

OHIO IRISH  
AMERICAN  
NEWS

APRIL 2018



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a BLOOMING  
Erin Stefancin*



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## EDITOR'S CORNER

### Now is the time for change

The Green Season has gone, quietly, perhaps quickly. For me, it arrived so quickly, with such a bang, I felt I was late getting there. Yet, it was magnificent. We are so very proud of how Cleveland shines culturally this time of year; Ireland to the U.S. Ambassador Mulhall marveled at our pride, our expression, and most of all, our action.

I am glad the drunken stereotypes are disappearing with this new generation, as history's overtones of the world's oldest political prisoner fade from every day hurts and realities. America is still the salad bowl, dressed with great music to sing and dance to. Irish music is world music, and America is world music too, to so many.

It doesn't mean we settle, it means we embrace what we are, and most importantly, what we can become; a New

Greatest Generation doesn't have to be a dream; watching survivors go from hiding in a closet to escape a madman's bullets to stepping up to the microphone, the office of the campus President, and yes, the White House, clearly shows, the time has come. Our young

are fueling real debate, now IS the time to talk about it, to DO something about it, as they experience hate and hurt up close and personal, perhaps for the first time.

When we empower the innocent, the young, the discriminated against by glass ceilings or green insults, we change our world, it is the only thing that ever has.



*Go dtí an mhí seo chugainn, slán a fhágáil*

*(Until next month, goodbye)*

John

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### MILESTONE



Tom Davis & Emily Lentz

**Congratulations to Tom Davis & Emily Lentz,** celebrating their engagement on February 16th!

**Congratulations to Veronica Isabella** on the Grand Opening of Reilly's Irish Bakery at 22560 Lorain Road in Fairview Park, sister store to Reilly's at The Market! Good Luck Ronny!

**May you Rest in Peace Chris Murray, and Richard Manning.** Watch over us, as you always have. We are honored to have known you.



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**About Our Cover:**  
 Introducing our 2018 Ohio Rose of Tralee, Erin Stefancin

## AT HOME, ABROAD

By Regina Costello

### Smile! Be Nice! Be Positive!

Twenty years have passed since I emigrated from Galway and Dublin. Residing in a dynamic, cosmopolitan city with easy access to other European destinations was a recipe for the good life. Weekends were filled with so many options it was difficult to make a choice –arts and culture, night clubs, live rock bands, fine dining, European fashion, beaches and day trips–Dublin had it all. Spontaneous weekends to the U.K., France and Switzerland were much enjoyed.

Working at the Economic and Social Research Institute off Baggot Street was a convenient two mile walk from my rented accommodation in Rathgar, and a stone's throw from Grafton Street. Nestor's bus ride from the Dublin Quays to my home town of Galway was a scenic four hour journey on a Friday evening. It allowed for sufficient time to head out to the local to catch up with school friends. I had few complaints. I ran in to my husband-to-be (Deepak Kumar) at *Howl at the Moon* pub in Lower Mount Street near Dublin's city center. He was out for the night with a bunch of lads from Galway, some of

whom I knew. Deepak was living across the street from that pub in *Grattan Hall* apartments where the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, then Minister for Arts, Culture and The Gaeltacht, was residing. Little did either of us know that this friendly Minister who frequently chatted to us in the elevator would be a future president of Ireland. We began dating. I had less complaints. Time passed and all was good. Discussions about the future ensued. That included the possibility of moving to the U.S.

I was enamored by him, not so much the move, but was prepared to entertain the opportunity. Leaving family was very difficult; saying goodbye to friends and all that was familiar was equally challenging. However, I was determined to go and make the most of it. I found that looking ahead was my salvation. Dwelling on the past and home was not.

I arrived in Cleveland during March to bitter cold temperatures and a snow adorned landscape. I had left spring time in Ireland, where buds were already peeking out on the tree branches.

I still miss the early Irish spring that speckles the countryside with pretty primroses and flowering daffodils with a promise of better weather.

I quickly realized that I had much to learn and adjustments to make on many levels. The American accent and American way of talking were among my first impressions. I had to work to ensure understanding on both sides.

It started with my name. I learned that by placing the accent on the second syllable (CosTELlo) instead of the first syllable (COSTello) as it is pronounced in Ireland, made my last name less of a struggle for people to understand. But that led to confusion, because many thought it strange that I had an Irish accent but a supposedly "Italian" last name. Many asked if Costello is my married name. That usually led to an interesting conversation because my husband was born in New Delhi.

At times I slipped up with terminology. I still do. I accidentally say "bin" instead of "trash can", or I call the trunk of the car the "boot" when having my groceries packed at Heinen's.

A striking observation I made during those early days was the positive demeanor of

Americans, regardless of events in their personal lives. To me, they seemed to be experts at putting a brave face on things, and always presenting a smile when inquiring into the well-being of others. I found them so uncomplaining, at least in open conversation.

I had new skills to learn; Smile! Be nice! Be positive! Even if I was having a lousy day, I had to learn to keep it to myself and not burden others unnecessarily.

Irish people typically tell you exactly how they are and how their day is going, with perhaps a story of what transpired the prior evening.

I think we like to complain or we like to talk about our complaints.

I decided that the American thought process of "get up, dust yourself off and move on," to be a more fruitful endeavor than indulging complaints. I noticed that Americans are sensitive and use

*Continued on page 4*

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## CLEVELAND COMHRÁ

By Bob Carney

# 100 Years ago: The Black Flu of 1918

In 1918, as the Great War raged in Europe, another killer was at work, affecting 1/3 of the world's population. The Spanish Flu (so named after King Alfonso XIII of Spain, his prime minister, and several cabinet members contracted the disease) was killing 40 million people in 1918 alone. To put that into some sort of perspective, over four years, 20 million died in Europe in the "war to end all wars." From July 1917 to March 1919, fifty to one-hundred million died from the flu or complications arising from the disease.

In New York City, 20,000 people perished over a ten week period, producing 31,000 orphans. It impacted every continent on the planet; 50,000 died in South Africa; in Japan, 390,000 died; 21% of Iran's population was lost; 675,000 victims in the United States, with the residents of Kansas being hit extremely hard. In Europe and America, wartime censors initially minimized early reports of illness and mortality in an effort to maintain morale of the troops at home and abroad.

From 1916 to 1923, between four and five thousand people lost their lives as a result of political violence in Ireland. Over 27,000 Irishmen died in the Great War over its four years. The Black Flu, as it was known in Ireland, infected 800,000 and claimed the lives of 23,000. The disease affected every county, urban and rural areas alike.

Today, The Center for Disease Control and Prevention in the United States classifies influenza as a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. It spreads mainly by droplets dispersed when people sneeze, cough or talk. It can spread to others up to six feet away. Healthy adults may be able to infect others one day before symptoms develop and five to seven days after becoming ill. Children can pass the virus beyond a week.

Some people can be infected with the virus and have no symptoms, during this time, those persons may still spread the virus to others. Normally infants and seniors are the most vulnerable to influenza viruses.

In 1918, more than half of those who died were in the prime of their lives. The 1918 virus had two stages of severity, one being milder and the second much worse. Symptoms of the first strain were a lack of energy, aching pains, high temperature, irregular pulse, sore throat, loss of appetite and severe intestinal pain. The symptoms of the second strain included all of the above, but with pulmonary complications, lung infections, bronchial pneumonia and blood poisoning.

At times, those stricken would turn purple or even black, leading it to be called the Black Flu. The stronger strain could kill healthy young adults within twenty-four hours.

William Thompson, the Registrar General of Ireland, said that no disease since the Great Famine had "wreaked so much havoc". Dublin, was infamously an unhealthy city at the time, with already high mortality rates. Kevin C. Kearns' book, "Dublin Tenement Life: An Oral History," is a collection of firsthand accounts that chronicles life in Dublin from the 1800s into the twentieth century.

Deaths increased dramatically with the arrival of the flu in 1918. By November, 250 deaths a week were being reported. Authorities in the city recorded 9,008 births and 9,397 deaths that year. 1,506 were from influenza and another 1,140 from flu related pneumonia.

In North Galway, hospitals were seeing an average of ten deaths a week, sometimes killing entire families. The milder strain showed up in Limerick around June, but by the end of October, the second strain had arrived, infecting large numbers of the population. The corporation of the city ordered cinemas and other places of public entertainment closed in November until the epidemic passed.

Treatments for the disease varied and were largely ineffective. Some of the odder ones, by today's standards, included lozenges made from formaldehyde and lactose; snuff, soda and sugar mixed with hot milk; and towels soaked in vinegar, in an effort to draw the disease out of the body. In Limerick, a carpet and window cleaning company advised the use of its "Americus Disinfectant" to control the spread of the disease. Liberal amounts of whiskey and ginger root were also common.

Sinn Fein activist Ernest Blythe, who was a political prisoner in Belfast in 1918, later recalled, "Out of the two hundred men in the prison, barely thirty were on their feet by early 1919... A lot of the prisoners were pretty bad, with a great deal of bleeding from the nose. Two men went off their heads and had to be removed to a mental institution. We had however, no deaths. Part of the reason for this may have been the prison authorities supplied brandy with the greatest liberality."

The outbreak of the Black Flu was

probably introduced to Ireland by soldiers returning from the Great War, but it was likely spread as a result of the political activism and movement of people surrounding the General Election of 1918. Several thousand republican activists were imprisoned for long and short periods of time in both Ireland and Britain. Prisons were notoriously fertile grounds for the spread of disease.

From a political view, the effects of the epidemic worked in unpredictable ways. When the war ended, the British renewed their attacks on republicans; any Sinn Fein man, his home and family were in danger. The flu however, helped contain the loss of life and destruction that may have occurred if both sides were not also occupied battling against the disease.

In Dublin, members of Cumann na mBan, who were qualified, helped to nurse patients on both sides. Republican women founded a hospital for infants. Unfortunately, their charitable actions could not totally diffuse the political turmoil that was to come later in the year.

By the summer of 1919, the virus had burned itself out, killing its hosts too quickly for it to spread further. Its legacy, the thousands of fresh graves it left in Ireland and the rest of the world. ■

### At Home, Abroad Continued from page 3

kind words with warm smiles when saying something necessary or delivering news that might unintentionally offend the listener. Irish people can be blunt; we do use tact, but we don't typically sugar coat what we say.

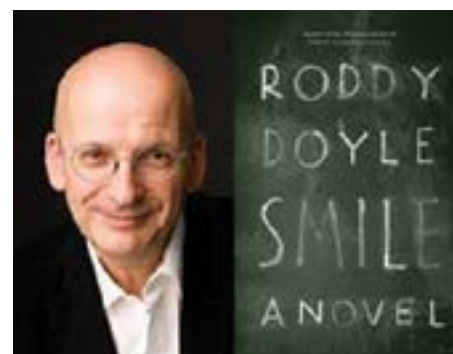
This was just the tip of the iceberg. Settling into this new life in an unfamiliar land would take longer than anticipated. Little did I know of the adventures that were to yet come. It was going to take a while to feel At Home Abroad. ■

\*Regina is a Graduate from the National University of Ireland, Galway and a Post Graduate from the National University of Ireland, Dublin. She is the former Curator of the Irish American Archives at the Western Reserve Historical Society and former Executive Director of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Commission. She can be reached at rcostello@ameritech.net.



## OFF THE SHELF

By Terry Kenneally



### SMILE

By Roddy Doyle  
Viking Publishing ISBN: 9780735224445  
2017 214 pgs.



### TIME PIECES - A DUBLIN MEMOIR

By John Banville  
Alfred A. Knopf  
Publishing: ISBN: 978152432837  
2018 212 pgs.

