

2024

Festival



Focus



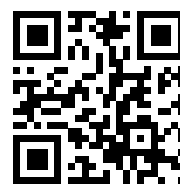
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newsmagazine

July 2024 | Volume 18 - Issue 7



***Ohio's New Rose of Tralee
Takes Flight***

SCAN
TO READ
ONLINE





A Rose by Any Other Name, and a Warrior Rests in Peace

We lost an Irish hero, and we gained an Irish Rose. Their stories are inside and like all Irish stories, also on the BRAND New iIrish.us website. The depths of life are sharpening their blades on me this month. Lessons from Pop on perseverance and patience continue to be drawn on in our effort to continue our community development, while honoring those who developed our community in the past. I mentioned the new website, which will allow us



to interact in a timely fashion with those who want to partner in this passion. So much more is coming.

iIrish's New Merch Store
Yes, it is finally here! We don't love the name, so we are holding a contest to name it. Winner will receive a special issue apparel piece, available only to iIrish VIP's. The VIP program is made up of personal and product influencers who are partnering with us to expand the brand to reach more people of all ages and backgrounds. We can't wait for you to meet them. Our audience is diverse, and sustainable, and so are we.

We've always been green. Like America, we are also diverse, dedicated and determined in each day that we trade in our lives, for something worthwhile, and lasting. iIrish is American, Irish, Canadian, Scottish, Italian, Black, Indian, Polish, Brazilian, Lebanese, Jewish, LGBTQ+, Gaelic, Irish Speaking, Writers, Teachers, Doctors, Poets, Lawyers, Green, Sustainable, Philanthropists, and best of all, friends. We are Meitheal (pron. Mee Hawl) - a group of people working together for the common good.

We are excited about the branded and funny choices available to you, our supporters, and your feedback on what you buy, what you share, what you love and don't, will 100% shape the products offered going forward –

so please tell us what you think. We will keep adding to it, refining the offerings, and finding more VIP's who share our love for our community.

What to do? Browse the *What's the Craic?* and other features within and on the website (with More to the Story – more content, more pics, breaking news and LARGER print), for all craic, and the details too. There is so much more inside and on online.

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



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About Our Cover:
Ohio's New Rose of Tralee, Aoife Zuercher, Takes Flight.
Photo by John O'Brien, Jr.

MILESTONE & SWEET SNAPS

Photos courtesy of Michael Crawley.



87th Cleveland Pipe Band (pic above) won the Grade IV Championship, and Great Lakes Pipe Band, (pic at right) both of Cleveland, won the Grade II Championship at the Alma Highland Games!



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Ohio Chooses New Ohio Rose of Tralee

By **John O'Brien, Jr.**

Eight Applicants sought the title of 2024 Ohio Rose of Tralee, in a memorable and exciting selection ceremony held at the West Side Irish American Club on June 9th. Aoife Zuercher, a 22-year-old recent graduate of Ohio University, with honors degrees in Chemistry and Mathematics, became the 2024 Ohio Rose.



Aoife will pursue a PhD in Materials Engineering at the University of Maryland next year. She is a published author through her research at NASA and OU and is passionate about advocating for women in science and a sustainable future through scientific discoveries.

She has been active in the Cleveland Irish community since



The 2024 Ohio Rose of Tralee Applicants

Below: Sponsor Gormleys Irish Pub Owner Sean Gormley with Aoife Zuercher.

she was young, being a part of the Burke School of Irish Dance for 12 years. Aoife is currently a member of the Cleveland GAA Ladies Gaelic Football Club and bartends at Gormley's Pub, which sponsored Aoife in the Ohio Rose this year.

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 and emerges in her everyday life with her lively family and supportive friends. She is proud to represent Ohio as the 2024 Ohio Rose of Tralee, and at the Rose of Tralee International Festival, held later this summer. •



Aoife Zuercher

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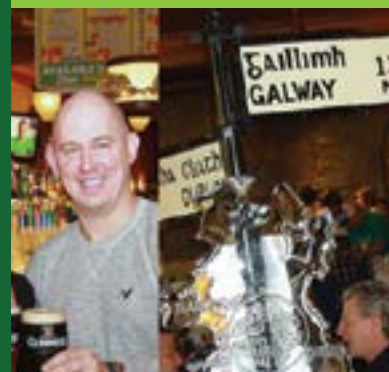
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The Killer

Late night channel surfing one weekend, I happened on the movie, "Goodfellas," a classic retelling of Nicholas Pileggi's book, "Wiseguy."



Robert Di Niro's character is based on the real life Jimmy Burke, and Ray Liotta plays the part of Henry Hill.

The two were of Irish descent, with strong connections to the Luchesse Crime Family. In the book, Hill remembers Burke as being exceedingly generous with his partners, but noted he could also be violent and unpredictable.

Hill said of Burke, "The thing you've got to understand about Jimmy is that he loved to steal. He ate and breathed it. I think if you ever offered Jimmy a billion dollars not to steal, he'd turn you down and then try to figure out how to steal it from you. It was the only thing he enjoyed. It kept him alive."

The movie chronicles Burke and his crew's robberies and hi-jackings.

Their specialty was to hi-jack trucks coming in and out of JFK Airport. Jimmy was given the nickname "Jimmy the Gent" because of his habit of sticking a few hundred dollars into the shirt pockets of the drivers as he relieved them of their trucks and cargo.

The Lufthansa Heist

The movie also tells the story of The Lufthansa Heist. Jimmy and his crew, armed with rifles and pistols, entered the Lufthansa terminal at JFK and walked out with over five million dollars in cash and another \$875,000 worth of jewelry. It was the largest theft in America at the time.

Jimmy survived as long as he did in New York, because he was sure to line everyone's pockets. He was a top earner for the Luchesse Family, who referred to him as "The Irish Guinea." He was ruthless and daring, but smart enough not to be too ambitious. Jimmy Burke had patterned his life of crime after New York's most infamous Irish mobster, ?? Who?.

The Killer

Owen Vincent Madden was born in Leeds, England on the 18th of December, 1891, to Irish immigrant parents. His father died shortly after his birth, and his mother placed Owey and his brother and sister in an orphanage in Britain. She emigrated to New York to work as a maid. By 1896, she had saved

enough to bring her children to join her in the city.

The children were often left to fend for themselves, while their mother worked long hours to pay the rent on their tenement house apartment and put food on the table. Owey quickly adapted to life on the streets of New York, joining a gang known as "The Gopher Gang" by the age of twelve. They stole from anyone they could and fought with the police and rival gangs.

Madden became proficient in the ways of gang life, including fighting with all manner of weapons. By the age of twenty-one, he was the recognized leader of the Gophers and had earned the nickname "The Killer."

The Killer Earns His Name

On September 6, 1911, he shot and killed a rival gang member of the "Hudson Dusters." The following February, Madden was on a trolley arguing with a man named William Henshaw about a woman.

The argument escalated and Madden shot Henshaw in the face.

Henshaw was not a gang member, and as he lay dying, he named Owey Madden as his killer to the police. Madden never went to trial, even though the police had his name and there were multiple witnesses to both murders. In both killings witnesses were intimidated and refused to cooperate with authorities.

The Gophers were involved in all



Henry Hill and Jimmy Burke

types of criminal activity, but Owey made them well known for raiding and robbing the railroad yards on New York's westside. He would lead members of the gang in brazen raids, breaking into cargo shipments and making off with whatever they found.

Recognized by the authorities as the leader of the Gophers, Madden was arrested many times - Fifty-seven of them by the time his career in crime ended.

On the streets, it wasn't just the law Owey had to watch out for. There were always rival gangs and even members of his own gang that wanted to see him gone.

The Hit

In November of 1912, Madden was at the Arbor Dance Hall when he found himself surrounded by eleven gunmen, some of them members of the Dusters. Owey pulled out his gun, but when the shooting ended, he was on the floor with a half dozen bullets in him.

The police and ambulance arrived to rush him to New York Hospital.



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Thinking he would soon be dead, the police asked him to identify his attackers. Owey refused, saying, "The boys'll take care of them." Within a week, three of the shooters were dead.

It was a feud with a minor member of the Gophers that finally put Owey behind bars. While Madden was recovering in the hospital from the attempt on his life, Patsy Doyle declared himself the new boss of the gang. The day after Madden's release from the hospital, Doyle was found beaten half to death and lying on the street.

Doyle lived to retaliate, attacking and shooting one of Owey's favorite young proteges. Owey had enough, and plotted the demise of Patsy Doyle once and for all. With the help of two of the gang's girls, he lured Doyle to a bar on Forty-First and Eighth Avenue. When Doyle entered, he was shot numerous times by two gunmen. He staggered out into the street and fell dead into the gutter.

Conviction and Prison

Even though Owey was nowhere in sight, the district attorney had enough to build his case against him. The two women were coerced into testifying against Owey and the shooters. The judge sentenced Madden to ten to twenty years for orchestrating the killing.

When Madden entered prison, the police and the D.A. went after the rest of the Gophers, putting sixteen of them behind bars for various charges by the years end. That pretty much ended the Gophers.

After eight years, Owey was released on good behavior. He was tired of gang life and aspired to bigger things. He worked for a taxi company as a strong arm for a while, but found he had lost his taste for violence.

Prohibition

Owey put a small gang together and began hi-jacking illegal alcohol shipments. There was so much liquor going into New York during Prohibition, that it was usually given up without a fight.

Madden wasn't satisfied though, he wanted more; he fancied himself as someone bigger than a mere hi-jacker. He became inspired when he found out that Big Bill Dwyer, the king of the rum runners, was looking for him. The two knew of one another by reputation and Owey saw Big Bill as his big break.

At their first meeting Owey told Big Bill that gangsters were picking off his shipments because it was so easy. Madden told him he could organize and protect the shipments and he and Big Bill could open speakeasies and nightclubs and drive their rivals out.

A deal was struck. The New York Irish Mob was born.

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



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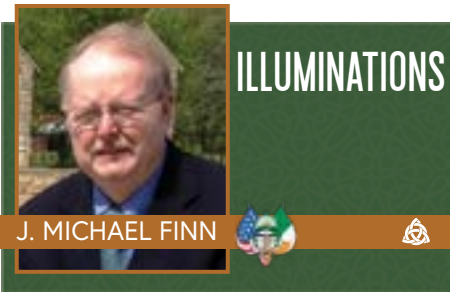




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St. Senán and Scattery Island

St. Senán (pron: *shay-nawn*) was a resident of Munster and is important in Irish Christian tradition as the founder of Inis Cathaigh (Pron: *in-ish cah-a-ree*), or Scattery Island, monastery. He is listed among the Twelve Apostles of Ireland.

He was born to Christian parents in 488 in a place four miles east of the present day town of Kilrush, in County Clare. The translation of his name, "Senán," is from old Irish, and means "little old wise man."

As a young boy, he promised his life to God following a miracle that caused the River Shannon to part for him as he was driving a herd of cattle across the river at high tide.

He studied under an abbot named Cassidus, from whom he received the habit and tonsure of a monk. From him, he learned sacred scriptures and the practices

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Scattery Round Tower and church

of the religious life. Abbot Cassidus sent him on to St. Natalis, at Kilmanagh, County Kilkenny, where upon completion of his studies, he was ordained a priest. He began his missionary career by founding a church near Enniscorthy, in 510.

