saying "Son, your father will be back as soon as possible, but now he's bringing joy to new mommies and daddies."

A few days later, the stork's parents are desperate: their son is absent from the nest all night! Shortly before dawn, he returns and the parents ask him where he's been all night.

The baby stork says, "Nowhere. Just scaring the hell out of college students!"

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