April's Off the Shelf column features books by two of the most celebrated Irish authors alive today. The authors, contemporaries, have both been recipients of the Booker Prize, Ireland's equivalent to the Pulitzer Prize or National Book Award. Doyle was the author of Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha, while Banville won his Booker for The Sea.

The connection between the two, for this review, is the city of Dublin, capital of Ireland. Doyle was born in Dublin and grew up in Kilbarrack. Before becoming a full-time writer in 1993, he spent several years as an English and Geography teacher. He is the author of eleven novels.

Banville was born in Wexford. But from an early age was fascinated by Dublin, a place he first visited as a child as a birthday treat. He later moved to Dublin, where he currently lives. He is the author of eighteen books under his own name, and seven under his pen name, Benjamin Black.

The protagonist in Smile is Victor Forde. Trying to drown his sorrows over a career which began with glittery promise and a marriage the same, Forde goes every evening to Donnelly's for a pint, a slow one. One evening his drink is interrupted by a man wearing shorts and a pink shirt who seems to know Victor from secondary school. His name is Fitzpatrick and Victor has no recollection of him. Not only that, Victor dislikes him on sight and dislikes too the memories that Fitzpatrick stirs up of the five years being taught by the Christian Brothers. He prompts other memories of Rachel, his beautiful wife, who became a food celebrity and of Victor's small claim to fame as the man who would say the 'unsayable' on the radio.

It is the memories of the school, and of one particular brother that Victor can't control and threatens his sanity. One of the novel's themes is the tricks of memory and its unreliability. The novel hinges on the fallibility of memory, and the narrator's (Victor) misremembering of a crucial point. The climax is controversial, puzzling, and devastating. What is YOUR take on it? As the reviewer from the Washington Post stated, "Doyle was determined to write a novel that shocked- and succeeded ... this is a performance few writers could carry off: a novel constructed entirely from bar stool chatter and scraps of memory."

Time Pieces- A Memoir is the latest work by the great contemporary Irish writer, John Banville. As a child Banville would make an annual trip to Dublin with his aunt on his birthday. 8 December, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and a public holiday when people would flock to Dublin to do their Christmas shopping. Dublin had never been the backdrop for any of Banville's previous books due to the stranglehold which Joyce had over the city as a result of The Dubliners, at least until Banville's alter ego, Benjamin Black, showed up in the

form of Quirk, his protagonist medical examiner of 1950s Dublin.

Alternating between vignettes of Banville's past and present-day historical explorations of the city, Time Pieces is a vivid evocation of childhood and memory. Banville's sidekick for the tour of Dublin is a man named Cicero, a man who knows the Dublin that few others are aware of or have forgotten ever existed. Over a lifetime of developing, building, and collecting, Cicero amassed a great store of arcane knowledge of a hidden city - hidden that is, in plain view.

The book takes you on a 'Thelma and Louise' journey through Dublin in Cicero's two-seater sports car. In the

process, Banville guides the reader in the city's high and low cultural, architectural, political, and social history. For a reviewer who has always found Dublin a marvelous, cosmopolitan city, Time Pieces, is a TOP SHELF read. ■

\*Terrence Kenneally is an insurance defense attorney who owns Terrence J. Kenneally & Associates in Rocky River, Ohio. He defends insureds and insurance companies throughout the state of Ohio. He received his Masters from John Carroll University in Irish Studies and teaches Irish literature and history at Holy Name High School. He is also the principal of Holy Name High School for 2017-2018.

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## ILLUMINATIONS

By J. Michael Finn



# Nano Nagle, The Lady with the Lantern

Ireland is often referred to as "The land of saints and scholars." If Ireland is known as a land of scholars, wouldn't it make sense that it would also be known as a land of educators? Someone had to teach the scholars.

Nano Nagle, also known as "Lady with the Lantern," was born in Ballygriffin, County Cork, in 1718, the daughter of Garret and Ann Mathews Nagle. She was baptized with the first name Honora, but it was soon replaced by the nickname "Nano." She was the eldest of six children. The wealthy Nagle family was connected to some of the most prominent families in Munster and their ancestors had lived in the area for hundreds of years.

In the struggle between the English and Irish for the possession of Ireland, the Nagles' loyalty to the Catholic king - James II of England - and the Catholic faith cost them the loss of the extensive lands.

Nano Nagle lived in a period in Irish history when the English had imposed the dreaded Penal Laws. These restrictive laws denied the Irish access economically, politically, socially and educationally to their basic rights. Edmund Burke described those laws: "Their declared object was to reduce the Catholics in Ireland to a miserable populace, without property, without estimation, without education."

Catholics who dared to teach were subjected to heavy fines and periods of imprisonment. It was equally a treasonable offense for Irish children to be sent overseas for their education. As a result, "Hedge Schools" were initiated in Ireland, where traveling teachers conducted classes in secret in fields and behind hedges. Many Irish children were taught history, Latin and Greek by these itinerant teachers.

As a youngster, Nano Nagle is believed to have attended a Hedge School close to her home before she was sent to France for the rest of her education. The Nagle family in Cork city had strong trading connections on the European Continent, particularly in France. It was through these connections that Nano and her sister Ann were able to travel to Paris, smuggled aboard a cargo ship. In Paris they received a full Catholic education and also enjoyed a sophisticated life in French society.

According to one account, Nagle had a hectic social life in Paris, enjoying, "balls, parties and theater outings, all the glamour of the life of a wealthy young lady." It was after one of these parties that she noticed a group of wretched-looking people huddled in a church doorway begging for alms. She was moved by the contrast between her wealthy, privileged life and that of the Paris poor.

After their father's death in 1746, she and her sister returned to Ireland and went to live with their mother in Dublin. There, Nagle was moved by the widespread poverty of the Irish. She returned to Paris intending to enter an Ursuline convent, but a spiritual director advised her to return to Ireland and take up the education of the deprived children there. Nagle went back to Cork city to set up her first school for the poor, in a rented mud cabin in Cove Lane, in defiance of the law, and in complete secrecy.

Nagle founded her first school in 1754 in Cove Lane, with about 30 students. Within nine months, she was educating 200 girls. By 1757, she had opened seven schools, five for girls and two for boys. These provided pupils with a basic education and religious instruction. At first alone, and later with the support of her family, she established a network of



schools in Cork. Not everybody in Cork welcomed the initiative: she was often insulted in the street and her pupils were dismissed as "beggar's brats."

French elementary schools provided the model on which to base her schools, but she soon developed her own system of education. Her ideas for education were that she wanted the spiritual and temporal welfare of the pupils to be interwoven and to flow naturally together.

When not teaching in her schools,

Nagle began to visit the sick and the elderly, bringing them food, medicine and comfort. She opened homes for aged women, and began conducting adult classes. She went from hovel to hovel each day to gather the most needy people to teach. Night-time ministries to poverty-stricken elderly and sick gave Nagle the nickname *The Lady with the Lantern*.

As her workload increased, she realized that she would need help with her work. She set up an Ursuline convent in Cork city which she initially sponsored. In 1771, the first Ursuline convent was established in Ireland. The first community was made up of four Cork women together with a reverend mother. However, they were unable to work for Nagle or the poor because at that time religious sisters were required by law to remain enclosed in their convents.

Nagle and her assistants continued their work without becoming an established religious congregation so they were free to work for the poor without being confined to a convent. On Christmas Eve 1775 she founded the Society of Charitable Instruction of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in Cork.

When her uncle Joseph died, he left her a large sum of money which she devoted to building schools and convents, providing relief for the poor and the infirm. All of this was done in secrecy, initially, but even the authorities, seeing the beneficent nature of her institutions, relaxed their vigilance somewhat.

Nagle founded the "Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary" (PBVM) in Ireland (also known as the "Presentation Sisters"). The first Presentation convent in Ireland on Cove Lane (now Douglas Street) in Cork, which opened on Christmas Day, 1775. There she received the habit on June 29, 1776, taking the religious name of Mother Mary of St. John of God. Her sisters were known at "Nano's Walking Nuns," because like Nagle, they walked the streets of Cork bringing assistance and comfort to those who were most in need. The lantern became the symbol of the order. Nagle's congregation spread throughout Ireland and throughout the world.

Nano Nagle died of tuberculosis on April 26, 1784 at the age of 66. Her last words to the small group of sisters at her bedside were, "Love one another as you

have hitherto done. Spend yourselves for the poor."

In 2000, Nagle was voted Irish Woman of the Millennium in recognition of her importance as a pioneer of female education in Ireland. In 2003 she was voted Ireland's greatest ever woman in a RTE public poll. She inspired Edmund Ignatius Rice, the founder of the Christian Brothers, to bring education to poor people. The newspaper Irish Independent said of her, "A case could be made for Nano Nagle as the most influential person in education of the past three centuries." Nano Nagle was declared venerable in the Catholic Church on October 31, 2013 by Pope Francis, the first step to achieving sainthood in the Church. ■

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



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By John O'Brien Jr.



## A New Rose a Blooming

The newly crowned 2018 Ohio Rose of Tralee is Erin Stefancin. You may not know her yet, but you will. Her family has deep Cleveland roots, now in their 3rd generation; Grandma and Grandpa are Sean and Agnes Fox, from over Lucille Avenue way, and Mayo too. Mom is their daughter, Anne Fox Stefancin.

**When did you first become aware of the Rose of Tralee, and what made you apply?**

I applied to the Rose of Tralee initially to meet more people that share my love of my Irish heritage. I told my parents that I had no expectations other than to enjoy myself doing something that I love: talking to people! Now that I

can participate at the international level, I am excited to meet people and learn about all different cultures. I look forward to standing together with ambitious and intelligent women who will inspire me and support me throughout the whole process.

**Were you nervous that night, as the selection ceremony went along? |**

I'd love to say I wasn't nervous for Selections Night, but that would be a lie! My boyfriend, Alex, and his family, who have never been to an Irish event before, were coming, as well as my siblings and grandparents, and it settled in how much I wanted to make them all proud.

I kept telling people that the thing I



Photo by John O'Brien, Jr.

was most nervous for was the onstage interview, not singing "Lady of Knock" because I have sung that song in front of people so many times, but I have never talked about myself in front of so many people. I was nervous more to do the best I could than to win though,

as I said before the only expectation I wanted to have was to enjoy myself!

**Tell me about growing up Irish?**

I'm the granddaughter of Sean and Agnes (McGrath) Fox, my mom's parents, who were born in Cong, Co. Mayo, and my family on my dad's



Photo by John O'Brien, Jr.

### 2018 Ohio Rose Erin Stefancin

side is from Achill Island. Growing up, I participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade with the West Side Irish American Club, starting at 4 years old; danced for Leneghan Academy of Irish Dance for 3 years; and participated in Irish Singing Competitions at Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival and the Cleveland Feis. My parents fostered love of Irish heritage and pride for me and my three older siblings throughout our life, and it is something all of us are very proud of today.

I graduated from The Ohio State University in May of 2017, with my undergraduate degree, and stayed at Ohio State for my Masters of Arts in Speech Language Pathology. I am currently in my second semester of the 5-semester program! When I graduate, I want to work in an acute care in a hospital working with adults! any special achievements.

For fun, I enjoy yoga, running, baking, cooking, singing, knitting and reading. One of my favorite things to bake is Irish Soda bread, which my Grandma Fox taught me how to make when I was younger. I also spend a lot of my free time with my dog, Brady, and I love to run with him. He is one of the happiest dogs I have ever met, and I always tell people the look on his face when he runs is happier than I

have ever seen a dog! Runs can be hard though because he is such a friendly dog; he wants to say hi to every person and dog we go by, and we live in a pretty populated neighborhood in Columbus! I also enjoy spending time with friends and family, especially when I am home in Cleveland for breaks.