The Book of Lismore
The Book of Lismore states that Senán travelled to Rome and from there to Tours in France, which was the great monastic establishment in West Europe. Returning to Ireland, Senán established a church and monastery at Inniscarra, in Cork. He then moved back to his native district in Clare.

Inis Cathaigh, or Scattery Island, is an island of about 180 acres, located a mile off the coast from Kilrush, at the mouth of the River Shannon estuary. Senán, it

was said, was directed to Scattery Island by the Archangel Raphael, about the year 534.

Up to this point, the Island was inhabited only by a monster known as the "Cathach," (pron: *ca-ack*). The Cathach, often depicted as a sea-serpent, ate any man or beast daring to venture to Inis Cathaigh.

The Archangel told Senán that God had sent the awful monster to keep the island sacred while awaiting Senán's arrival. The Archangel said that God wanted



Scattery Island

Senán to build a church on the island, that it would become a place of devotion and a well of wisdom to the rest of the world.

On Senán's arrival on the island, the Archangel led him to the highest hill, from which he was able to locate the Cathach. Senán faced the monster and ordered it, in the name of the Trinity, to depart from the island. Legend

has it that the monster fled to Doolough Lake in County Mayo without harming anyone again. From the year 534, Scattery Island was inhabited. There Senán built six churches and a round tower, which at one hundred and twenty-one feet high, is one of the tallest in Ireland. The rule of the monastery was extremely strict.

While there are no accurate statistics for the number of monks that lived on the island, given the number of churches and oratories, we can assume that at least two hundred monks could have easily been supported on the island.

Saints Ciarán and Brendan, and other holy men, who had heard of Senán's sanctity and miracles, visited him for spiritual guidance. Scattery Island became not only a famous abbey but the seat of a diocese, with St. Senán serving as its first bishop.

St. Senán is reported to have died on March 8th, 544. His patron day on March 8th was an important day of pilgrimage to Inis Cathaigh. He is buried on Scattery Island, probably in the small oratory known as St. Senán's Bed.

The grave is supposed to be the

site of miraculous cures. Stones from his grave were regarded as relics, and a protection against diseases and especially drowning.

The Vikings first raided Inis Cathaigh in 815, killing many of the monks. The monastery was plundered repeatedly until the Vikings came to settle there in the mid-tenth century. This, in turn, led to attacks by Irish kings.

Inis Cathaigh was a part of the Norse Kingdom of Limerick, which included not only Limerick itself, but also several other bases in western Ireland. Given its strategic location at the mouth of the Shannon estuary, it controlled all maritime traffic up the Shannon to Limerick.

The Annals of Innisfallen
The Annals of Innisfallen record that during the 970s, Norse kings of Limerick were residents at Inis Cathaigh. Ivar of Limerick, the last Norse king of the city, along with two of his sons, was slain on Inis Cathaigh by Brian Boru in 977.

The Normans arrived in 1176, and this led to an attack on the monastery by Sir William Howell, who laid waste to the island. By 1189, the last Bishop of Scattery had died and the Diocese of Scattery was abolished.

The English now took possession of the island. The end of the monastery came following the 1537 passage of the Suppression of the Monasteries Act by Henry VIII.

The Scattery Island Pilots
While Scattery Island is well known as an important monastic sites, not so well known is the story behind the last islanders to inhabit the island, the Scattery Island Pilots, who moved there in the 1840s. The pilots on the island were known (notably the women) for their exceptional boating skills on unique currachs, which they referred to as canoes. Piloting was a way of life in the Scattery Island community, a way of life that was passed down from generation to generation.

When a ship appeared in the estuary, they would race each other to get out to the boats first. They would then guide the boat safely to their destination up river (most often to Limerick). Although lucrative, this could be a treacherous occupation, and many pilots were drowned over the years. As electronic piloting technology and improved boats were invented, the pilots became unnecessary.

The island had a population of twenty five inhabitants when the government decided to



St. Senan's Bed

evacuate the island. A government preserving order was placed on the island in 1978, which called for the removal of the final batch of inhabitants.

In 1989, the Irish Government purchased almost all of the land on Scattery, and today the island is owned by the Irish state, which maintains the archaeological and historical monuments and is developing the island as a heritage site for the benefit of both local people and visitors to Ireland. Today, you can visit the island by taking the Scattery Island ferry from Kilrush. ●

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

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Festival Focus



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 Fitzgerald's, Andrew McManus Trio, Brother Crowe, Brigid's Cross & More.

Irish Roots

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 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

Festival Focus

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.

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](https://www.facebook.com/DublinIrishFestival), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/DublinIrishFestival), [Twitter](https://www.twitter.com/DublinIrishFestival) and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/DublinIrishFestival).



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 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



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Festival Focus

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 App 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.●



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, 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.●



Ohio Celtic Festival August 9-11, 2024

Featuring The Devil's Brigade (formerly known as The American Rogues); the Boxing Banjo, coming from Ireland; Chelsea House Orchestra, from Michigan; Trish OBrien, from Canada, and many more local favorites! Join us! Meet new friends, tap your feet to lively tunes, and immerse yourself in the cultural tapestry of Ireland and the other Celtic nations. Lake County Fairgrounds, 1301 Mentor Ave., Painesville Twp. 44077 ohiocelticfestival.com ●

Festival Focus



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, 2024

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 kid friendly activities and entertainment, as well as shop and food vendors. The music lineup includes first-time CPG 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, 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 chicagogaelicparkirishfest.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. ●

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Festival Focus



**Kansas City
Irish Fest**
August 30, 31
& September 1,

The Kansas City Irish Fest kicks off its annual Labor Day weekend party from at Crown Center in downtown Kansas City, with a lineup that showcases the very best in contemporary and traditional Irish music, terrific dancing performances and hilarious comedy acts.

This year's festival will feature a new addition – **the Emerald Club** – that will give you comfortable shade and seating for a great view of the Boulevard Stage acts. The Emerald Club ticket gets you into the Emerald Club at the day and time of your choosing, a general admission ticket, two drink tickets and access to a private restroom trailer. Early tickets sales for the Emerald Club will start at \$60 at kcirishfest.com


**17th Annual
Festival Focus
Issue!**

Featuring: The Elders, Gaelic Storm, Doolin', Mundy, Hermitage Green, Screaming Orphans, Siomha and Gadan featuring Enda Scahill of We Banjo 3, Corner Boy, Reverie Road, Ally the Piper and Colm & Laura Keegan, Carswell & Hope, Ashley Davis, Eddie Delahunt & Friends, Flannigan's Right Hook, St. Andrew Pipes and Drums, Irish dancing groups and many other acts. Comedians Katie Boyle and Ger Staunton will perform Saturday and Sunday nights. A complete list of performers is on-line at kcirishfest.com

The Kansas City Irish Fest is dedicated to the preservation of Kansas City's and the Midwest's Irish heritage. Fans can follow the Fest on Facebook and Instagram. •



**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 Kings, Donnie Irish, Shane Cook & The Woodchippers, Dennis Doyle, and Fiddle Frenzy, Local performers: Abbots Cross,

Festival Focus



**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! •

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. •

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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.

JOSEPH PATRICK BOYLE

January 20, 1935 - June 2, 2024
On Sunday June 2, 2024, Joseph Patrick Boyle, loving husband, father and grandfather, passed away at his home in Hudson, Florida at the age of 89 surrounded by his family.



Joe was born on January 20, 1935, in Carrick, County Donegal, Ireland to John Boyle (1893-1976) and Bella

Meehan (1902-1952).

Joe's story is a beacon of hope for anyone wishing to immigrate and chase the American dream. Joe was one of eight children raised in the windswept northwest corner of Ireland. Joe's upbringing was very modest, and his childhood stories consisted of playing Gaelic football, cutting turf in the bog, going to school and general mischief. In October 1956, at the age of 21, Joe left Ireland and immigrated to the United States on the passenger ship TSS New York, following his brother John and his sister Mary. Joe arrived in New York City's Ellis Island, and made his way to Cleveland, Ohio. At Cleveland, Joe quickly integrated into the Irish American community and, of course, joined St. Patrick's Gaelic football team (<https://clevelandgaacom.wordpress.com/>). He would go on to play and coach for St. Patrick's for the next 30 years. Joe joined the Ohio National Guard and served for six years. Joe became a United States citizen in 1960. Around that same time Joe started working at the Lincoln Electric Company, starting as a general laborer unloading railroad cars by hand and worked for Lincoln until he retired at the age of 62 as a general inspector.

Joe met his future wife, Margaret, in 1959, while attending a function at the Cleveland West Side Irish American Club and married Margaret on August 4, 1962. Joe and Margaret moved to Euclid, Ohio and raised four children, Tom, Joe, Tina and Sheila.

In 1971, Joe and Margaret decided to move the family back to Dublin, Ireland in order to be closer to Joe's younger brother Tommy who suffered severe injuries in an automobile accident. Joe, Margaret and the kids lived in Stillorgan, Ireland for five years, before returning to Euclid, Ohio in 1976. Joe and Margaret moved to Hudson, Florida part time in 2004.

Joe was preceded in death by his father, John (1893-1976), his mother, Bella (1902-1952), his brothers, Tommy (1940-2002), Donald (1938-1938), Dennis (1926-1977), James (1920-1976), and John (1929-1975), and his sisters Mary (1927-2009) and Bridget (1933-1998). He is survived by his wife, Margaret, his four children; Tom of Hudson, Florida, Joe (Kelly) Boyle of Oakton Virginia, Tina (Dale) Kitchen of Chardon, Ohio, and Sheila (Peter) Martin of Providence, RI, his 8 grandchildren; Jessica, Tommy, Michael, Charlie, Brendan, Heather, Julia, Melanie and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Obituary courtesy of gracefuneralhomehudson.com. You can pay tribute to Joe and his family by visiting (<https://www.gracefuneralhomehudson.com/obituaries/Joseph-Boyle-8/#!/Obituary>).

A Celebration of Life service will be scheduled at a later date. •

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Siopadóireacht

Conas atá sibh? Tá súil agam go bhfuil sibh go maith. Summer is flying by, hopefully you've found time to make it to a festival or two and used your cupla focal. There are still a few great festivals ahead and Mary, the hounds and I will be at a couple of them. Stop by

and say hello, in Irish of course! A couple of months back (May 2024), we featured vocabulary and phrases that would be useful when visiting a pub or restaurant. Many of the phrases from the lesson on "Bia agus Deoch" would be applicable here as well.

Greetings

Let's do a quick review on greeting someone in Irish. A simple haigh (hi) works in most instances, or the more formal Dia Duit (dee-uh gwit), God to you, can be used. Remember to use Dia's Muire Duit (dee-us morra gwit), God and Mary to you, as the proper response. You can also use Conas atá tú? (kun-as ah-taw too) How are you? as a greeting. That example would be in the Munster dialect. Refer back to the May issue for the other two dialects - all past issues are

online at iIrish.us. There are many ways to reply to that question: Tá mé go maith, (taw may guh mah) - I am good, is easy to remember and pronounce.

How much is that?

Cá mhéad atá air sin? (kah vayd ah-taw air shin) How much is that? Cá mhéad atá air seo? (kah vayd ah-taw air show) How much is this? Cá mhéad atá orthu seo? (kah vayd ah-taw or-huh show) How much are these?