I am excited to bring the Rose of Tralee to all my family and friends. None of my classmates in my grad classes knew what the Rose of Tralee was, and after winning, they all are now consider themselves "experts." It is so special to be able to bring this piece of my Irish heritage to everyone close to me.

The friendships forged are what stands out for me the most. The process for the Ohio Rose is very rigorous, and putting yourself out there like all of us applicants did can be quite nerve-racking, Because of that, the applicants became very close and supportive of one another. It was so special to have a support system of my family and fellow applicants behind me throughout the entire process.

The Rose of Tralee story is what surprised me the most - I went into it not knowing the history behind the competition: a love story between William, a wealthy Protestant, and Mary, a poor Catholic maid. On our first day of orientation, they told us the story behind the event and shared the beautiful poem with us. I feel honored to be able to share that part of Irish history every time I explain what the Rose of Tralee is to people that are unaware of it.

Being selected as the 2018 Ohio Rose means that I get to represent my family, my state, my country and my Irish heritage way in a way that very few people get to experience. In my life, I have always had great joy in being a role model, especially for my younger cousins. I even have volunteered in the past with a program called Youth Chal-

lenge, where I helped young children with physical disabilities. I find joy in helping others but also setting an example that people can look up to.

As a Rose, I am delighted to be able to continue to be a role model for young women. This is why an experience that I am most excited about when I go to the festival is to meet the Rose Bud that I will be paired with!

My dad always reminds me that the best things come when you are least expecting them. I stumbled across my career of Speech-Language Pathology when I didn't know what it was and now it's my greatest passion in life, and the Rose of Tralee was something I decided to apply to after seeing old pictures on my cousin's Facebook from when she participated back in 2016.

My dad couldn't be more right as I truly have been given a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity at a time when I least expected it. I attest my passion in my academics, job, relationships and Irish heritage to my parents and my grandparents, John and Agnes Fox and Bob and Grace Stefancin. Throughout my life I was surrounded by these strong Irish role models, and I am forever grateful for this and their support in all that I do. I look forward to becoming a role

model as a Rose by the example my family members have set for me in my life. ■

*[Editor's Note: Erin will do our Ohio community proud in Tralee. In fact, she already has. Good Luck Erin, may the experience and the memories you create last a lifetime.]*

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# BLOWIN' IN

By Susan Mangan



## A Page from a Tale: "Going Home"

I have always drifted, spirit-like, from home to home. I grew up in Chicago, but spent summers on the farm in Missouri, where my mother was born and raised. As a child, I wished that I never grew up in the city, but lived in my mother's hometown on the farm where she was born. Happily, I spent summer days surrounded by cows and calves, cats and beagles. Deeply, I breathed in the sweet scent of hay.

On the night before we were to leave my grandmother's house and journey back to Chicago, my relations gathered together. We shared a meal and sipped sweet tea until dark descended and

the crickets began to chirp in earnest. While the adults lingered over farewell conversation, I stole away to a forgotten closet, hoping I would be left behind to live on the farm.

Worried about my absence, my family began to search. My oldest cousin called, "Susan Mary, Susan Mary," until she found me curled up in the closet, exhausted from crying and held me close, assuring me that I could always come home.

I reflected on the feelings of fondness and nostalgia, love and connectedness shared by all. These memories were not going to dissipate. The house, though



beloved, was a construct. It is the people in our lives that form the foundation of a home. The walls are crafted from joy and pain and held together by the strongest mortar - shared experience.

As a girl, I had never heard of a place called Cleveland, Ohio, yet Cleveland has become my home for thirty years. It is funny how the roads of destiny unravel. In my case, I have found a contented life with my husband's Irish family. To paraphrase an old Irish saying, the door will always be open for loved ones, old, and new.

I am honored to have become a part not only of my husband's family, but a much larger family, the Cleveland Irish, all of whom have shared their stories with me and continually inspire my words. Heritage, tradition, perseverance, family, and faith link the Cleveland Irish together. Their shared bond is present in the churches the Irish have built, the dance schools they have formed, the friendships they have forged, and the solid futures they have paved for the new generations of Cleveland Irish.

When Vera Holian married Tom Casey and sailed for America on the Queen Mary in 1956, she brought with her the spirit of an Irish home that would pave the path for her father, Frank Holian, to reconnect with family after 54 years. Upon a visit to Cleveland in 1969, which he documents in an eloquent journal, Frank would come to realize that no matter how many years and miles come to pass, home lies within the heart.

For so many Irish who left to live and work in America, life was difficult and memories of family back home were bittersweet. At one point during her time in America, Frank's sister Mary Ann wrote to him for help in locating her birth certificate. Mary Ann writes in her letters that she was unsure of her exact age, "My mother gave me age when I left home as 21. If so, my birthday was October 22, 1882."

Having been raised in a family of 17, life was not easy for the oldest or youngest siblings; each child had their own journeys, heartaches, and joys. Frank himself felt great loss when his wife died at the young age of 37, leaving

him to raise 6 children on his own. Sadly, one of his daughters, Nancy, perished at the age of 12 when her clothing caught fire with embers from the hearth.

Frank's brother Mark wrote in a letter, "I have cheated death four times." Having survived perilous mishaps during on-site work accidents in 1916 and 1920, Mark survived and raised a family in Pennsylvania. He later connected with his youngest brother Frank in 1969 when Frank came to visit his family in Cleveland and Pennsylvania.

Finally reunited after fifty-four years, brothers Mark, Frank, and Mike toasted their reunion and celebrated the turn in fortune that their lives had taken. Even the local Pittsburgh paper, "The Messenger," stepped out to interview and take a "snap of us all."

In his diary and letters, Frank is most impressed with the kindness of his Holian family: "I've met more Holians since I came then I ever knew existed . . . all so nice and friendly." When Frank first arrived, all his family came to greet him, "you'd think I came down from heaven!"

His family and friends treated Frank to many excursions during his extended holiday in America in 1969. He attended a football game at the University of Akron, where his nephew played

**"ALL THE TROUBLE AND COST THESE PEOPLE GO TO FOR ME. I CAN'T EXPLAIN, BUT THEIR HOSPITALITY WILL BE STAMPED ON MY MEMORY FOREVER."**

in front of a crowd of 50,000 attendees. Frank thought American football was "more savage than rugby at home." Nonetheless, he was awed by the stadium lighting and fireworks display that followed the game.

Frank spent a day traveling along Lake Road into Sandusky. He passed by the house of Doctor Sam Shepherd, and his cousin regaled him with the story of

the famous doctor who was said to have murdered his wife. Frank was thrilled to find out the story behind one his favorite films, "The Fugitive."

Throughout his time in Cleveland and Pittsburgh, Frank is so grateful for the generosity and hospitality of the many family members who welcomed him into their homes and hearts: "All the trouble and cost these people go to for me. I can't explain, but their hospitality will be stamped on my memory forever."

Frank was happy to have raised his family well and to "keep the flag flying back in Ireland. So proud it was my lot to keep the family home of all their ancestors." Frank's positive spirit is present throughout the many letters he wrote to his older sister Mary Ann and brother Mark. He once wrote, "It's true we all have problems along life's road. We can't have heaven in this world." Indeed, Frank seemed to survive through grit, wisdom, and kindness. His gentle sense of humor is apparent when he writes to sister Mary Ann, reminding her "my name is Frank and I am also Frank in my manner." Indeed,

it was Frank's manner and enduring love that helped keep the bond between his family alive through many years and many more miles.

At the age of 84 years, Frank's sister Mary Ann threw her arms around him in greeting, crying over the fact that it was "over 54 years since I left them [my siblings] good-bye outside the old house in Gortacurra, so long ago."

When Frank left America after his holiday in 1969, he knew that he may never see his siblings again, "Until I write again, may God bless and comfort ye along life's road." With gratitude and fondness, Frank Holian knew that as long as he had his family in his heart, he could always welcome them home. ■

*\*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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## READER RECIPES

### Mom's Brown Bread

By John O'Brien, Jr.



Little flour in pan

½ stick margarine melted

Shake up buttermilk. Add to melted butter until it reaches the 2 cup mark - mix well.

In bowl, cup out so hole in middle. Mix in buttermilk until all is coated and mixed.

Add flour to hands - mix into tight ball.

Flour on counter. Shape dough, push together for loaf. Add buttermilk if too dry.

Use spatula to put 4-way cross on bread, about ½ way thru

375 Degrees for 45 minutes

Bowl:

- 1 ½ cup flour
- 1 ½ cup Kretschmer "original toasted wheat germ"
- 1 tspn baking soda
- 1 heaping tspn baking powder
- 1 tspn salt
- ¼ cup sugar

Mix up in bowl



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By John O'Brien Jr.



## Intermission at the 42nd Cleveland International Film Festival

The 42nd Cleveland International Film Festival kicks off its 12-day run on April 5th. The Ohio Irish American News has been a sponsor for a few years now, but each year, my love for the festival, the people who run it, and the engagement it fosters, grows. Rip-les before, during and after raise the standing of our community locally, and nationally too.

This year, we are sponsoring Maze, the true story of the escape of xxx from The Maze Prison. Historical? Certainly. Impactful? Definitely. In a time when we are closer to a United Ireland than at any time in history, the freedom of the world's oldest political prisoner is as relevant as ever. 214 feature films and 253 short films this year insure there is something for

everyone on screen, and Cleveland's love affair with CIFF is a heartfelt mass meeting of film and Cleveland enthusiasts that come from all over the world to celebrate, together. We sat down with Associate Director Patrick Shepherd, the tireless advocate for film and for Cleveland, who's twenty year tenure is marked by growth, and the grand realization of dreams.

"We are fortunate that Cleveland is really enthusiastic film going community—we have topped 100,000 people each of the last three years. It is the largest film festival under one roof in the world.

"After Christmas, we go to a 7 day a week until the festival is over. It is a labor of love for all of us. We can't believe our luck to have this, to be a



Associate Director of CIFF, Patrick Shepherd

part of it. Our family goes from 8 to over 1300 staff in one night. We are a non-profit. It costs over \$3 million to put the festival on. We are grateful we get so much support; it will take great support to make sure it continues.

"Sidebars have always been a part of CIFF – LGBT, Spanish. This year there are new topics and categories – Clevelanders love documentaries, so a sizable percentage of our films are documentaries, like Nordic Adventures – great films are coming out of these countries. We have a sports section, including our closing night film, Borg Vs. McEnroe, plus The Carter Effect; Race Relations as a topic and feature is back for a 2nd year as well.

"A fun new event this year was *The Program Guide Get the Scoop Release Party* on March 12 at Mitchell's Ice Cream. People got their program books, had a scoop of ice cream, talked

about films, and what they are planning on seeing and doing.

"Cleveland centric films seem to do very well. A new one is Falmouth MA, Falmouth England. The director is from Willoughby. I remember when we had Believeland – the Browns film – I was always a sports kid growing up, born and raised here in Cleveland – it was so cool for me. Ernest Byner hung out with us for a week for Believeland.

"Milestones and memories happen every year – the guests really bring it to life. The greatest moments are ones where the director or actors are there – it is a unique opportunity to talk the context of the film and get the audience to take action. For example, we did one on Bone Marrow. Some cultures don't have as many opportunities to talk about issues and needs, to get donations. We used an empty storefront, so many got the opportu-

nity to see the bone marrow industry and how the issue is affecting their community.

"More than 300 guest film makers will be in town this year. More than 160 community organization partnerships. Having the film makers present makes an enormous difference. Otherwise, a 35-minute film may end up in a closet, and is never seen again. The experience you get at CIFF, engaging with filmmakers, is a once in a lifetime event.

"There is a lot of free programming. If college or university student comes with their school ID, from 9-3 on Tuesdays and after 11:45 on Friday or Saturday – they get a free ticket to the films until they run out.

On Monday April 9th, Faculty, Staff, Alumni, (of any college or University?) on a 1st come, 1st serve basis, get in free.

"This is our 3rd year of Perspectives in Tower City – Perspectives is still not on a lot of radar screens. Even regulars may not have heard of it or been to it, but it connects us to a younger audience. If we had all the money in the world, we would bring them all in. The Virtual Reality media exhibition is open to the public. Film makers are now doing projects on that platform (5-10 minutes each). It's an incredible space. It runs from 11 to 7 from April 5th to the end of the festival.

"If people are working, or live downtown, they have limited time, they can experience the Film Fest just by showing up and catching shorter films. Tastes of the Festival during the noon hour gets short films, the food and at least a taste of the CIFF experience."

The Opening Night film is *The Drummer and the Keeper*, directed by Irishman Nick Kelly and stars include Dermot Murphy, Jacob McCarthy and Peter Coogan. Guests expected to be in attendance include Kelly, Murphy and McCarthy, as well as producer Kate McGolgan.

We know Cleveland is hopping; it's not your daddy's days. It seems every time, is a busy time. During the Film Festival, with the Indians, Rock-n-Roll Hall Inductions, Cavs and so much more going on, climatic scenes are everywhere! Plan ahead: take RTA, so



you have plenty of time; or car pool; take Uber.

Whatever you take, plan ahead to maximize the experience. Buy tickets early – as soon as they go on sale, the movies go on standby, so make sure you don't miss out. We want you to see everything you want to see, and a few things you didn't know were so good. Create those memories and milestones Patrick talked about. The world is watching, and is envious.

Tickets are available at [www.clevelandfilm.org](http://www.clevelandfilm.org), or at 877.304.FILM and program books are available all over, including at Dollar Bank branches, AT&T retail stores or in person at the Film Festival Box Office in the lobby of Tower City Cinemas.

For a fun compiled bullet-point history of memories and milestones from all 41 Cleveland International Film Festivals, see [ClevelandFilm.org/about](http://ClevelandFilm.org/about). ■

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# CLEVELAND IRISH

By Francis McGarry



## History of the Cleveland Saloon

It has been known to happen. An occasional publican respite to reinvigorate all that is in need. Serendipity dictates such rendezvous and providence quite often plays a role. This season of ours has and is a tryst between thirst and the water of life.

This green season, the stars aligned, and there I was embracing a short but noble tumbler of jamo with two rocks. That is as it should be. The empty barstool to my right was anomalous for that time of year in that kind of place. It did, however, seem disregarded by other patrons as well as myself.

I must confess I had no vested interest, however adjacent it may have been. I must also confess, if on a plane in a similar context, I am considerably more anticipatory. My confessions also increase this time of year, directly related to my Lenten commitments.

This year Lent included not including such trysts as above. Perchance that is

why she went undetected for a period of time, how long I am not sure. My singular focus was on the two rocks and the unwinnable battle for survival they were now in.

When I did notice her, I really noticed her. She was festively dressed in yarns from across the sea. Yet, it was her green eyes and curly red hair that dominated my noticing. She favored a Julia Roberts with curlier hair which was coincidental, since some say I favor Brad Pitt. Actually, it is the tumbler with two rocks that makes that analogy. Initially, we drank more and talked less. Then rocks five and six coincided with witty banter. She was a highball type of girl, jamo and ginger on ice.

The rhythm of consumption and conversation became synchronized as if it was preordained. The singular requests of the barkeep became shared endeavors, our covalent bond was becoming ionic. The tête-à-tête took

turns and tacit trajectories. Upon our last barkeepal desire, she remarked, "Is this all our people drink?" I looked directly into her deep green eyes and knew in my heart that was it.

That was it. I hurriedly excused myself and caught a ride to my desk and computer. What were we drinking and when? It was a question that would take my research beyond the eastside and into the Gilded Age. It would be a Cleveland Irish discussion. Quickly it was discovered that the first Guinness was shipped to America in 1807. South Carolina is even too far east for me. What about the whiskey? What about Cleveland?

In 1880 brandy produced in France nearly disappeared from the world market. The American grape louse crippled the vineyards in the Cognac region. It was some 70 years before the short reign of Pippin the IV.

Ireland took advantage. Irish whiskey production quadrupled from 1823 to 1900. The Irish in America and Cleveland were drinking whiskey. According to Christine Sismondo, "The Irish were known for drinking in saloons, standing at a rail while serving themselves shots of whiskey. In contrast, German beer gardens often welcomed entire families. They were well lit and relatively quiet and orderly."

We will get back to that dichotomy. In Cleveland at that time it seemed like everyone was drinking, and drinking their fair share. In 1883 there were 5,460

arrests for city crimes; 3,365 were for intoxication. There were only four cases of selling liquor to a minor and four cases of adultery. 200,000 inhabitants and just one case of verbal libel. Must be nice.

Cleveland was run by the Irish. Well, its mayor was Irish. Ok, John Farley was born in Cleveland. His father was born in Ireland and settled in Cleveland in 1833. John Farley got his start in the liquor business. In 1883 Farley presided over a city with 521 saloonkeepers listed in the City Directory. Police district records indicate over 1,300 saloons.



The City Directory shows that saloons were concentrated on particular streets and in particular areas of town. On Superior Avenue there were 16 saloons; 10 saloons between addresses #27 and #52. All 16 saloons were owned by men who lived at the same address as their business establishment, although not all saloons were owned by men at the time. Margaret Lyons was a 25-year-old saloon owner from Ireland, a single mother who lived and served liquor at #412 St. Clair. Irish women also ran shebeens, illegal bars in private homes.

As for the saloons on Superior, a pattern begins to develop. Irish, then German, then Irish, then German. Perhaps not surprising, in a neighbor of Irish and Germans, but it does support the nationalized patronage displayed in other American cities at this time. Why this time?

Continued on facing page



# GROWING UP IRISH

By Maureen Ginley



## On Sisterhood

Another year, another Ohio Rose Selection, another "Growing Up Irish" article about the amazing experience that has enriched my life in multiple ways. As I sit on my couch reflecting on the journey that began a month ago (to the day), I can't help but smile. The two weekends I spent with Grainne, Kelli, Kayla, Erin, Victoria, Shannon, Ciara, Mary Kate, and the entire Ohio Rose Centre crew were eye-opening, impactful, and most of all - FUN. When young women of Irish heritage get together to celebrate that heritage and the goals and ambitions each of them have, something amazing is sure to happen.

This year, that amazing thing was the bond the 2018 Ohio Rose Class formed

during our time together. Within the first twenty minutes of getting together in a group, our laughter echoed around a conference room in the American Greetings headquarters. We were sharing pictures of each other's pets, reminiscing on memories of St. Patrick's Day in Cleveland, and more. It was like we were old friends getting together for a catch-up.

That is the number-one take away I have from this year's experience. Each year I've participated in the Ohio Rose Selection, I've been blown away, by not only the caliber of women that put themselves forward, but the kind nature of the applicants as well. Each year a group of strangers gets together for this experience, but they leave

## Cleveland Saloon

Continued from previous page

The 1880s and its "milestones". The Famine Irish have settled and begun to occupy positions of power and influence. The Cleveland Police Department has more officers born in Ireland than any other foreign county. James McNeil was a police commissioner, James McMahan a Deputy Superintendent, and M.F. Madigan a Lieutenant.

In fact, of the 31 officers added in 1883, 8 were born in Ireland and 11 were U.S. born with Irish surnames. As stated, the Mayor was Irish American, the President of the Board of Fire Commissioners was Irish and so was the Superintendent of the Workhouse. They were not alone.

The first federal immigration laws were enacted in the 1880s. The Immigration Act of 1882 was passed and included a head tax. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 did just that. Alien Contract Labor laws were passed 1885 and 1887 to restrict or prohibit certain laborers from entry. The battle against the potential immigrant had begun.

Cleveland was also at the forefront of

the battle against the immigrant arrived. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) was established in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1874. It became the most powerful female reform organization of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Oberlin gave rise to the Anti-Saloon League in 1893. They feared the German and Irish control of the beer and liquor trade and the political activity of the saloon.

Ohio passed the Scott Law in 1883, a tax and restrictive code on the sale and transportation of liquor. It alone added \$1.9 million (2018 money) to the city coffers of Cleveland. That paid for the additional 31 police officers that were hired. Nearly a third of the federal revenues were from beer and whiskey. Rocks 8 and 9. Thanks Deirdre.

For additional readings please see: Christine Sismondo, America Walks into a Bar: A Spirited History of Taverns and Saloons, Speakeasies, and Grog Shops; Ron Rothbart, The Ethnic Saloon as a Form of Immigrant Enterprise; Eric Burns, The Spirits of America: A Social History of Alcohol. ■



as friends.

To some that may sound cheesy, but nonetheless, it's true. Ohio Rose applicants are, simply put, good people. For example, when you suggest to someone - in this instance, MK Campbell - that she spend the first few days of her Spring Break visiting you in Columbus and she obliges with enthusiasm, you know you found a good friend.

I've seen this kindness first-hand for years, but especially over the past few months. When my Grandma passed, the way I was lifted up in love still

blows me away. From the moment I found out until now, I've never felt alone as I grieve, and I've felt supported as I take steps in honoring my Grandma's life. When I decided to sing her favorite song at Selection as a means of emulating her fearlessness, applicants and coordinators alike cheered me on. When I misplaced a memento from my Grandma that meant a lot to me, Denise McConville said some of the kindest words (which were somehow exactly what I needed to hear) anyone has ever spoken to me.

As I think about all of the wonderful people I've met and great times I've had as a result of my involvement with the Ohio Rose Centre, my heart could burst. This organization has taught me a lot, but most importantly, it's taught me how to be a good friend. The way I've been supported in the past year is how I want to be there for my friends. The way it's taught me to be fearless in the pursuit of my passions helps me live my day to day life with courage. I am so grateful that I took a chance and filled out an application back at the end of 2014. Every year, I give more, and get more than I could ever hope for. ■

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## TERRY FROM DERRY

By Francis McGarry



# The True Face of Social Justice

We live in a time of profit making, and unbridled capitalism. The right to exploit those who are forced to sell themselves short in order to survive has been sanctioned at the highest levels of government. Unions are demonized, stripped of their powers, leaving workers vulnerable to the machinations of those who value profit over care and social responsibility. Our society defines its greatness in material terms. We have become hardened to the needs of those who cannot compete with the economic drive for success, and it is against such a backdrop of crude profiteering that Pope Francis speaks in defense of unions. Equating them to biblical prophets, the Pontiff deems the role of the union an important expression

of social conscience.

For me, the matter gained importance in 2015 when I, along with hundreds of other non-tenure track faculty (NTTs) at Loyola, decided to unionize (a movement among NTTs that has been grown throughout the country). Once the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) recognized our right to unionize, the university fought to reverse the decision. Loyola's Jesuit mission and call to social action does not, it seems, include the rights of its educators to form a union. At first, the administration's reaction was a surprise to me. Coming from Northern Ireland, and living through some of the worst of the *Troubles*, I naively assumed that the Jesuit tradition of social justice

was more than a lip service to an ideal. However, it was only when the NLRB affirmed the faculty's right to unionize that I saw the true face of social justice.

On two separate occasions, the university challenged the legal right of the faculty to unionize. Pope Francis, it appears, does not hold much sway with American Jesuits. On both occasions, the university failed to dismantle the union's right to address inequalities. You might well ask why an institution committed to *Ad maiorem Dei gloriam* (To the greater glory of God) would seek to quieten the prophetic voice crying in the wilderness. The answer is quite simple. Prophets have an annoying habit of highlighting injustice. They lift the carpet of respectability and expose the dirt gathering beneath.