Cá mhéad atá orthu sin? (kah vayd ah-taw or-huh shin) How much are those? Cad é an luach atá air? (ka-jay ahn loo-ach ah-taw ayr) What price is it?

Tá sé saor. (taw shay sayr) It's cheap. Tá sé an-saor. (taw shay ahn sayr) It's very cheap.

Tá siad daor. (taw shee-ud dare) They're expensive. Lit. they are dear.

Tá siad an-daor. (taw shee-ud ahn dare) They're very expensive.

Tá sé ródháor. (taw shay roe-gare) It's too expensive. Tá siad i bhfad ródháor. (taw

shee-ud ih wahd roe-gare) They're far too expensive.

Níl mé acmhainn, tá sé ródháor agam. (neel may ach-whynn taw shay roe-gare ah-gum) I can't afford it.

An bhfuil briseadh agat? (ahn will brish-ah ah-gut) Do you have change?

Tá (taw) Yes Níl leathphingin rua agam! (neel leh-fin-gihn roo-ah ah-gum) I haven't got a red half-penny.

Counting Things

We've talked before about different ways of counting in Irish. We have basic numbers, used for addresses and phone numbers and things like that. A separate set of numbers just for counting people and a number system for counting things. The numbers from one to six will cause lenition or a softening to occur; from seven to ten they cause eclipsis if you are counting a thing that starts with certain consonants.

aon (ayn) one seacht (shakht) seven

dhá (ghaw) two ocht (awkht) eight

trí (tree) three naoi (nee) nine

ceithre (keh-ruh) deich (jeh) ten cúig (kooig) five amháin (uh-woyn) alone sé (shay) six

€1 aon cheann amháin euro (ayn kyann ah-wahn euro) one euro €2 dhá euro (gah euro) two euros €3 trí euro (tree euro) three euros

To count from eleven to twenty we start with aon, then the thing we're counting and then a version of the number ten déag (jay-ug). €11 aon euro déag (ayn euro jay-ug) eleven euros

€15 cúig euro déag (kooig euro jay-ug) fifteen euros To count above twenty, we follow the same pattern but we add the word and, agus, (ah-gus) but in a shortened form which is written 's (iss)

€23 trí euro 's fiche (tree euro iss fih-huh) twenty-three euros tríocha (tree-och-ah) thirty €2.10 dhá euro deich chent (gah euro jeh cent) two euros and ten cents

€2.20 dhá euro fiche chent (gah euro fee-ha cent) two euros and twenty cents

€2.30 dhá euro tríocha chent (gah euro tree-khuh) two euros and thirty cents

To pay for things you might want to use a cárta creidmheasa (karta kred-vah-sa) credit card or íoc le hairgead tirim (eek leh hare-agahd teer-um) to pay in cash.

Siopadóireacht

siopadóireacht (shup-a-dor-acht) shopping siopa (shuhp-ah) shop a cheannach (ah kuh-nohk) to buy

maragadh maith (mara-goo mah) a good bargain

Fuair tú maragadh maith ansin. (foor too mara-goo mah ahn shin) You have a good bargain there.

Ar mhaith leat rud éigin a cheannach? (ar vah lyat rud ay-gin ah kuh-nohk) Would you like to buy something?

Ba mhaith liom rud éigin a cheannacht. (bah vah lum rud ay-gin ah kuh-nohk) I would like to buy something.

Tá an léine sin go deas. (taw ahn lee-na shin guh jess) That shirt is nice.

Taispeáin ceann eile dom.

(tashpan kyunn ella dom) Show me another one.

Ní maith liom an ceann seo. (nee mah lum ahn kyunn sho) I don't like this one.

Ní maith liom an dath atá air. (nee mah lum ahn dah ah-taw ayr) I don't like the color of it.

Is fear liom an ceann seo. (iss far lum ahn kyunn sho) I prefer this one.

Cád é a cheannaigh tú? (kuh-jay a khyanee too) What did you buy?

An maith leat é? (ahn mah lyat ay) Do you like it?

Cad a mholfá? (kahd ah voll-fa) What do you recommend?

An bhfuil ... agat? (ahn will ... ah-gut) Do you have ...?

Essential phrases

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

Go raibh míle maith agat (gorra meela mah ah-gut) thank you very much

Le do thoil (leh duh hull) please Tá fáilte romhat (taw fahl-cha roe-it) you're welcome

Gabh mo leithscéal (gaw muh lesh-shkale) excuse me

An bhfuil Gaeilge agat? (ahn will gway-la-guh ah-gut) Do you speak Irish?

Tá beagáinín Gaeilge agam. (taw bee-ah gahneen gway-la-guh ah-gum) I speak a little Irish.

I hope you have the chance to use some of our lesson in the shops of Ireland, or with some of the vendors at the festivals. Have a safe and wonderful summer. Our next Speak Irish Cleveland classes, with a new format, starts September 10th. Hope we will see you there. •

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 active in the Irish Wolfhound and Irish dogs organizations in and around Cleveland. Wife Mary, hounds Rían, Aisling and Draoi and terrier Doolin keep the house jumping. He can be reached at carneyspeakirish@gmail.com

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My Uncle's Thumb

It was a Tuesday, May 24, 1960, was the Tuesday that changed my uncle's way of life, or at least modified it. The copyright for the "gun-type garden hose nozzle" was granted that day. Ya see, my uncle lived in a time where hosing down the driveway was a job, well at least a task. Weather permitting, he would include that task on his weekend to do list. Ideally, it would occur Sunday after Mass and include a two-bit cigar in his left hand. His right hand was all business, particularly his thumb.

His thumb controlled the water and the rate of completion, a rate that always coincided with the time it took to smoke his cigar. It is staggering to extrapolate the gallons upon gallons of water dedicated to this habitual endeavor. That all

changed just two weeks before Labor Day in 1960.

My uncle was a working fellow. He could dig a ditch, finish cement and push a wheelbarrow when needed. When I would assist him, he always knew the "tricks of the trade."

He had his fellow workers had figured some things out, some things not so much. It took me awhile to realize the majority of the not so much were by choice.

I was in high school the first time he tried that hose nozzle. It was a Sunday afternoon in August, and it was hot. As the water washed the drive, steam rose to conceal the cigar smoke.

The steam soon dissipated, and the driveway was never cleaner, but alas the cigar was only halfway done. It was like Cool Hand Luke tarring the road. Those who knew my uncle could see his bewilderment. Those who really knew my uncle were not surprised when he deduced there was time for a trip to his local.

He ordered me into the Buick and off we went. Aunt Irene would not consume on a Sunday; she was a true Trinitarian. My uncle was just as much Little Kings as he was three Kings.

It was not my first time being used as an accomplice. It was the first time one of his friends discussed abstaining from the drink.

Uncle Pat suggested a break from June 1 to June 1 and discussion ensued. We did not engage in the debate, just a quick beer; no one misses Sunday dinner.

As the Buick headed home, my uncle turned to me and said, "June 1 to June 1, that's just midnight to midnight. Even I could do that." Perspective was not the only thing I learned over at Aunt Irene's.

Historical Perspective

It is the historical perspective that attempts to understand the forces that influenced people's lives. The historian uses that perspective to explain the past, but the historian is not devoid of an ontological paradigm.

How the historian interprets the past contributes to the narrative of the people being studied. That has affected the lens in which canal labor has been viewed, the un-skilled narrative.

Locks, like those on the canals, were first conceived by Leonardo Da Vinci.

His canal lock was an improvement on previous designs dating back to Chiao Wei-Yo in 10th Century China.

Da Vinci was able to analyze and renovate the canal lock and devise a more efficient and effective approach. Canal workers did that too.

Canal Innovations

The canals in America were the birthplace of engineering firsts and firsts in general. The locks, swing bridges, and the first iron-truss bridge were the result of those creating the canal system. There were also canal-related innovations like solar powered salt production.

The canals were a gargantuan undertaking that required innovation. Only West Point had an official engineering program in America at the time, and very few involved had any experience on such a project. Irish labor might have had some experience before immigration, but nothing to compare to dealing with the topography and forest density of the American continent.

Canal workers repurposed plows and scrapers to function like a modern-day bulldozer. Conveyors were utilized when possible and folks looked for ways to move dirt more efficiently.

That thought process led to the re-shaping of the wheelbarrow. It was transformed from a box to a more rounded barrel, making it easier to dump. It was an innovation my uncle embraced and one that I have appreciated as well.

Dirt had to be moved and trees had to be felled. Canal workers created a crank-driven tree feller. It removed tree and stump with the assistance of horses or oxen.

A stump remover was also devised to remove the stumps of smaller trees. It could remove 40 stumps per day, verses the four per day by human labor. Waterproof cement was produced by heating limestone. It was not an invention; the Romans had a version.

It was "re-found" to build the canals. Today, we would call it hydraulic cement. The grain elevator was also created to assist in the unloading of cargo and transferring it to storage silos.

Irish Agency

The majority of historians who

describe the canals share the idea that they were built by brute force and by brutes. However, those who worked on the canals, in part or in whole, were figuring some things out.

That included re-purposing contemporary technology and fostering innovations.

It may seem insignificant to those who have never been face down in the muck; however, configuring a piece of metal that attached to your boots, so you didn't slip and fall in the mud as you were pushing the new version of the wheelbarrow, made a difference.

Trinitarians glorify the Trinity, are committed to charity, and strive for the redemption of today's captives. The Trinitarian Order was approved by Pope Innocent III on December 17th, 1198. Father Antall explained it better in his homily at Holy Name.

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit as a divine one. It made me think of the Irish on the canal. Yes, a part of their skill set was the ability to perform a task that was physically daunting. The argument is that physicality was a component of who they were, and it should not define them in totality.

As we have discussed, those workers were also innovators who used their agency to find better and more efficient approaches to their work. They were people with a culture and a history. They were many things; but, as I have previously submitted, they were not un-skilled. •

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; the founder and past president of the Bluestone Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians; 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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WHO'S YOUR DADDY? (Part 1)

July is the month we celebrate Independence Day in the United States. It took a great deal of blood, sweat, and tears (literally) to gain our freedom from Great Britain. The Founding Fathers are always referred to as the ones who made it happen, but who are they? It depends where you look for information.

There were so many men and women that contributed to the fight, that there is no definite list, but there are a few who are always considered to be at the top of any list created, such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and Alexander Hamilton.

George Washington

George Washington is most known for being our first president. He was born in 1732 in the colony of Virginia. His father died when he was only 11, so his older brother raised him.

Washington was educated in the basic core subjects, but did not go to college. When he was 20, he actually fought as a soldier for the British army in their war with France over the Ohio River Valley territory.

After that war was over, he was elected to the colonial legislature by the people of Virginia. He got married and then settled at Mount Vernon.

While he was a government official, he spoke out about the unfair laws that Great Britain was forcing on the colonists. Soon the colonists formed an army and Washington was picked to be the leader. He was the head of the army for the five years that the Revolutionary War raged on.

When the war was over, each colony all followed the Articles of Confederation, but that placed most power with the states, and individual states were not supporting each other. The new country needed a national leader.



kids in the kitchen

Campfire Bread on a Stick

Try this if you are going camping this summer or having a night around the fire in your own backyard!

Ingredients:

- 1 tsp instant dried yeast
- 1 tsp sugar
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 200 ml (3/4 cup + a bit more) warm water
- Toppings (garlic butter, cinnamon sugar, etc.) optional

Directions:

Mix the yeast, sugar, flour, and salt and put in Ziploc bag. Put the olive oil in a small container. Warm the water until it is warm but not hot. Add the oil to the dry ingredients in the bag. Gradually add the water until it is a doughy consistency. The dough will be sticky but not super wet. Mix the ingredients inside the bag by closing the top and squishing the sides together. You don't need to knead the dough. Set the dough aside in a warm place to rise for



about an hour. While the dough is rising, find some large sticks with a diameter of about two inches. Use a Swiss Army Knife to whittle the end of the stick to get a smooth surface for the dough.

Once the dough has risen, divide into four equal portions and roll into a rope. Pinch one end onto the top of the stick and wrap the dough around to form a swirl on the stick. Pinch the bottom to secure it onto the stick even more.

Hold or prop your stick over a spot with hot coals to cook your dough evenly. Make sure to continuously rotate the bread so it does not burn.

You will know the bread is done by pulling out a small bit to peek inside. If it still looks doughy and squishy, it is not fully cooked. Enjoy with garlic butter, cinnamon sugar, or whatever you would like! •

Lardie's Laughs

Q. Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?
A. At the bottom

Q. Why is there no knock-knock joke about America?
A. Because freedom rings!



On this day in IRISH HISTORY

JULY

BY TERRENCE J. KENNEALLY

2 July 1850 - Sir Robert Peel (62), founder of the Conservative Party and British Prime Minister, died. In nationalist Ireland, Peel is remembered as Daniel O'Connell's nemesis, who was forced to concede Catholic exemption.

5 July 1922 - On the last day of fighting between the National army and anti-treaty IRA in O'Connell Street, Cathal Brugha (47) emerged from the Hammam Hotel with guns blazing and was mortally wounded.

7 July 1973 - General Sean MacEoin (79), IRA commander during the War of Independence, chief-of-staff of the National army (1923-29) and Fine Gael politician, died.

12 July 1922 - The Provisional Government appointed a War Council with Michael Collins as commander-in-chief and Richard Mulcahy as chief-of-staff.

15 July 1993 - The Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) released a statement admitting responsibility for the Dublin and Monaghan bombings in May, 1974.

18 July 1973 - The Northern Ireland Constitution Act abolished the Parliament of Northern Ireland and empowered the secretary of state to appoint an executive.

20 July 1933 - Eoin O'Duffy was elected leader of the Army Comrades Association, known as the Blueshirts, and the name was changed to the National Guard.

21 July 1972 - In what became known as "Bloody Friday", nine were killed - seven civilians, including a fourteen year old school boy, and two soldiers - and 130 others were injured, when the IRA detonated 20 devices in 65 minutes.

25 July 1973 - Northern Ireland repealed the Special Powers Act, abolished the death penalty and provided for one judge sitting without a jury for offenses of a 'terrorist' nature.

31 July 1973 - The first meeting of the Northern Ireland Assembly ended in disorder when over 20 loyalist members refused the ruling that the house would adjourn.

HEALTH MATTERS

A Guide to Staying Hydrated This Summer

By Joshua Muetzel, MD

As the temperature rises and the sun shines brighter, it's crucial to prioritize hydration for our overall health and well-being. Water is not just a necessity - it keeps our bodies functioning optimally. Let's delve into the



importance of staying hydrated and consider how you can ensure you're getting enough fluids.

Why and How Much

Staying hydrated is essential for maintaining the efficiency of various bodily functions. From aiding digestion to regulating temperature, water plays a pivotal role in keeping our systems in check. We lose water every day through regular bodily functions.

During hotter months, our bodies require even more water to combat dehydration and prevent heat-related illnesses. A general guideline for daily water intake is around eleven and a half cups for women and fifteen and a half cups for men.

But...I Don't Like Water

If you are someone for whom water is unappealing, you will be happy to know that not all of your hydration intake needs to come solely from plain water. Surprisingly, about 20% of our daily water needs are fulfilled through food consumption. Incorporating hydrating foods into your diet is not only refreshing but also contributes to your overall water intake.

From juicy watermelons to crunchy celery, nature offers a plethora of options to keep you hydrated. Additionally, beverages like juices and milk, along with coffee and tea (in moderation), can help meet your hydration goals. Contrary to popular belief, coffee and tea do contribute to our fluid



intake, making them acceptable choices for hydration, but they should be consumed in moderation.

Warning Signs of Dehydration

Recognizing the early signs of dehydration is crucial for maintaining optimal health, especially during the summer months. Headaches, dry mouth, excessive thirst, and dark-colored urine are all indicators that your body needs more fluids. If you experience any of these symptoms, it's imperative to increase your water intake immediately to prevent further dehydration.

Tips for Staying Hydrated

Carry a Water Bottle: Invest in a reusable water bottle and take it with you wherever you go. Having water readily available encourages regular hydration throughout the day.

Set Reminders: If you often forget to drink water, set reminders on your phone, or use hydration apps to prompt you to take sips regularly.

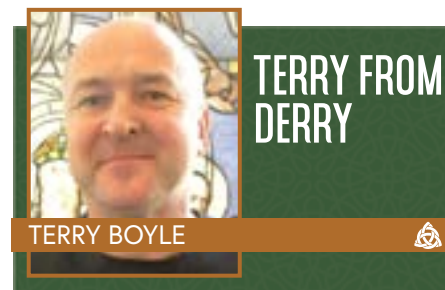
Eat Hydrating Snacks: Snack on fruits and vegetables with high water content, such as cucumbers, oranges, and grapes, to boost your hydration levels.

Add Flavor: If drinking water isn't appealing to you, try infusing it with flavor from berries, cucumber, mint, or other fruits and herbs. This creates a delicious option and can help increase your water intake.

Staying hydrated is non-negotiable, especially during the sweltering summer months. By incorporating hydrating foods and beverages into your diet, being mindful of warning signs of dehydration, and adopting simple hydration habits, you can ensure that your body remains adequately hydrated and ready to take on whatever the summer has in store. So, grab your water bottle, sip mindfully, and stay cool and hydrated all summer long! •

Joshua Muetzel, MD is a physician at Mercy Health - Vermilion Primary Care who specializes in family medicine and sports medicine. He received his medical degree from St. George's School of Medicine.

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Life is a Cabaret

Christopher Isherwood wrote his novel, *Goodbye to Berlin*, which later became the movie *Cabaret*, in 1939. Isherwood's novel depicts his beloved Berlin change from a libertarian's delight to becoming prey to Hitler's boot boys. His work demonstrates how a city's decadence quickly transforms into a place where tyranny and fear dominate.

The licentiousness of the city's underground became the target of those who claim to be morally superior. Their method of control involved complete loyalty to the Fuhrer. One man dominated their thoughts and actions.

They believed the salvation of their country lay in following this man's beliefs. Ultimately, his dictatorship lead to six million Jews being murdered. Gypsies, homosexuals and anyone who did not meet the criteria of this new Germany were exterminated. Germany was made great again at a bloody price.

Isherwood captured perfectly how one man can change a nation. His novel was a warning to us all. If we don't learn from history, we will repeat the same mistakes. It's easy to convince ourselves that we're not so easily hoodwinked, yet the signs of drifting towards a dictatorship are right in front of our eyes.

We're facing a time when there is a power-hungry man who can and will destroy the fundamental principles of our democracy. No matter what is thrown at him, he seems to evade what most of us think of as justice. He proves that if you have enough money you are treated differently.

You can be a misogynist, racist, and an aspiring dictator, and find yourself elected into the highest seat

of government. It doesn't matter that you're the first president to be impeached twice, have no experience in governing, be convicted of a felony (or 34 of them), and you can still be eligible to lead a country that espouses to be morally upright.

'Truth and justice' in the American way is no longer determined by a moral compass but by those who want to cleanse the country of those they find distasteful. Ironically, the moral majority finds a man who enjoys the pleasures of sex workers, and demonstrates little or no regard for true Christianity to be a good role model.

When it comes down to it, the teachings of Christ are relegated by those who support this man to the trash pile. What's more important to them is how this man can serve their purpose. Instead of drawing on the sayings of their savior, they prefer to use the Old Testament to justify their vote.

Their theology is very fluid, depending on what they hope to achieve. Despite their defense of the bible, they are willing to ignore his worst offenses so long as they can get from him what they want. This sort of pragmatism isn't exactly what we'd expect from people of faith.

There is no grace in advocating a gospel that discriminates against others. You cannot pair the actions of those who think this way with Christ. It simply doesn't work.

What we have learned from the recent changes in Ireland is that religious institutions can be instruments of abuse. The Catholic Church has been forced to deal with its lack of due diligence when it comes to those who have misused their power. It's a terrible thing when change only happens because those who have been mistreated have had enough.

For years, the Catholic Church knew of the crimes committed by their priests and refused to do anything about it. They turned a blind eye, relocated the offender, and blamed the victim.

But times have changed. The election of Pope Francis heralds a different kind of leadership. His papacy is for many a sign of hope. He has made the Church face up to its lack of accountability.

Will his attempts to rectify the wrongs of the Church impact the the Church? Only time will tell.

When religion becomes a discriminating force, it destroys the best of who we are. Once it begins to legislate what we read, think, or who we choose to love, we can be sure it's going to support someone like the former president of America.

I find it funny that this man chooses to lie and change facts without any challenge from his base. He can incite violence without any criticism from those loyal to him. It amazes me that he can even ridicule and defame those faithful to him and still they support him.

The Republican Party has rejected its former principles to validate a liar and a cheat. They don't mind the erosion of human rights, so long as it gets them into positions of power. What was an honourable institution, the Supreme Court, has also been exposed as a tool for the Republican Party.

When a Justice accepts money or gifts from a wealthy billionaire, they are no longer unbiased. When a Justice flies a flag outside his house supporting a right-wing group, they

are no longer trustworthy.

The changes we are seeing in the highest positions of government are worrying. We shouldn't allow the criminal actions of the former president to be standard for normal behavior. Once normalized, these corrupt actions corrode moral sensibility, and the worst of our humanity emerges.

Isherwood saw how one man made the world an evil place. Could it happen again in our time? Yes! We are seeing the signs of how things could be in the future.

We have a convicted felon running for president whose mission is retribution. He will enact his revenge on those who have opposed him, rewriting the sayings of Jesus to allow for this sort of eye-for-an-eye reasoning.

Once he's elected to the highest rank, we've sealed our fate. The rot has set in, and worse will follow if we do not act now. •

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An Irish Warrior Has Gone to His Reward

Jack Kilroy passed away on Saturday, May 11th with his family at his side. His passing leaves a void in our hearts. Born November 12, 1952, John Patrick (Jack) Kilroy was the son of John Benedict Kilroy and Mary Kilroy (nee Ward) deceased.

Beloved husband of Suzana Figueira, father of Sean Kilroy, and stepfather of Nicholas Hahn (Amanda), brother of Mary Jo Kilroy (Bob Handelman), Retta Furlan (Patrick), Liz Kilroy (Paco Hernandez), and Marty Kilroy (Denise).