Unions are prophetic institutions. Their commitment to parity should be welcomed, especially by those who claim to be transparent and committed to process of shared governance. However, unions, more often than not, will lay the axe to the root of business ideologies that value profit over people, and this does not sit well with administrative types.

Credibility gaps between mission and practice become public knowledge. For example, adjunct faculty at Loyola have not had a raise in over a decade, while tuition fees have dramatically increased. Administration salaries, by contrast, have fattened up quite nicely.

Indeed, when it comes to making economic decisions, rarely is it to the advantage of the most disadvantaged. When it became law that part-time faculty teaching more than four courses have to be offered health benefits, colleges stopped shy of the commitment to employee welfare. The result has left many adjuncts

on the margins of poverty, unable to afford health care, and forced to work multiple jobs. Educators, who have labored tirelessly for years at Loyola, find themselves offered less so that the institution might save more.

Pope Francis rightly states that unions provide us with the 'social nature' of economy. If academia is driven solely by profit, it dehumanizes its best asset, the teachers. If NTTs are to become 'fully human', they must be treated fairly. There has to be a change of heart or the cause of social justice is merely decorative and unsubstantiated.

It has been over two years since we unionized, and still the administration continues to drag out the process of bargaining. The question of 'good faith', when it comes to bargaining, is not measured in haste, or concern for the welfare of NTT faculty, but in keeping the status quo. Tuition fees continue to increase, a new multi-million-dollar building for athletics is paramount, but conditions for adjuncts remain same.

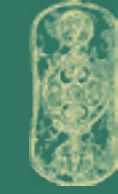
Our prophetic role, it appears, has been downgraded. Instead of being heard, we are being swept under the carpet once again.

Rather than dealing fairly with those of us who are committed to providing a quality education, the administration reminds us of how lucky we are to have a job at all and how easily it would be to replace us. This tactic of a veiled threat creates fear and distrust.

It is not the true face of social justice, but the real face of commerce divorced from conscience. We, at Loyola, are not alone. NTTs in Catholic universities throughout the nation face the same problem when it comes to forming a union. The Scales of Justice have kinks. ■



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## DON'T FORGET US

By Lisa O'Rourke



# Storytime Tall Tales

Most of the time, I am one of those people who say that the book was better than the movie. The filmed versions of favorite stories are kind of a reverse of the Sunset Boulevard quote, "it's the pictures that got small," in that our imaginations have infinite power to shape images and characters, whereas capturing stories on film renders them finite by that capture into two-dimensional frames.

However, when historical stories are made into film, it is truth that gets the Cecil B. DeMille treatment and becomes bigger and better. It is part of the pitch these days, to sell a story you need some larger than life characters, if not comic book heroes.

It is a small woman who has been enlarged in several different formats lately. Queen Victoria has been the subject of several films and most recently, of PBS's Victoria. She was a small woman, but she presided over a big chunk of history, sixty-three years on the throne, which was only recently usurped by Queen Elizabeth II.

Her time on the throne cannot be questioned, but her level of service depends on who you ask. English historians tend to depict a young and innocent Victoria; a small, shy, pretty girl who was raised very strictly and was thrust into royal politics as a teenager. She was a bit of a duck out of water, who married to gain some degree of autonomy from a domineering mother. The story goes that she was deeply in love with her husband and first cousin, the flashy Bavarian, Prince Albert, and that they lived a happy life.

Irish historians paint a different picture, that of a dour little, black-clad woman who donated as much to an English dog society as she donated to the Irish famine relief; not quite the heroic stuff of a PBS mini-series. She allowed people in part of the empire over which she ruled to starve in epic proportions, while her government barely gave it a thought. Not only did they

allow them to starve, but they legislated the starvation. Some even call it genocide.

How honest was the portrayal? The televised Queen Victoria was sympathetic to the Irish and in truth, she donated more than a pittance to famine relief, around £ 2,000. Clearly more could have been done. The English politicians as whole, were not inclined to be sympathetic and viewed the Irish as self-destructive troublemakers, of a different ilk than themselves.

By the time the Queen visited Ireland in 1849, more than one million people were already dead, an estimated quarter to a third of the population. About the same number of people had fled on coffin ships. The Queen's visit was like a state visit, and amazingly, she was the recipient of welcome from many when she did tour Dublin, Cork and Belfast.

A diary entry illustrates her view, "We drove through the principal streets; twice through some of them; that they were densely crowded, decorated... with flowers and triumphal arches... that our reception was most enthusiastic and that everything went off to perfection and was very well arranged...Cork is not all like an English town... the crowd is a noisy, excitable, but a very good-natured one, running and pushing about, and laughing, talking and shrieking. The beauty of the women is very remarkable... such beautiful dark eyes and hair, and such fine teeth...".

In London prior to her visit, a young Irishman made an ill-fated attempt to shoot her, but in the country that her government allowed to be so damaged, she was welcomed and oblivious. I am no scholar on the topic of British royalty, but she seems to have only involved herself in the running of her government when she had an issue, someone that she didn't like etc. I suppose many of us are like that, but the sheer volume of the disaster seems like it warranted some attention. The British

government continued through the Famine to export great quantities of grain and other Irish crops while keeping grain prices so high that the Irish could not buy their own bread.

I can't even pretend to have watched five minutes of that show or any other one that Victoria is a character in, she is banned in our house. To be honest, it is not much of a hardship. If the show has done any good, it has been to show many English viewers a glimpse of the damage that the Famine did to Ireland.

An article in The Telegraph, an English paper, had readers writing in that the drama was "must see" TV for its depiction of the extent of the Famine. They never knew, and one said that she cried straight through the episode. I don't doubt it.

The Famine has had an inestimable effect on the country of Ireland and its people. It is felt every time a young person has to leave home for work, or in the Irish insistence on sharing of food and drink. The Irish are almost ridiculously generous with their borders, charitable giving and welfare.

And yet we find ourselves in a time where despite wealth and resources, indifference kills every time. Every time we drive by a scruffy man waving with one hand and a dirty cardboard sign in

the other, we assume that person is lying; that begging has become a job, but we don't know. There are people who have every appearance of needing help and they don't ask and we don't offer.

In our lifetimes, the Tutsi's perished at the hands of the rival Hutus because we did not completely see their humanity, they didn't look like us or live like us.

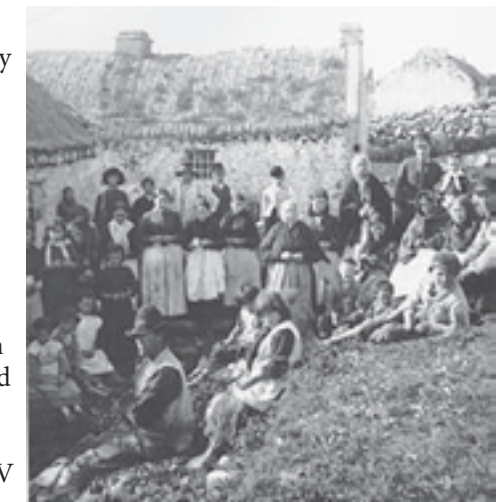
Another function of the human imagination is the idea that something bad happens to people because, somewhere they did something wrong, something that we would not have done and that is why this misfortune happened to them.

In psychology, this idea is called the fundamental

attribution error, and it is alive and well. That has to be exactly how it appeared to the English. ■

*\*Lisa O'Rourke is an educator from Akron. She has a BA in English and a Master's in Reading/Elementary Education. Lisa is a student of everything Irish, primarily Gaeilge.*

*She runs a Gaeilge study group at the AOH/Mark Heffernan Division. She is married to Dónal and has two sons, Danny and Liam. Lisa enjoys art, reading, music, and travel. She enjoys spending time with her dog, cats and fish. Lisa can be contacted at olisa07@icloud.com.*



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## MADIGAN MUSES

By Marilyn Madigan



# Americans and the Good Friday Agreement

This year is the 20th Anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement. George Mitchell was the Chair of the group representing all parties involved. His group worked for two years, but the seed for peace in Northern Ireland was planted in the early 1990s.

West Park native Mary Jordan and her husband Kevin Sullivan are the authors of the chapter titled Peacemaker in the book, *Nine Irish Lives* edited by Mark Bailey, published in 2018. This chapter is about Niall O'Dowd and his role to bring peace to Northern Ireland starting in 1992.

O'Dowd had spoken to Bill Clinton during his campaign for President about Northern Ireland. In the early years of his Presidency, Clinton could not publicly get involved. O'Dowd worked behind the scenes, sharing information with the White House through contacts in Senator Ted Kennedy's office.

O'Dowd assembled a group of prominent Irish Americans to help. This group included Chuck Feeney, Bill Flynn, Bruce Morrison, and Ciaran Staunton. Staunton assisted O'Dowd with connections in Northern Ireland.

Plans were developed that this US group would meet the IRA leadership. A ceasefire would be held during the visit. This group also met with Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds, and US Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith in Dublin. In Belfast, they also meet with

Loyalist groups and Sinn Fein leadership.

In August 1994, the IRA announced that "there will be a complete cessation of military operations."

In 1995, President Clinton visited Belfast and Dublin. He received a warm reception in both cities. President Clinton stated that this "two best days of my presidency."

Unfortunately, mistrust continued, and the ceasefire ended. Negotiations and peace talks led by George Mitchell continued and finally led to the Good Friday Agreement in April 1998.

Gerry Adams, speaking of Niall O'Dowd, stated, "I cannot stress enough the very central role that he played. There probably would have been a peace process, but there certainly wouldn't have been a peace process at that time if Niall hadn't been so centrally involved."

Sometimes, and I believe this truly, one person can make a difference. It's the difference between having a good idea and doing it. You may have a very good idea, and you may be very genuine - as genuine as Niall O'Dowd is about Ireland, but you're busy and you have responsibilities, and so on. And you might think, "Who am I? How can I do this?" It's the difference between being a dreamer and being a visionary.

The visionaries deliver. O'Dowd delivered for Ireland. ■

### Coming Next Month: May 2018

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Every Sunday: Irish Music Sundays @ PjMcIntyre's  
5th - Kentucky Derby Party @4pm / New Barleycorn in the Pub 7pm. @WSIA  
13th - Mother's Day Mass and Breakfast @WSIA  
25th - Stephen Mulloy Sr. Reverse Raffle @WSIA

## IN MEMORIUM

**CHRISTOPHER M. MURRAY**  
October 28, 1932 - March 2, 2018

Christopher M. Murray, a resident of Dearborn Heights, passed from this life on March 2, 2018, at the age of 85.

Chris Murray immigrated to the United States in 1954 from Gurteen, Co. Sligo. With the exception of the two years he spent serving in the U.S. Navy, Chris called Detroit his home for the next 63 years. Chris married his wife of 56 years, Mary Carty, in 1961 and they welcomed seven children into their family. Chris lived the American Dream starting his own construction company and became extremely active in Detroit's Irish community. Chris was also the proud proprietor of Teach Murray (House of Murray) Pub in his native Gurteen, County Sligo, Ireland which he opened in 1975.

In 1967 Chris was elected president of the Gaelic League and Irish American Club and served in that role until 1977 and again from 1979 until 1987. Despite other ethnic organizations leaving the City of Detroit for the suburbs in the 1970s, Chris made sure the Gaelic League stayed put and was looking forward to celebrating its 100th Anniversary in Detroit in 2019. As President of the Gaelic League, Chris focused on bringing live traditional and folk Irish music to Detroit from Ireland and Canada; this included such performers as Tommy Makem and the Clancy Brothers, The Chieftains, the Irish Rovers, Sons of Erin, The Wolfe Tones and many more. From 1968 until 1980, Chris hosted "The Irish Fireside Hour," a weekly radio show on WQRS-FM (105.1).