Jack was an outstanding community, labor and political organizer, from his early days at Ohio University organizing student workers, on through to his retired years raising money and support for numerous needful causes.

Jack's local, national and even international renown skyrocketed in October of 1977 when, as a third-year law student, he attended the dedication ceremony for his law school's new building in Cleveland, Ohio. He rose to ask the guest of honor - a young Prince Charles III, when the British government was going to stop torturing political prisoners in Northern Ireland?"

The question led to audience groans and Jack's immediate,



Jack Kilroy and wife Suzana



Jack Kilroy at a CSU protest

albeit temporary, arrest by federal officials. It was, nonetheless, a resounding and clarion question, oft repeated, and quite literally, heard 'round the world.

He supported organized labor,

and was an attorney for the Farm Labor Organizing

Committee (FLOC), at that time struggling to bring the Campbell Soup Company to the table to negotiate with farm workers in north-west Ohio. In that part of Ohio, Campbell vertically dominated the region's agricultural labor, using annual adhesion contracts with farmers.

AFL-CIO Charter

On Labor Day of 1979, Jack was advising his clients who were arrested and collected into an outdoor holding pen following a day of recruitment actions around the area. As he was speaking to his clients through the fence, Jack was viciously set upon and badly injured by numerous sheriff's deputies from Putnam County, Ohio. Later, FLOC and Campbell negotiated a regional contract that was considered a model within the farm labor

movement, and that success earned FLOC a long-overdue charter from the AFL-CIO.

But most of Jack's advocacy was less dramatic than his run-ins with the Prince of Wales and the errant Putnam County deputies. Hailing from Euclid, Ohio, he attended Holy Cross Elementary School, St. Joseph High School, and graduated from Palos Verdes High School, in California. Jack went on to Ohio University, graduating with a degree in English.

After he finished law school at the Cleveland Marshall College of Law in 1978, he moved to the Toledo area to work for FLOC, then returned to Cleveland, where he practiced law and worked for the United Labor Agency, as well as one of the city's west side community development corporations.

In 1994 he moved to Lorain County, Ohio, where he founded the non-profit *Grassroots*

Leadership Development Program. GLDP recruited and trained many local non-profit leaders, staff and boards, as well as helping to advise local community groups hoping to set up their own non-profits and varied charitable efforts.

In the public sector, Jack ran for and served three terms as a councilperson at large, on the Avon City Council. In 2002 he resumed practicing law and continued his work in local Democratic politics.

In 2005, Jack worked as the Special Projects Coordinator for Lorain County Auditor, Mark R. Stewart. He represented the Auditor on the Board of Revision, defended appeals, reviewed Tax Increment Financing (TIF) applications, and analyzed property records for patterns of predatory lending and fraudulent "property flipping," then rampant throughout the local mortgage and real estate industry.

Great Lakes Protection Fund

In 2009, Governor Strickland appointed Jack to the Great Lakes Protection Fund. The GLPF was created by the governors of the seven Great Lakes states in 1989 as a private, nonprofit corporation to encourage cooperative efforts to address the regional ecological problems affecting the Great Lakes.

Jack's service to his community wasn't all prestigious appointments to regional, power-player collaborations. He consulted with and served on the boards of numerous local organizations and agencies, including the Lorain County Democratic Party Finance and Executive Committees; the Avon Democratic Club; the Ohio Forum, Editorial Board; Lorain County Free Clinic, Board Governance Committee; the Lorain County Labor Agency, Board of Directors; Cleveland-Marshall Law Alumni Association; and the Lorain County Bar Association, Chair of Real Estate Section.

Easter 1916

Jack was involved in the local music and theater scene. He wrote and helped to produce a play set during the Easter Rising, entitled *Easter 1916 through Song and Story*. Jack



Jack Kilroy and his family

also helped bring Irish musical acts to the States, setting up gigs, and working through the sometimes difficult U.S. immigration issues, permitting, and work visa process.

Jack helped to bring over *Dreams of Freedom, The Druids, More Power to Your Elbow, Noel Lenaghan, Aoife Scott and Andy Meaney, James Kilbane and Frances Black*.

In 2016, Jack accepted a position as magistrate in the Lorain County Domestic Relations Court. He was appointed by Judge Sherry Glass and heard matters in the Family Division.

Jack spent many years representing and advising KinderUSA in its ongoing charitable and fundraising battles to support the youngest victims in the dispersed and oppressed

Palestinian communities of Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon. KinderUSA works to support Palestinian children as part of a free, just, and peaceful Palestine, where children will be protected to grow and thrive.

RISE Foundation

Jack was particularly proud of his work on behalf of the RISE Foundation in Ireland. RISE works to support families in crisis resulting from the drug or alcohol addiction

of a family member.

Sober Seventeenth

Jack also started and staffed the non-profit, Sober Seventeenth, an organization to raise funds for and then host an annual, alcohol-free Saint Patrick's Day celebration. The event was lively and fun and open to all families seeking a sober celebration of the Saint's holiday.

Jack was a serious student of Irish history and culture and a local authority on most things Irish, especially if it related to his beloved County Mayo. He enjoyed several trips to Brazil and to Ireland, where he connected with friends, and relatives on both sides of his family still living in Ireland.

Later in life Jack became an avid online puzzler and word game player, keeping up on Facebook and letting his fellow "wordies" know how many tries it took him to solve the daily Wordle.

Jack was a principled and committed advocate for simple fairness in the world. He labored constantly to bend the "long arc of the moral universe to justice" both here and abroad. His commitment and qualities as a man, led to concrete and important improvements in our world.



Easter 1916

Finally, Jack was a true and deeply loyal friend.

Arrangements are being made through Chambers Funeral Homes. Relatives and friends are invited to celebrate Jack's life at the West Side Irish American Club on Sunday, July 21, 2024, at 2:00, with fellowship and music to follow.

West Side Irish American Club
8559 Jennings Road, Olmsted

Township, Ohio 44138

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Farm Labor Organizing Committee:

www.floc.com; or Wellity Education <http://www.wellityeducation.com>.

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Get in Lads, We're Going on an Adventure

Eight days exploring Ireland and all its bounty, with a driver, navigating the scenic rolling terrain and five spirited women with wanderlust, together and ready for adventure.

Our driver, Phillip, of Kerry Coaches, exceeded our expectations, delivering an unparalleled visitor experience. Maybe it was the grand beauty of the island, or the wit and charm of our Irish driver, or both; it wasn't long before plans for a return trip were underway.

This column is a recounting of favorite stops throughout Ireland. Our hope is that you take away something, add to your own itinerary, or reflect back on your own visit.

Brazen Head

Experience Brazen Head and St. Patrick's Cathedral from our unique perspectives.

Karen's Recounting of the Brazen Head:

Many historical counts of Ireland are rich tales steeped in mythology and folklore, spanning centuries, carried through by the story tellers of our time. Much is the same for Brazen Head, Ireland's oldest pub. The irony here is there are other pubs declaring to be the oldest, with their own story to back up the claim.

Situated right along the river Liffey, Brazen Head has a brick facade, adorned with iron torches, lanterns, and an arched iron gate to welcome you. Enter and you are greeted first by a



small courtyard, with plenty of seating, giving a medieval feel in its remnants of an ancient brick floor and a knight in armor standing guard inside the entryway.

Entering the interior of the pub offered a cozy vibe with red walls, dark woodwork, a fireplace, and of course, a bar with ample selection of beer on tap. The interior and feel of Brazen Head has quickly become the standard of what we soon learned to be a common theme of pubs in Ireland - an intimate, friendly atmosphere that we began to crave.

My eyes were drawn to the walls and ceiling around the bar, pinned with money and patches from uniforms of police and fire members from all over

the world. I loved this gesture of leaving something behind, and I was curious to see who had also walked through these doors to enjoy a pint. Looking around the room, it was not unusual to find a framed photograph of Tom Jones holding a Guinness.

St. Patrick's Cathedral

Shannon's Recounting of St. Patrick's Cathedral:

the walk to St. Patrick's Cathedral from Brazen Head proved to be a petite stroll on a full belly. A long, black grid iron gate frames the massive gray cathedral. Supposedly built on the well St. Patrick used to baptize people into Christianity, the present cathedral structure dates from 1220-1259.

For a man who is so widely

known throughout the world, and is Ireland's patron saint, not much is known definitively about St. Patrick, down to what he even looked like. If you are so inclined to have a bit of a scavenger hunt, then this cathedral will not disappoint, with various portrayals of who and what St. Patrick looked like. It's like geocaching, religious edition.

The experience in St. Patrick's establishes a list of juxtaposed feelings.

Looking up is a natural reaction most people have upon entering cathedrals, but the gravitational pull to downcast eyes is met with a flood of ornate medieval tile that invites a warmth usually not associated with cathedrals. How could a cathedral so massive also feel so cozy?

Austere grayness exists among the sea of burnt orange and green. The experience quite literally makes you feel more grounded. I don't know what I was expecting, maybe a repeat performance of so many cathedrals explored before.

Often referred to as a pilgrimage destination, I was not shocked to see visitors weave in and out of the nooks and crannies the cathedral has in abundance. I like the seclusion a place of this size affords the most. The cathedral functions as part museum, complete with monuments, but also a present place of worship.

It feels *active* - another juxtaposition to historical. These separate spaces are all connected by powerful histories that would take a visitor several days to encounter.

Burials have been happening at St. Patrick's since the 13th century. Somewhere between 600 - 700 people are buried here, but I had one person in mind to seek out.

Admittedly, my knowledge of Jonathan Swift is minimal, but once an English major, always an English major. I have read parts of *Gulliver's Travels* to the tune of my professor at John Carroll's signature half scoff, half laugh when lecturing about metaphorically eating children.

Buried next to his wife Stella, Swift's grave is indicated by a velvet roped off section of flooring



with a gold floor marker. While striking, it is the quote from Swift posted adjacent to his grave that leaves the biggest mark: "In Ireland we have enough religion to make us hate but not enough to make us love."

My first recollection of lighting a candle in church was when I was in kindergarten attending St. Mary Magdalene. The candles were housed off to the right-hand side in a dimly lit space that felt sad. I saw older people go in and out and I wanted to be a part of it for reasons I still cannot articulate.

The candles were dark red and enclosed in a thick shell of glass. You had to use a long matchstick to light them, which made the

whole process more exciting. I don't remember what or who I was praying for, but I do remember closing my eyes. Even at that age, it felt like the right action to seal my thoughts.

The second time I lit a candle was when I visited Sacré Coeur in France. I had read and seen images of this church in every French class I was forced to take through college. While the experience was special, it didn't sit heavy in my heart with purpose. The candles at St. Patrick's were unremarkable. They certainly were not the memorable red that St. Mary's got right but they served their purpose. This time, it was me, 41 years old, standing in a cathedral with four

other women on a girl's trip to Ireland.

This time, I was thinking about Raymond Carver's short story "Cathedral," and the dialogue between the insecure narrator and a blind man, who urges him to push past himself. The narrator closes his eyes and says, "I was in my house. I knew that. But I didn't feel like I was inside anything. It's really something."

I lit my candle and closed my eyes. My mom, recently diagnosed with lung cancer, was there. She had always wanted to go to Ireland, and I know this is the closest she will get. "It's really something," I say to myself. I

know this moment, and this trip, I will never forget. ●

Karen Bennett and Shannon Thomas-Ziemnik are two old friends who share a passion for all things Irish. You can find them at PJ's on Tuesday nights with a Jameson and ginger in hand attending the Speak Irish Cleveland class. As far as their column-writing abilities, this is, in fact, their first rodeo. They can be reached at ksiirish@gmail.com.

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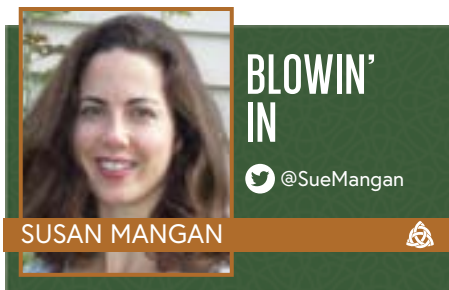
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BLOWIN' IN

@SueMangan

SUSAN MANGAN

The Bullfrog

Last weekend, I woke before dawn. Mothers have this uncanny ability to sleep yet remain alert for night sounds.



When my children were small, I listened for their coughs or cries, hoping that night would give them rest rather than discomfort.

As they grew to teens and young adults, I would listen for the turn of the key signaling that they were home safe and sound. Only then, would I hear the rhythm of my heart welcoming a peaceful sleep.

Recently, my dad took a tumble and we have been helping him heal at his home on Crooked Lake. I find myself listening for his slippers shuffle in the mid of night or the sounds of his cries when his dreams

turn quiet.

I lay in bed thinking of his loneliness after the death of my mother. I lay thinking of what it would feel like to be living your ninety-second year on this earth.

I lay there listening to the steady sound of the bullfrog who lives among the pondweed and lily pads.

For as long as I can remember, I have sought comfort in the sounds of nature. When the true July heat of summer descends, I anticipate the chorus of katydids and crickets at twilight, the mourning of the dove at dawn.

My father's cousin-in-law, Pam, lived on Lac du Flambeau in the North Woods of Wisconsin. Birch and pine forests lined the remote waters.

Each morning, Pam swam the short length of the lake, toweling off her wet hair at the end of her swim, smiling at the gift of life.

I always admired Pam's connection to the earth. She was a child of nature; a lake creature breaking through subtle waves with long, smooth strokes, blending seamlessly with the chill of green waters.

One afternoon, the threat of a summer rainstorm lifted the boughs of the pine trees and set the birch leaves fluttering. Pam explained how different the wind sounds when it blows through a pine and birch



forest. The wind whistles rather than howls as it tends to do when blowing through a wood of maple and oak.

I can still remember laying in the dark of the first-floor bedroom, covered with a musty camp blanket, trying to discern the melody of the wind. Strangely, all I could hear was the cry of a loon.

Recently, I chaperoned a fourth-grade class at a day camp in Pennsylvania on the eastern shores

of Lake Erie. Half of the class sprinted like young jack rabbits, while the others were as slow as Galapagos tortoises.

To keep everyone safe, I found myself dashing back and forth on the trails with a litheness I never knew I possessed.

The wooded trail ended at a country road. I ran ahead of my jack rabbits and waited for the rest of the group.

We looked left and right. The road seemed clear, but then I heard a distant sound around the bend.

The children thought it the sound of spring wind blowing through the trees. I told them a car was coming and that we needed to wait. Sure enough, a car approached within minutes.

When we were finally back on the wooded course, I explained to the children the importance of stillness, the importance of listening. I told them about the winds that blow amongst high-hedged country lanes in Ireland.

When walking along the narrow roads, the careful walker learns to distinguish the sound of meadow

Continued on facing page



MADIGAN MUSES

MARILYN MADIGAN

Independence Day

This Fourth of July, let us remember the fifty-six men who risked their lives for us by signing the Declaration of Independence.

Did you know that some of those men were born in Ireland? John Dunlap, James Smith, George Taylor, and Matthew Thornton all signed the document, and were all from Ireland.

John Dunlap was born in Strabane, County Tyrone. He printed the first

copies of the Declaration. In August 1776, the Belfast Newsletter published it.

Another Ulsterman was James Smith, whose family was forced to leave their native land by the actions of abusive landlords; at the age of twenty, George Taylor left Antrim for America; in 1716, the Thornton family of Limerick joined 120 other families from the Bann Valley for the voyage to America.

Did you know that one Catholic of Irish heritage signed the document? Charles Carroll of Maryland was the only Catholic to sign. His family has connections to County Offaly. He also has the distinction of being the longest of the signers to live, dying at the age of 95.

Other signers of Irish heritage included: Thomas Lynch Jr., Thomas McKeon, George Read, and Edward Rutledge. Thomas Lynch Jr.'s grandfather was from Galway and was exiled after the defeats of the Jacobites at Aughrim and the Boyne. He replaced his father as a signature due to his father's illness.

Thomas McKeon's father was

The Bullfrog

Continued from previous page

breeze from the hum of a fast-moving car. Muffled by the towering brambles and thick foliage, car engines appear to mimic the wind.

After listening to my advice steeped in the traditional childhood cautionary tale, the children nodded with brief understanding and then took off with heedless excitement.

One ear attuned to nature and one bent toward practicality, I live for spontaneous songs that beckon the past and herald future promise.

Recently, my Missouri cousin and I sat on our covered porch at Crooked Lake talking breathlessly about life. We laughed about distant memories and cried over lost dreams. Our voices rose above the din of steady rainfall.

When we finally paused to take a breath, the rain seemed to lessen. Sunset broke through the grey of storm clouds.

Birds of every shape and color began their evening symphony. I tried to categorize the chirps and

shrieks, the whistles and hoots, but the birdsong blended into one cacophonous ode to joy.

In perfect time, the bullfrog croaked a resounding bellow; a loud strike of the timpani drum punctuating the frenzied chorus of birds.

Alone in our thoughts, each holding onto our own set of worries, our own stash of hope, my cousin and I looked at one another, smiling at the memory of her daddy's farm and the July serenade of Ozark bullfrogs in moonlit ponds.

We looked out onto the darkening lake and listened for the shuffle of my father's slippers. •

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

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from County Antrim. He later served as Governor of Pennsylvania. George Read was one of two statesmen to sign the Declaration of Independence; the petition from the Congress in 1774 to the King of England; and the Constitution of the United States.

The youngest signer was Edward Rutledge of South Carolina, who was of Scots-Irish heritage. So, on this Fourth of July, let us remember these proud Irish Americans, who became a great part of our American history too. •

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

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Golden Girls

Walking in her farming duds, Wellies and leggings, Aoife heads toward an old white Toyota pickup. She drives to her dad's house, picks up himself and a few fifty pound bags of cow kibble. They make their rounds, in gates and down fields, to a few old bathtubs.

Aoife gets out and dumps the bags into the tubs while dozens of cattle look on. An hour or so later, she is home, eating her own breakfast of yogurt, oats, banana slivers and protein powder. Her next stop is a shed at the back of the house, to her homemade gym. She will do one of her training sessions there, lifting weights and running on an elliptical trainer.

All this work, ten years of it, in the hopes of going to the Olympics to represent Ireland; ten years of training for a few nine-minute fights. She is not alone. This year Ireland is sending a team of ten boxers, the largest team, since 1960.

Aoife O'Rourke will be representing Ireland, along with five other women and four men. When Olympic boxing begins on July 27, there will be an Irish woman competing in every weight class for the first time in history.

Wearing the Irish Flag

A weight class was added after the Tokyo Olympics, making a total of six classes. Kellie Harrington, Jennifer Lehane, Daina Moorehouse, Aoife O'Rourke, Grainne Walsh and Micheala Walsh are the six women who will enter the ring in Paris, draped in the tri-color. They will be joined by four men: Dean Clancy, Jude Gallagher, Jack Marley and



Micheala's brother, Aidan Walsh.

It is crazy to think that an island that can fit inside Ohio is sending ten athletes to compete in one sport. It is easy to get turned around thinking about sports in Ireland.

When an athlete makes a national team, it is certainly an accomplishment. But it can be hard to gauge talent. Are they great athletes or big fish in a small pond? Qualifying for the Olympics is definitive that you are one of the best in the world at your sport.

Katie Taylor

How and why did Ireland manage to come up with a team of six women who made the cut to be Olympians? In two words: Katie Taylor. When Katie took gold in the 2012 London Olympics, eyes were opened to the potential. And why not?

Boxing is an easy sport to get started. You don't need expensive facilities or equipment.

Twelve years ago, small towns

around the country used an empty building to create a boxing club. A ring, gloves, head covers, jump ropes and bags are about all you need to train boxers. Since gyms are sparse in rural Ireland, my nieces trained in one of these clubs with no aim in mind other than working out.

It is up to the trainers, many of whom are former boxers, to spot talent. The two O'Rourke girls who are boxing are tall, strong women. Both have put in plenty of physical work on the farm.

Somewhere in the working out, Aoife decided to get serious about boxing. It was a hard decision. Both of her parents were into sport, but boxing? But once she decided, boxing was her focus.

Gone were the curry chips dashes, nights out at the disco, all the more normal fun. Aoife and her sister Lisa put in hours of daily training, as well as adding an incredible amount of discipline into their lives.

It is a complicated jenga from

there, from the farm to the Olympics. Competitions begin locally. Successful athletes gain sponsorships that allow them to go overseas to the larger matches.

In order to qualify, the athletes need to score a certain number of points in international competitions. Olympic style boxing is not the bare-knuckle stereotype. It is more of a hyper athletic dance.

A match consists of three, three-minute rounds. Five judges are watching and awarding points to the competitor who they think landed a successful hit.

You might immediately guess that there is some disagreement within the judging, and there is. That is why there are five judges.

This is not to say that this is not a tough sport, because it is. Boxing is insanely physical. The competitor only has their body, no ball or stick to manipulate.

Because it is so personal and raw, the commitment feels huge. The fact that they are young women is another factor. The first time that we watched Aoife fight, she came out with a bloody nose. It was awful.

But she and her sister are committed. They never stop training. They never stop being disciplined.

Another small island, Cuba, dominated boxing in the last Olympics in Tokyo. The significant factor in those Games was Covid. Aoife was at those Olympics. She was eliminated in her first competition, against a Chinese boxer.

COVID Olympics

I asked her about the Olympic village; she said that it was amazing, if you wanted to eat pizza at three in the morning while getting a manicure, it was going to happen. The bad part was of course, Covid.

The athletes weren't allowed to fraternize at all. Everyone was afraid of getting sick and being eliminated from competition.

She is so happy that she gets to go again. She wants to experience being at the Olympics without being afraid of getting sick. She is looking forward to

meeting other athletes.

On the outside, we think of the competitive nature of these events. The girls are competing against each other, hitting each other, so it is easy to think that they don't like each other. If you imagine the smack talk of Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier, you would be wrong.

These women know that the person standing in the ring with them has made the same sacrifices and worked just as hard to be there as they have. They often hug each other after a bout decision.

By August 2nd, we will know the outcome. It seems absurd that years of work condenses into a performance that is going to last no more than minutes. And yet, the pressure is so intense. We aren't talking about it. It is it is great that there is an end, at least in the short-term.

The young ladies who are boxing for Ireland are just that. They are beautiful, soft-spoken shy country girls. But that stops when the gloves go on. Then, the focus and strength are visible.