Chris founded and served as Chief Executive of the Detroit Irish Ethnic Festival from 1972 to 1991. Chris helped make the Irish Festival one of the top Riverfront Festival's and was appointed to the Riverfront Festival's Steering Committee by then Mayor Coleman Young. In the 1970s, the Knights of Equity named Chris "Irishman of the Decade" for his outstanding contributions to the Detroit Irish community.

Chris was active with the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) and Irish



Football in Detroit as a player with the Pdraig Pearse Club from 1954-1966. In 1982, Chris supported his sons as they established the Detroit Wolfe Tones Irish Football Club. With Chris' strong, vocal support from the sidelines, the club won three North American Championships. In 1991, Chris contributed greatly to the creation of St. Anne's Irish Football Club, alongside his three daughters, which also captured a North American Championship. Chris served as the Vice-Chairman of the GAA's North American County Board from 1990 until 1993 and in 1994 received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the GAA/NACB for his lifelong service to the GAA and his work in promoting Irish culture.

Not only has Chris made outstanding contributions to Michigan's Irish community, but he has been active, to an immeasurable extent, in introducing Irish culture to those outside the Irish community. Chris has represented the treasure of this culture in his church, in his community, and in his charitable work. Through Chris' tireless efforts, many Michiganders of all races and ethnic groups have been introduced to the treasures of the Irish culture. In 2013, Chris was inducted into the Michigan Irish American Hall of Fame.

Chris was a life-long loyal and generous supporter of the Irish Pallottine Father's Mission Appeal Center in Wyandotte. This past November Chris was named "Man of the Year" by the Pallottine's for his years of support. Additionally, the Pallottine's awarded Chris with the prestigious Benemerenti Medal. The Benemerenti Medal is an honor awarded by the Pope to members of the clergy and laity for service to the Catholic Church.

Chris was the son of the late Maggie and Dominick Murray and is survived by his siblings Joe (Patsy) Murray, Frank (Kathleen) Murray, Nancy (John)

*Continued on facing page*



## WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING; BE VERY AFRAID

By Maury Collins



A couple had been married for 25 years and was celebrating the husband's 60th birthday. During the party, a fairy appeared and said that because they had been such a loving couple all those years, she would give them one wish each. The wife said, "We've been so poor all these years, and I've never gotten to see the world. I wish we could travel all over the world." The fairy waved her wand and POOF! She had the tickets

in her hand. Next, it was the husband's turn. He paused for a moment, and then said, "Well, I'd like to be married to a woman 30 years younger than me." The fairy waved her wand and POOF! He was suddenly 90 years old!

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The

### In Memorium

*Continued from previous page*

Newell, Vincent (Margaret) Murray, and Peggy (Dick) Lemke. Chris is also survived by his sister-in-law Tish Murray of Gurteen Co., Sligo who was married to his youngest brother, the late Gerry Murray, who passed away in 2014. Chris will join his other siblings and their spouses who have predeceased him: Patrick Murray, John (Mai) Murray; Mary (Tom) McDonnell, Tom (Neans) Murray, Dominick Murray, and Louise Murray.

Chris is survived by his wife of 56 years, Mary, and children Tom (Maureen), John (Brenda), Patrick (Terrie), Ann (Anthony) Slusser, Michael (Terri), Maureen (Noel) Kelly, and Mary (Chris) Laney.

Despite being extremely proud of his grandchildren, Chris never wanted to be called grandfather because the Gaelic translation, seanathair, means "old father," and he did not want to be referred to as old. For this reason, the following grandchildren know him only as Chris:

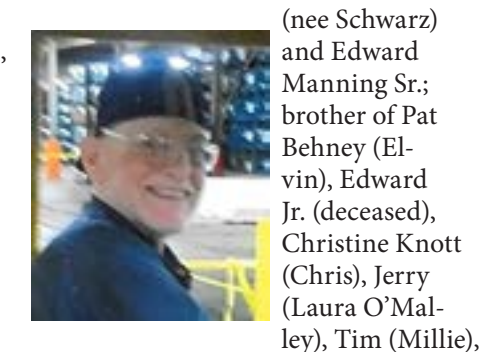
Megan (Greg) Hatty, Michelle Murray, Sean Murray, Molly Murray, Brendan Murray, Declan Murray, Emily (Tyler) Joseph, Brigid Murray, Maeve Murray, Christopher Murray, Ciara Murray, Olivia Murray, Conor Murray, Justin Murray, Brendan Slusser, Claire

Murray, Katie Slusser, Quinn Murray, Sean Slusser, Liam Kelly, Aidan Slusser, Ellen Laney, Jack Kelly, Niall Laney and Owen Laney, and two great-grandchildren, Eleanor and Teddy Hatty. Chris will join two of his grandchildren, Maeve Murray and Aidan Slusser, who despite only living a short time remain in the hearts of the Murray Family as our guardian angels ■

Courtesy of <http://www.griffinfuneral-home.com>, Westland, MI.

### RICHARD MANNING

Richard Manning, age 71, beloved husband of Maire (nee O'Leary); dear father of Maureen; son of the late Marie



(nee Schwarz) and Edward Manning Sr.; brother of Pat Behney (Elvin), Edward Jr. (deceased), Christine Knott (Chris), Jerry (Laura O'Malley), Tim (Millie), Susan Takacs (deceased), Joan Weser (Richard) and Greg (deceased); beloved uncle and great-uncle of many. U.S. Army Vietnam veteran. Purple Heart and Bronze Star recipient. Retired Local 55 plumber and pipefitter for GM Parma. Proud member of UAW 1005. Passed away March 9, 2018. ■

nun made a note, and posted on the apple tray: "Take only ONE. God is watching." Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, "Take all you want, God is watching the apples."

Father O'Malley was going through the mail one day. Drawing a single sheet of paper from an envelope, he found written on it just one word: "FOOL." The next Sunday at Mass, he announced, "I have known many people who have written letters and forgot to sign their names. But this week I received a letter from someone who signed their name and forgot to write a letter."

Paddy was forced to take a day off from work to appear for a minor traffic summons. He grew increasingly restless as he waited hour after endless hour for his case to be heard. When his name was called late in the

afternoon, he stood before the judge, only to hear that court would be adjourned for the day and he would have to return the next day. "What for?" he snapped at the judge. His honor, equally irked by a tedious day and sharp query roared, "Twenty dollars contempt of court That's why!" Then, noticing Paddy checking his wallet, the judge relented. "That's all right. You don't have to pay now."

Paddy replied, "I'm just seeing if I have enough for two more words."



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# The Midwest GAA Update – Football and Hurling

## The Midwest Expands its Clubs

The Midwest Division of the Gaelic Athletic Association has set their 2018 schedule for Men's Football, Ladies' Football, and Hurling. The summer is loaded with games as the Division seen an expansion of teams.

For the Men's Football, Buffalo will rejoin the western pool of teams after the prior year of playing in the upstate New York group (Albany, Rochester, and Syracuse). This year's regular season pits each team against each other, with some games being home and some away. Clubs competing are Buffalo, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Detroit, and Pittsburgh. The 2018 season sees a return

to intra-division Ladies' Football. Pittsburgh has lead the way in many recent years, but has been forced to find games outside the Midwest. This year, Buffalo, Cincinnati, and Columbus join the group. Cleveland has several experienced and new players who are working to field a team of sports and fitness minded women – if interested, contact [clevelandgaa@gmail.com](mailto:clevelandgaa@gmail.com).

For years the Midwest Hurling battle has been waged between two clubs, Akron Celtic Guards and the Pittsburgh Pucas.

Another expansion has occurred with the hurling code addition of Rock City (Rochester, NY). The hurlers will battle each other with a

home and an away competition.

The Midwest Finals will be held in Buffalo on 8/11 and 8/12. The highest finishing clubs at their code and grade will proceed on to represent the Division at the USGAA Finals over the Labor Day Weekend (8/31 – 9/2) in Philadelphia.

A final note from the Division, the Football All-American competition will again take place in Philadelphia on May 12th. Midwest clubs will be sending their finest to Pittsburgh for a trial and evaluation game on April 21st. From the pool of players, an amalgamated all-star team will be sent to compete against Philadelphia and potentially Boston, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, and the Mid-

Atlantic. Time will tell.

Ohio Cup: This year, the "Oh-Cup" leaves its founding location and heads south to Cincinnati on April 28th. Cincinnati, Columbus, and Cleveland will battle it out with tournament invitee, Indianapolis.

GAA Day in Cleveland: June 9th is shaping up to be a big day for Gaelic Football in Cleveland. There will be a double header of Men's Football, Cleveland v Pittsburgh, and Cincinnati v Buffalo. The ladies will also be competing with Buffalo, Cincinnati, and Pittsburgh all represented. The full day of fun will be out at the West Side Irish American Club, 8559 Jennings Road, Olmsted Township. ■



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### MIDWEST GAA 2018 MEN'S FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	HOME	AWAY
June 2, 2018	Cincinnati	Columbus
June 9, 2018	Cleveland	Pittsburgh
	Cincinnati	Buffalo
June 16, 2018	Pittsburgh	Detroit
June 23, 2018	Buffalo	Cleveland
	Detroit	Cincinnati
July 7, 2018	Detroit	Cleveland
	Pittsburgh	Columbus
July 14, 2018	Buffalo	Pittsburgh
	Columbus	Cleveland
July 21, 2018	Cleveland	Cincinnati
	Columbus	Detroit
July 28, 2018	Buffalo	Columbus
	Cincinnati	Pittsburgh
August 5, 2018	Buffalo	Detroit
August 11-12, 2018	Midwest Finals Weekend	Buffalo

**FIRM FOUNDATION**  
By Ken Callahan

## Irish Archivist Margaret Lynch

Who better to record the history of Irish Americans in Cleveland than a woman who is a perfect amalgam of rich Irish DNA from both sides of the crooked river that unites us? And, indeed, who better than one who has spent a life involved in community engagement, historical research and in the advancement of learning?

Dr. Margaret Lynch, Executive Director of the Irish American Archives Society, is the product of Irish heritage of two notable area families. She is, on her mother's side, one of the extensive Gibbons family of St. Joseph Parish in old Collinwood, a community that was, at the time, a peculiarly Cleveland confluence of Irish, Italian and Slovenian Catholics. On her father's side, her Dad, recently departed Tom Lynch, grew up in St. Ignatius Parish on West Boulevard.

What her parent's shared was a common Mayo heritage: her Mom, also Margaret, was from Kiltimagh in the area of Swinford, while her Dad's people were Achill Island. The couple met of course at an Irish picnic, married thereafter and originally settled in St. Aloysius at E. 109 and St. Clair, near the Gibbons extended family.

Margaret, the first born, arrived in 1952, the first of seven. The family later migrated west to St. Mel's Parish, where

Margaret was educated, and in historic trajectory, thence to Our Lady of Angels, and St. Joseph Academy.

"St. Joseph inculcated in us a sense of service and community engagement" she says.

Margaret's Dad was a Jesuit product: St. Ignatius '44 and John Carroll '50, after service in the Navy at the end of WWII. Margaret, too, wanted a Jesuit education, and thus enrolled at Marquette, where she graduated with a BA in English and Theology.

She recalls particularly Fr. Francis X. Wade, S.J., who exhorted his students to ask, "What are the big questions of our life?" but also Teilard de Chardin S.J., and the morality of making choices with unintended consequences. She graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1974, and went on her M.A. and Ph.D., both degrees with honors, from the University of Chicago.