If you thought that Barbie Summer was over, it is just beginning. The ladies are coming on strong!

Just watch them!

The National Governing body for Boxing in Ireland is the [IABA – Irish Athletic Boxing Association](#) where you can find more information.●

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

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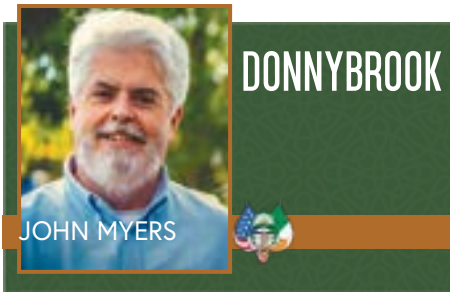


BY TERRENCE J. KENNEALLY

1. What Irish political party was founded in 1926?
2. True or False: Mary McAleese was the world's first female president to succeed another female?
3. What Nobel Prize winning writer wrote the play Waiting for Godot?
4. Michael Collins was born in what country?
5. Who set up the Church of England when the Pope would not end his first marriage?
6. Wolfe Tone tried to land at what bay with 14,000 French soldiers in 1798?
7. What Irish television channel was founded in 1961?
8. What political party was founded in 1905 by Arthur Griffith?
9. Name the witty Dublin writer known for plays, The Importance of Being Earnest and his novel, The Picture of Dorian Grey?
10. On Bloody Sunday, Tipperary was playing against what Leinster county in a Gaelic football match?

1. Fíanna Fáil
2. Sinn Féin
3. True
4. Samuel Beckett
5. Cork
6. Henry VIII
7. Bantry Bay
8. RTÉ/Sinn Féin
9. Oscar Wilde
10. Co. Dublin





Great Expectations

With significant success in the last Dáil general election and in Legislative Assembly elections in Stormont, Sinn Féin was burdened with heavy expectations by the pundits for the June 2024 local and E.U. elections. While Sinn Féin gained seats from the last local elections, they did not have the blow-out that the talking heads preached. So, while Sinn Féin advanced their number of local council seats,

the historic constitutional parties were proclaimed the “winner,” as they did not take as big a hit as pundits predicted. Some critics of Sinn Féin’s approach said the party overreacted to the criticism from the last local elections, where the party ran too few candidates. This year the opposite is being suggested, that Sinn Féin ran too many candidates in each constituency.

Independents took most of the gains, indicating a free flowing and volitive electorate. In life and politics, life does not flow in a clear, straight line. Clearly the expected Dáil General Election, which must be held by next March 2025, will be a true Donnybrook for the hearts and minds of Irish voters. I am guessing a General Election in late Fall 2024.

Hollywood to Hollywood

Actor and model Jamie Dornan is a native of Holywood, County Antrim, in the North of Ireland, and one of his latest works can now be found on Netflix, with the drama, “The Tourist.” This 12-episode TV series (two seasons) was the most watched drama series in the UK in 2022.

The thriller is set in the Australian



Jamie Dornan

outback but migrates to Ireland in season two. Dornan plays an Irish bloke in Australia when he loses his memory in a car accident. The story is unpredictable, taking as many twists as a summertime twist cone, but with bits of comedy to balance the anxiety. Aussie actor Danielle MacDonald plays probationary constable Helen Chambers, who’s sleuthing seeks to uncover who

Dornan is and why do people from his lost life keep trying to kill him.

In the second season, the two travel to Ireland to find Dornan’s roots. The Irish countryside and actors keep the second season bouncing along. The Tourist is worth adding to your rainy weekend binge list. Dornan also played in an Irish folk rock group, *Sons of Jim*, in his youth, and was named by Vogue magazine as one of the 25 best models of all time.

Who is Keir Starmer?

First, I keep tripping over his name. “Keir” does NOT follow the rule of “i” before “e” and it rhymes with “Here.” Most politicians think of themselves as a “Star,” and he does not stutter or stammer, but his name is “STARMER.”

The Conservative/Tory Party has been in control of The U.K. for the last dozen years. It seems likely that the July 4th, 2024, election will result in a large victory for the Labor Party and its leader, Keir Starmer. “Sir” Keir Starmer was knighted by Queen Liz for his public service as the Chief Prosecutor for the country, one of the top legal titles in the U.K.



Keir Starmer

Starmer, born in London (1962), did not enter politics till less than 10 years ago. He was chosen as Labor Leader, succeeding Jeremy Corbyn in April of 2020 after Labor’s disastrous loss that year to Boris Johnson’s “let get Brexit done” campaign.

Unlike most recent Prime Minister’s, Tory and Labor, he does come from an average English working class family. His father worked in a factory and his mother was a nurse, although she was seriously ill most of Keir’s life.

He is the oldest of four kids and the first in his family to attend University. Keir is married to Victoria (Vic) Starmer (nee Alexander), and they have two teenage children that they are raising in the Jewish faith tradition. Lady Vic’s Starmer’s father was born in Poland of Jewish heritage.

Lady Starmer is a solicitor who now works in the NHS. Keir went on to law school and then worked in a public sector law practice as a prosecutor.

Good Friday Agreement

Unlike most P.M.’s of recent years, Sir Keir is very knowledgeable and familiar with Ireland. He lived and worked in the North for five years in the immediate post Good Friday Agreement (GFA). Starmer worked as legal counsel to the Police Oversight Board associated with the then, newly constituted Northern Ireland Police Service.

He has shared how much he loves the island of Ireland and what good friendships he has from his service there. He has stated how the G.F.A.

is personal to him, that Northern Ireland is personal to him.

Starmer has acknowledged that the G.F.A. is the greatest accomplishment of the Labor Party. And most happily to all the political parties on the island of Ireland, he has promised to repeal the Tory’s Legacy bill, which attempted to whitewash the human rights abuses of the British Military and Intelligence Services during the Troubles.

Sir Keir has said a reset of relations with Dublin will be a priority of his government. He has declared that his government will be looking for practical solutions to trade issues to and from Northern Ireland. While these are many positives for Irish Nationalists, one could also have concern with compliments he has paid to former P.M. M. Thatcher, and then there is his whole “knighthood” thing and being ‘educated’ about Ireland while working with the Policing Service of Northern Ireland and British Intelligence Services.

Starmer says many good and hopeful things, but sometimes it takes a Nixon to go to China, and Starmer is not in that position, although he likely will have a large mandate in Westminster, allowing more decisive action.

The bottom line is that some things are better or worse depending on who lives at No.10 Downing Street, but one does not count on them to advance the cause of Irish Nationalism. It will be ‘Ourselves Alone’ that advance the cause, Nationalists must look to activate The Dublin Government off its posterior and convene all-Island forums to bring all elements of the G.F.A. into action and focus on areas of consensus to sooner lead to the day of Irish Unity.

Successive Dublin governments have wasted years in their failure to find common ground between North and South. Starmer is a lawyer and has articulated his great respect for the G.F.A. and resetting relations with Dublin. With a willing partner in the Biden Whitehouse, much progress can be made by bringing full effect to all parts of the G.F.A. Here’s to hope and a prayer. ●

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Light & Tasty

5 YEARS WRITING FOR *ilrish.us*

The many types and versions of salads that abound everywhere is overwhelming. The dizzying array of offerings that confront you when opening any restaurant menu makes deciding on one quite an event. Here is yet another one. You probably won't see this one on a menu out and about, but you can easily make this one at home. It is great for a side dish, a main entrée, and to bring along to any party.

Corned Beef Coleslaw (Reuben Salad)
Makes 8 servings.

- Ingredients:**
- 1 head Red Cabbage chopped.
 - 1 head Green Cabbage chopped.
 - 1 bunch Scallions chopped white and green parts.
 - 1 medium jar of small Dill Pickles, chopped.

- 1/2 lb. diced Corned Beef - ask the deli to cut you thicker slices
 - 12 ounces shredded Swiss Cheese
 - 1 cup Red Wine Vinegar
 - 1/3 cup Mustard, any variety
 - 2 tablespoons White Sugar
 - 2 teaspoons Black Pepper
 - 1 teaspoon Kosher Salt
 - 3/4 cup 1000 Island Dressing
- In a large bowl, combine the cabbages, scallions, and pickles. In a separate, small bowl, whisk together the vinegar, mustard, sugar, salt, and pepper. Toss the cabbage mixture in this. Cut up the corned beef and add that and the Swiss Cheese to the large bowl. Toss all together. Chill for 30 minutes to blend the flavors or until ready to serve. Before serving add the 1000 Island dressing to taste. •

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

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THE FITNESS DOCTOR

DR. FREDERICK PETERS

Why Do We Overindulge?

Being distracted while engaging in enjoyable activities can reduce satisfaction, leading to over-compensation.

2 YEARS WRITING FOR ilrish

Do you watch television while eating dinner? Do you work on your computer during lunch? If so, you may be running the risk of over-consumption according to research published by the American Psychological Association. The study looked at how distract-

tion affects “hedonic consumption.” One reason for this overconsumption may be distraction, according to the authors. When people are distracted while engaged in a hedonic activity, research suggests they are likely to experience less enjoyment from it than if they were fully focused. That may lead to feelings of dissatisfaction and drive more consumption to compensate for that shortfall.

To better understand the role of distraction in overconsumption, the researchers first conducted an experiment involving 122 participants. They were then asked to eat their lunch under one of three conditions: no distraction, moderate distraction (watching a video), and high distraction (playing Tetris).

After lunch, participants reported on their actual enjoyment, satisfaction, desire for further gratification and amount consumed. They also reported on their snacking later in the day.

Participants who ate while distracted reported lower enjoyment and satisfaction, which was associated with increased snacking afterward and a more general desire for further gratification. The researchers believe that this proposed effect, which they called “hedonic compensation,” likely applies to other activities beyond eating. For example, people who are distracted while watching a movie or playing a game may be more likely to engage in additional consumption (e.g., checking social media) to compensate for a diminished enjoyment of the original activity.

The researchers also followed 220

participants aged 18 to 71 for a week to investigate this broader effect, beyond food. Participants filled out seven brief surveys per day via their smartphones (ironic) regarding their hedonic consumption, distraction, and satisfaction. As with the food-based experiment, researchers found that when people were distracted during consumption, they were likely to enjoy a product less than they hoped, felt less satisfied, and experienced an elevated need for further gratification.

Putting it simply, overconsumption often results in a lack of self-control. This may be driven by the human desire to reach a certain level of enjoyment from an activity. When distraction gets in the way, it’s likely we may try to compensate by consuming more.

We have become so “numb” to stimulation, that we constantly seek more to achieve gratification. Our hedonic, instantly gratified, pleasure-seeking culture has turned us all into addicts, whether we realize it or not. The fast-food industry has capitalized on this by scientifically researching things like “mouth feel” and making everything “super-sized” in the US.

American food portions are exponentially larger than those elsewhere in the world. In one study, portion sizes in Paris, France were on average 1/4 the size of Philadelphia sizes, when comparing 11 similar eateries between the two cities.

Even within the US, fast food portions are four times larger now than they were dating back to the 1950s. You literally cannot get these portion sizes anywhere outside of America!

What We Can Do

Interventions need to be initiated to help people pay more attention to their consumption experiences, to lower the likelihood of overconsumption. By understanding the key drivers of hedonic overconsumption, we can develop strategies to help prevent its occurrence.

A Cornell study also demonstrated that people eat more if they are given more to eat. It is of no surprise that larger portion sizes lead to increased caloric intake and increased pounds for many Americans who dine out on a regular basis. An equally concerning issue is the rise of a sedentary

lifestyle amongst Americans.

Up to 84% of Americans spend at least two hours a day watching TV. According to a study that followed American behavioral patterns over a span of 15 years, total sitting time increased from 7 to 8.2 hours a day among adolescents, and increased from 5.5 to 6.4 hours for adults. The less active Americans are, the less calories that get burnt throughout the course of the day, and the more likely it is that calories accumulate eventually leading to increase pounds on the weight machine.

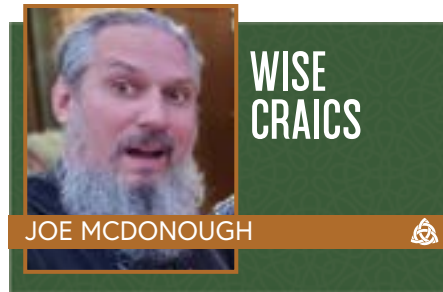
The ubiquitous rise of screen time with technology such as cellphones, iPads, and computers also does not help the cause of increasing fitness and activity for Americans. According to the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans published in 2018 by the American Department of Health and Human Services, adults should engage in 150-300 minutes per week of moderate physical activity or 75-150 minutes per week of vigorous physical activity.

Obesity will only be curtailed through a public health approach that targets structural factors like discrimination, food insecurity, and lack of access to key health resources. As an example, food insecurity refers to the inability to consume healthy foods because of insufficient funds or resources. This is of particular importance amongst the poorest populations in America, who often cannot afford more costly foods at supermarkets that have the highest nutritional value.

Instead, they must purchase cheaper fast foods that tend to be higher in calories but lower in nutritional value. It is of no surprise that obesity is more prevalent in minorities and those of lower socioeconomic status. Non-Hispanic Blacks have the highest prevalence of obesity in America, followed by Hispanic adults, and this is often a result of where they live and their lack of resources to purchase healthy foods. Ending obesity is not rocket science. It starts with good decisions, like eating healthier, in smaller quantities, and staying active. •

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WISE CRAICS

JOE MCDONOUGH

Quick Escalation

A bloke asks a lawyer about his fees. “I charge \$50 for three questions,” the lawyer says.

“My oh my, that’s awfully steep, isn’t it?” he asks.

“Yes, I suppose so,” the lawyer replies.

“Now what’s your final question?”

Overqualified

Four men are in the hospital waiting room because their wives are having babies. A nurse goes up to the first guy and says, “Congratulations! You’re the father of twins.”

“That’s odd,” answers the man. “I work for the Minnesota Twins!”

A nurse says to the second guy, “Congratulations! You’re the father of triplets!”

“That’s weird,” answers the second man. “I work for the 3M company!”

A nurse tells the third man, “Congratulations! You’re the father of quadruplets!”

“That’s strange,” he answers. “I work for the Four Seasons hotel!”

The last man is groaning and banging his head against the wall.

“What’s wrong?” the others ask.

“I work for 7 Up!”

A Pinch of Powder

A tough old pub owner from Kilkenny counseled his granddaughter that if she wanted

to live a long life, the secret was to sprinkle a pinch of gun powder on her oatmeal every morning.

The granddaughter did this religiously until the age of 103, when she died.

She left behind 14 children, 30 grandchildren, 45 great-grandchildren, 25 great-great-grandchildren, and a 40-foot hole where the crematorium used to be.

Seems like a lifetime

A kid is going to his first day of school, he looks worried, so his dad asks him, “What’s wrong?”

Nervously, the kid asks, “How long do I have to go to school for?”

“Until you’re 18,” says the father.

The kid nods and thinks about this quietly. When they get to the front gates of the school, the kid says, “Dad, you will remember to come and get me when I’m 18, won’t you?”

History Repeats

A cruise ship passes by a remote island, and all the passengers see a bearded man running around and waving his arms wildly.

“Captain,” one passenger asks, “who is that man over there?”

“I have no idea,” the captain says, “but he goes nuts every year when we pass him.”

Old Joke Reincarnated

“Make me one with everything,” says the Buddhist to the tofu hot dog vendor. Then, after getting his tofu hot dog, the Buddhist hands the vendor a \$20 bill. The vendor takes the money and begins helping the next customer.

The Buddhist looks puzzled and asks the vendor, “Where is my change?”

The vendor replies, “Change comes from within.”

Literally

During a recent password audit, it was found that a blonde was using the following password: “MickeyMinnie-PlutoHueyLouieDeweyDonaldGoofy-Sacramento.”

When asked why such a long password, she said she was told that it had to be at least eight characters long and include at least one capital.

Smarty Cat

I was visiting the house of a distant cousin when I saw that he was playing chess with his cat. I said that it had to be the most intelligent cat ever. My cousin replied, “Absolutely not! She’s lost all her bloody matches!”

Night Job

Ireland’s oldest woman turned 114 today. When asked the secret of her longevity, she attributed it to taking a walk at midnight every night. When quizzed on whether she was concerned about the increase in muggings in recent years, she said that she was not, and would continue mugging people as long as her health holds out.

So Far So Good

An eight-year-old boy had never spoken a word. One afternoon, as he sat eating his lunch, he turned to his mother and said, “Ma. The soup is cold.”

His astonished mother exclaimed, “Son, I’ve waited so long to hear you speak. But all these years you never said a thing. Why haven’t you spoken before?”

The boy looked at her and replied, “Up until now, everything has been satisfactory.”

Old Joke Recalculated

A Horse Walks into a Bar ... He approaches the bartender and says,

“If there is a triangle with three sides labeled x, y, and z, and x and z are perpendicular to each other, which side is the hypotenuse?”

The bartender thinks for a moment, then replies, “Y, the long face.”

Second Opinion

A climber fell off a cliff, and, as he tumbled down, he caught hold of a small branch. “Help! Is there anybody up there?” he shouted.

A majestic voice boomed through the gorge:

“I will help you, my son, but first you must have faith in me.”

“Yes, yes, I trust you!” cried the man.

“Let go of the branch,” boomed the voice.

There was a long pause, and the man shouted up again, “Is there anybody else up there?”

Path of Least Resistance

A young man’s father passed away in his sleep. In the morning, he calls 911 to come pick up the body.

The 911 operator told him that she would send someone out right away.

“Where do you live?” asked the operator.

He replied, “At the end of Eucalyptus Drive.”

The operator asked, “Can you spell that for me?”

There was a long pause and finally he said, “How ‘bout if I drag him over to Oak Street and you pick him up there?”

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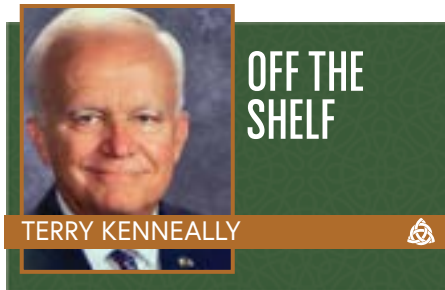


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OFF THE SHELF

TERRY KENNEALLY

The Alternative

By Caoilinn Hughes
Rivershead Books ISBN
9780593545003 340 pp 2024

The Flattery sisters, four brilliant and very different girls, raised in a small town south of Dublin, were plunged prematurely into adulthood when their parents died in a tragic accident. Olwen Flattery, a thirty something academic is a geologist in Galway;

Rhona, the second sister, is a political scientist at Trinity College, Dublin, who lives in a "well-healed enclave" of Dublin with her baby son Leo, and a Peruvian postdoc-cum-nanny.

The third sister, Maeve, is a chef and star of social media, living in London, and concerned with food shortages in the wake of Brexit. The youngest, Nell, a philosopher and academic, juggles three university jobs in Connecticut on a work visa without health insurance while dealing with a condition which has

left her with no feeling with her feet.

The four lead disparate lives, from classrooms in Connecticut to fancy gigs in London's Nottinghill, until their oldest sister, the geologist, haunted by a terrible awareness of the earth's future, abruptly vanishes from her home. Together for the first time in years, the other



three sisters descend on the Irish countryside in search of a sister who doesn't really want to be found. Sheltered in a derelict, rural bungalow, coaxed along

by colorful denizens of a local pub, the sisters reach into their common past, confronting both old wounds and a desperately uncertain future.

For the sister's reunion, the narrative style changes to the form of a play, with scene setting and dialogue. This abrupt change works, effectively lending an immediacy and enhanced realism to the initial conversations, reactions, and interactions when they are all together again.

Overall, *The Alternatives* is a brilliant, brainy book about the bravery of following one's own path while also remembering the value of community.

"Caroline Hughes is one of the most intelligent, surprising and delightful writers around. *The Alternatives* made me laugh, cry and think that anyone of the Flatterys would have made a compelling story, together, they are glorious, as is this novel," says Louise Kennedy, author of *Trespasses* (previously reviewed in this column). A TOP SHELF read. •

Terrence Kenneally is an attorney and teacher of Irish Literature and History at Elyria Catholic High School.

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DANCE DANCE

CATHERINE DUPLISEA

Gearing Up for the North American Irish Dancing Championships

The North American Irish Dancing Championships, also known as the North American Nationals, will be held in Grapevine, Texas over the week of July 4th. This championship is open to dancers from all over the world, and dancers from North America must qualify in their regional championships or by achieving the highest level of completion, open championships.

The preparation is intense, and dancers are in the final stages of preparation to be at their peak performance level for the day(s) of their competition(s). Competitions for teams as well as solos will take place spread out over the week.

Planes, trains and Automobiles

Families will pack up and travel by trains, planes, and automobiles to get to the competition venue in Texas, with hopes that their dancer(s) are able to have clean rounds, and put their best on the stage. In this sport, you have only one chance for each dance to nail it, with very little room for error.

The dancers come with high expectations and many the dancing nerves accompanying too. Panels of judges score each performance, dropping the high and low, as a form of "checks and balances" to get the fairest overall placements for the dancers.

Dancers can compete in a variety of competitions, including

team dances, solos, and/or traditional set dance. Some dancers travel for teams alone, while others travel for the solo competition. Many travel and participate in both teams and solos.

The team dances are performed in soft shoes, solos are done in both hard and soft shoes, and the traditional set completions are performed in hard shoes. Many of the competitions have well over one hundred competitors, and often get so large that they have to split the completion into two groups.

In more recent years, dancers come back up for a number check after each group of about thirty to forty dancers, so scores can be double checked and properly assigned. With the large number of dancers, this step has been helpful in getting the accuracy of scores right.

Preparation for this major competition involves many days and hours in the dance studio, cross fitness, as well as stretching and consuming a healthy diet. Irish dancers are truly all-around athletes. Like many other sports, these days, Irish dancers work

with experts outside of Irish dance to gain skill and knowledge around things like posture, turn out, power, strength, and so much more.

As we approach the week of July 4th, please keep the Irish dance community in your thoughts and prayers for safe travel, optimal performance, and for creating cherished memories.

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ilrish's shamrock squares

Taking turns, connect a line from one shamrock to another. Whoever makes a line that completes a square, writes their initials in that box. **The one with the most squares at the end of the game wins!**

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