Margaret's career has taken her to many places: teaching at City College of Chicago, PR at the Cleveland Museum of Art with Rabbi Silver's wife, Adele, to grant writing for Great Lakes Theater, and numerous freelance writing. Margaret is an accomplished playwright.

When asked what has motivated her in life, she cites to three influences: a strong sense of history derived mainly from her mother, drew her to

write numerous pieces, including about the early Irish settlements on the Angle, Secondly, by the hard work of her parents: Tom would work two jobs while going to Carroll, while her Mom managed a house full of children. When her Dad worked at Ernst and Ernst, he would sometimes get home at 2:00 a.m.

Finally, Margaret talks about the great strength of the Irish community - their family life abounded in it. Through it, she met Tom Campbell, who enlisted her in several projects, including IAAS. Under Margaret's leadership, the Johnny Kilbane statue project came to fruition. More recently, "The Day We Celebrate", a meticulously researched history, was published.

Margaret frequently presents on a variety of local Irish history, including the history of the Irish Goodfellowship luncheon, how the Irish built Cleveland, and Irish nationalism among Civil War veterans.

Like many ethnic groups who arrived



Margaret Lynch

in America, most Irish immigrants had enough existential challenges in the present to have the luxury of recording the past. We are fortunate to have one like Margaret Lynch who carefully reconstructs who we were, and how we came to be. ■

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Ambassador Dan Mulhall Addressing the INUSA 2017 National Conference in Chicago

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[irishnetwork-usa.org](http://irishnetwork-usa.org)

## Irish Network USA

By Steve Lenox  
President Irish Network USA

The recent launch of Irish Network Dallas/Fort Worth as INUSA's 21st chapter showed once again that the strength of the "Global Irish" is not waning, and that efforts to offer Irish, Irish Americans, and "friends" of Ireland opportunities to invest in Ireland are as welcome as ever.

For Irish Network USA, the launch was something out of a textbook, committed leaders from a variety of backgrounds coming together in a city that has long been looked at as key to continued Ireland/US relations, and deciding that they'd be the driving force behind building relationships that matter.

This was a slow and methodical process, simmering for years, waiting for the right time to emerge. It was exciting to see the hard work pay off on a Tuesday night in March, at the very trendy Network Bar. The location itself, built out of a desire to connect what at times seem like contrasting individuals, united only by a desire to expand their networks, was symbolic of our effort to continue to be the standard bearers when it comes to being diverse and inclusive in our membership.

With more than 100 individuals in attendance, each had their own "Global Irish" story to tell, ranging from those like the chapter's impressive Rachel Gaffney, born in Cork, and making Dallas her home for the past twenty years, herself one of the most highly regarded champions of Irish food and drink in the US, to Maureen Cooper, a Dallas native and



IrishNetworkUSA President Steve Lenox and regional VP Brendan O'Sullivan, flanked by Founder Rachel Gaffney, a former OhioIANews columnist, Consul General Adrian Farrell, and Irish Network - Austin President Brendan Roberts join this enthusiastic group of #GlobalIrish just looking for more ways to "invest" in Ireland through business, culture, education, and sports!

daughter to Irish born parents, who during her time in New York City was a part of one of INUSA's original chapters, now playing a key role in building one in her hometown.

Indeed Irish Network is not the first organization to launch in the Dallas/Fort Worth area targeting the large Irish Diaspora. The Ireland Funds, the GAA, and Texas Rose of Tralee all have strong footholds, and will, we hope, continue to flourish! There is certainly no shortage of opportunity to engage with potential members, and our sincere hope is that

we will all continue to grow, together.

It was exciting to have stalwarts of the Irish community like Netta Blanchard join us to lend her support, and to welcome Consul General Adrian Farrell, who brought good wishes not just from the Consulate in Austin, but also from Dublin.

With the energy and enthusiasm in the room that night, there is no doubt that Irish Network Dallas/Fort Worth will continue to flourish, and that Irish Network USA will continue to grow in cities and regions across the US! ■



### THE IRISH IN ACTION

Are you running for an elective office? There are over 1.4 million people of Irish descent in Ohio; 475,000 in Greater Cleveland; 175,000 in Cuyahoga County: Want to reach them? Advertise in the Ohio Irish American News.

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## TOLEDO IRISH

By Maury Collins



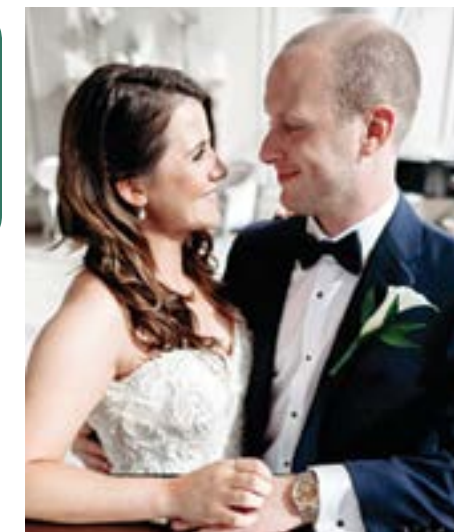
## The Irish Born Connections at the Toledo Museum of Art

Brian Kennedy has been president, director and CEO of the Toledo Museum of Art since 2010. He oversees a 36-acre campus housing one of America's great art collections in three architecturally significant buildings. He came to the Museum with extensive experience in senior leadership positions at art museums in Ireland, Australia and the United States.

Born in Dublin, Ireland, Kennedy studied art history and history at University College in Dublin, earning bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. Prior to

coming to the United States, Kennedy spent eight years as assistant director of the National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin (1989-1997) and seven years as director of the National Gallery of Australia (1997-2004) in Canberra.

From 2005-2010, Kennedy was director of Dartmouth College's Hood Museum of Art in Hanover, New Hampshire, which has one of the largest and finest art collections at an American college or university. Brian's wife Mary is from County Cork, Ireland. She has been working as a



fund raiser for the museum working with major donors.

In 2017, the museum was blessed with another person born in Ireland. Laura Deiger. Here is Laura's story about coming to Toledo. "I grew up in a small town named Balla in County Mayo. I spent most of my childhood outdoors playing sports or roaming the lush, green hills and forests. I was an avid footballer, the captain of my local team, and represented my county for some years – an accolade

I'm quite certain was a factor in being hired for summertime jobs on more than one occasion (us Mayo folk truly are diehard fans of the GAA). When I wasn't outside, I was drawing and painting or my aunt was teaching me about Shakespeare.

"I initially began studying to be a clinical psychologist, but my passion for art pulled me away to Limerick where I studied Fine Art. Throughout college, I spent many summers working or interning in America, including a summer in Chicago and a summer in Hawaii, and upon completion of my Masters, I moved to New York to work with an Art Consultancy group. Alas, one day a strapping young Toledo man came into my life. Soon after we married, we decided to move away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

I had often read about the enchanting collection and pioneering efforts at the Toledo Museum of Art and promised my new husband that I would stay in Toledo on two conditions - that I would find a place at the inspiring Museum, and that I could set up the basement as an art studio, so I could begin painting again.

"Toledo has been very welcoming, and in the coming months you will mostly likely find me wandering the new exhibits at the Museum or the local galleries, adventuring through the local metroparks, or buried under a blanket of paint in my studio.

"I began volunteering in the curatorial department in January 2017, and thankfully, not too long later, a position was found for me. Mathew and I now live in Perrysburg with our miniature dachshund, Denny. Three guesses why we named our sausage dog Denny? Well, the most famous brand of sausages in Ireland is Denny sausages, isn't it?" ■

## WE GET LETTERS

### Christina Tully Harrison

I found out I was adopted when I was around ten years old. My mind was all mixed up and my first reaction was to run away; fortunately, I only made it to the end of our street. After a talk with my parents, I became happy and proud to be adopted, although children being children, soon I was being bullied at school, told I wasn't wanted. I started to feel as if I really didn't belong, I didn't have an identity of my own.

Once the internet became available to me, I started to search for my biological parents. Not knowing anything, I started searching my own name, but I didn't find anything because it was my adoptive parents name.

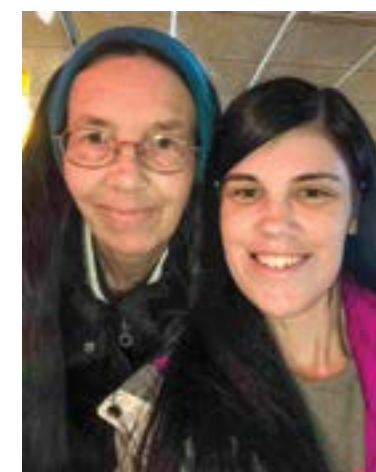
I was wondering where my physical traits came from, my fair skin and freckles and black hair. Childhood and teen years passed, finally in my thirties, I was able to obtain my original birth certificate, thanks to Ohio laws. If your parents name is on there, you can do your own search.

I tried Facebook with no luck, then I found a group that works out of Ohio and California. The woman I worked with was able to track down my mother. She talked to her and convinced her to speak with me.

My mother had been told when she gave me up, that she would be better off if she didn't think of me and to act as if I had never happened. First, we e-mailed one another, and then spoke on the phone. She was eager to meet me!

She had a hard time explaining things to her family, but to her surprise, they were very happy and threw a summer get together to welcome me. My adopted mom didn't know I had pursued all of this. I'm thirty-nine years old, I didn't want to upset her, so I'd kept my search to myself.

Both my mothers have met and now I feel doubly blessed. I have my birth family and my adopted family. It's amazing, my children have another grandmother, more aunts, uncles and



cousins.

We also have our own heritage. That has answered so many questions I've had since I was ten. Finding out about my Irish roots, I've found new reason to embrace the music and the festivals I've enjoyed for so long. My children and I are exploring as much of our Irish heritage together as we can.

Slán  
Christina



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# SPEAK IRISH

By Bob Carney

## Broken

*"Is fearr Gaeilge briste na Bearla cliste"* (iss far gall ih gay brish-ta na burr-la clish-ta) Broken Irish is better than clever English

I've loved silly quotes, truisms and proverbs as long as I can remember. Old sayings are part of every culture, and have been around since the beginning of the spoken word. Seanfhocails, are very prevalent in Irish speech and literature. These phrases can be funny, inspiring or just observations on life and people in general. Their similarities in different cultures and languages show "the proverb cannot be bettered." It doesn't matter if they're attributed to Ben Franklin, Lincoln, Mark Twain, Bernard Shaw, Oscar Wilde or have been passed down so long that the original speaker has long since been forgotten; they all share an element of truth. I hope you enjoy this small

selection in their original tongue and use them often.

Níor loisc seanchat é fein riamh (neer lushk shan caht ay fayne riv) An old cat never burned itself.

Is teann gach madra ar lic a thí féin (iss tawn gahch mah dra ar lihch ahn hee fayne) Every dog is bold on it's own doorstep.

Ní troimide an loch an lacha (nee trim ih da ahn lohkh ahn lah ka) The lake is not heavier for having the duck on it. (don't sweat the small stuff)

Níl slí dhá chat chun rince ann (neel shlee gah caht cuhn rink ah ahn) Not the space for two cats to dance (a small space indeed!)

Suan na muice bradaí (su wann na mwicka brah dee) The slumber of the sneaky pig. (A tense silence in conversation)

Amhrán an bhéil dúnta (ahrahn ahn veil doon-ta) The song of the shut mouth.

Tá piobar lena thóin. (taw peb-uhr lee-nuh hown) There's pepper in his bum (to describe an excited man)

Ag cur madraí i bhfuinneoga (egg cur mah dree ih win oh ga) Putting dogs in windows. (pulling the wool over someone's eyes)

Tá sé ag cur sceana gréasaí (taw shay egg cur shkawn grey-see) It's raining cobblers' knives.

Thit an tóin as an spéir (hit ahn tone as ahn speer) The arse fell out of the sky. (a heavy rain)

Is bínn béal ina thost (iss beehn bail inna host) A sweet mouth is silent.

Ní theitheann cú roimh chnámh (nee teh-hann coo riv nahv) A dog doesn't run from a bone.

D'fheannfadh sé dreancaid ara craiceann (john ah shay drann-kahd ara cry-kinn)

He'd flay a flea for it's skin (miserly, a cheapskate)

Is maith an scéalaí an aimsir (iss mah ahn shkay-lee ahn am-sheer) Time is a good storyteller (time will tell)

Doras feasa fiafraí (door-ahs fah sa fee-ah-free) The door to wisdom is to ask questions.

Is glas iad na cnoic i bhfad uainn (iss glahs ihd na cah-nook ih vad ooh-ann) Distant hills look green.

Inis do Mháire i gcógar é, is inseoidh



MildredAnneButler, "Oriental Poppies"

### The Arts Around Us

Tho' beauty may be in the eye of the beer holder, it is also found in the hands of artists with magnificent talent, who reside within our readership area. If you would like your work featured, please send a paragraph about you and/or your work, plus a few pics to jobrien@OhioIANews.com.

We will share as many as we can. You've earned it.

Máire do phóbal é (ihn-iss doh vaura ih go gar ay, iss in-shawd maura doh foh-bol ay) Tell it to Mary in a whisper and Mary will tell it to the parish. Tá sé mar atá sé. (taw shay mar ataw shay) It is what is.

Ná tabhair breith ar an gcéad scéal (naw tah-her brey ar ahn gayd sch-kale) Hear both sides before judgement.

Má tú ag lorg cara gan locht, béidh tú gan cara go deo. (mah too egg lor-ug cah-ah gan lohkt, bayd too gan cah-ah guh doe.) If you are looking for a friend without a fault, you will be without a friend forever.

Idtír na ndall is rí fear na leathshúile (ih jeer na nall iss ree far na lyah-hoola) In the land of the blind the one-eyed man is king.

An rud a chionn an leanbh is é a níonn an leanbh (ahn ruhd a hee-un ahn lah-nuv iss ay ah nee-un ahn lah-nuv) What the child sees the child does.

An rud nach bhfuil leigheas air caith-fear cur suas leis. (ahn ruhd nach will lyss ayr cah-far cur soo-us lesh)

What can't be cured must be endured. Is fearr go mall na go brách (iss far guh mall na guh brawch) Better late than never.

Is fearr an tsláinte ná na táinte. (iss far ahn tlan-cha naw na tawn-cha) Health is better than wealth.

Beatha teanga í a labhairt (beh-ha tain-ga ee ah lawh-urt) The life of a language is to speak it.

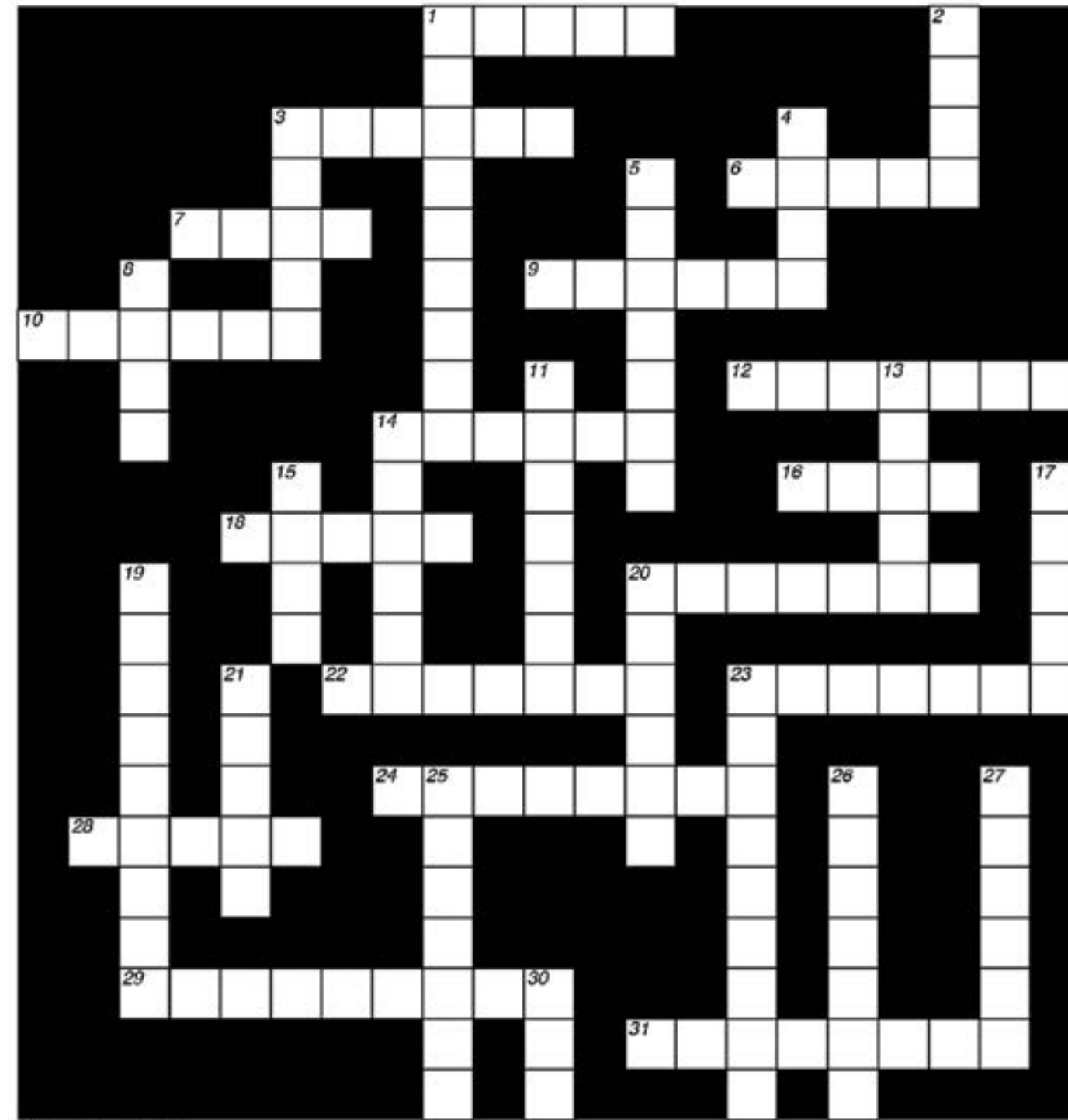
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# A Wee Bit of Irish Trivia

By Linda Fulton Burke



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

### ACROSS

- 1 Matt Molloy plays the \_\_\_\_\_.  
3 \_\_\_\_\_ Day-Lewis - Gangs of New York, The  
6 In December 1923, Yeats was awarded the \_\_\_\_\_ Prize in Literature.  
7 \_\_\_\_\_ Road was written by Maeve Binchy.  
9 Bram \_\_\_\_\_ was the creator of Dracula.  
10 The Chieftans have won six \_\_\_\_\_ Awards and been nominated eighteen times.  
12 Handel's classic "\_\_\_\_\_ " was premiered for the first time in 1742 in Dublin at the New Musik Hall.

- 14 Christy Moore was also a member of Moving \_\_\_\_\_.  
16 The Chieftans recorded "The Long Black \_\_\_\_\_" with Mick Jagger.  
18 In 1891, 1899, 1900, 1901 and 1917 Yeats proposed marriage to Maud \_\_\_\_\_, but was rejected.  
20 \_\_\_\_\_ Moore was once a member of Planxty.  
22 Maeve Binchy wrote a Circle of \_\_\_\_\_.  
23 \_\_\_\_\_ O'Hara - Miracle on 34th Street, The Quiet Man, How Green Was My Valley  
24 Derek \_\_\_\_\_ left the Wolfe Tones in 2001.  
28 \_\_\_\_\_ O'Toole - Lawrence of Arabia.

- 29 The Dubliners' first single was "\_\_\_\_\_ to Dublin" and "The Wild Rover".  
31 Jerpoint Abbey is located in Co. \_\_\_\_\_.
- DOWN**
- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ of New York became #1 in Ireland in 1981.  
2 In 1983, the Chieftans were invited by the Chinese Government to play in a concert on the Great \_\_\_\_\_ of China.  
3 Luke Kelly sang "\_\_\_\_\_ Old Town."  
4 There are \_\_\_\_\_ provinces in Ireland.  
5 \_\_\_\_\_ Ronan The Grand Budapest Hotel, Atonement, The Lovely Bones

- 8 Ireland registered the \_\_\_\_\_ as its symbol in 1876.  
11 "Seven \_\_\_\_\_ Nights" was sung by Ronnie Drew.  
13 Jonathan \_\_\_\_\_ wrote Gulliver's Travels.  
14 Bobby Sands, a \_\_\_\_\_ Striker wrote "Back Home in Derry."  
15 Blarney Castle is located in Blarney, Co. \_\_\_\_\_.  
17 \_\_\_\_\_ de Valera was President of Ireland 1959-1973.  
19 The county town(seat) of County Mayo is \_\_\_\_\_.  
20 Rock of \_\_\_\_\_ is located in Co. Tipperary.  
21 W. B. Yeats helped found the \_\_\_\_\_ Theatre in Dublin.  
23 "Joe \_\_\_\_\_," a song about an IRA member who was the fifth person to die on the 1981 Hunger Strike.  
25 \_\_\_\_\_ Castle is located in Cong, Co. Mayo.  
26 Erin go bragh means Ireland \_\_\_\_\_.  
27 \_\_\_\_\_, a suburb of Dublin, is Ireland's "Beverly Hills", home to a number of Irish celebrities.  
30 The prefixes \_\_\_\_\_, Don, and Down mean fort or fortress in Irish place names.

## ON THIS DAY IN IRISH HISTORY

- 4 April 1774 - Death of Oliver Goldsmith, novelist, poet, and playwright. His works include The Vicar of Wakefield and She Stoops to Conquer.  
5 April 1962 - Guinness family adopts the harp as its symbol.  
7 April 1868 - Thomas D'Arcy McGee, journalist and Young Irelander, is assassinated outside his home in Canada.  
10 April 1867 - George William Russell, widely known as 'AE', poet, mystic, editor, writer, and artist, born in Lurgan, Co. Armagh.  
12 April 1914 - George Bernard Shaw's play Pygmalion opens in London.  
13 April 1906 - Birth of Samuel Beckett in Foxrock, Co. Dublin; the 1969 winner of the Nobel Prize for literature and author of Murphy (1938), Watt (1944), and Waiting for Godot (1953).  
17 April 1917 - Jane Barlow (60), writer, whose Irish Idylls went into eight editions, died.  
22 April 1967 - Actor and writer, Walter Macker, dies at his home in Menlo at age 51. He was a prolific author and is best known for the trilogy about the famine- Seek the Fair Land, The Silent People, and The Searching Wind.  
23 April 1926 - Birth in New York of novelist J. P. Donleavy, son of Irish immigrants. He later moves to Ireland and writes The Ginger Man, which becomes one of the top 100 selling books of all time in Ireland.

—by Terry Kenneally





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- Iced Cherry, 20<sup>th</sup> - Whiskey Island Ramblers, 22<sup>nd</sup> - Cleveland Ceili Club followed by Traditional Sessiun, 24<sup>th</sup> - Irish Trad (host: Brian Holleran), 28<sup>th</sup> - Mary's Lane.

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### MENTOR

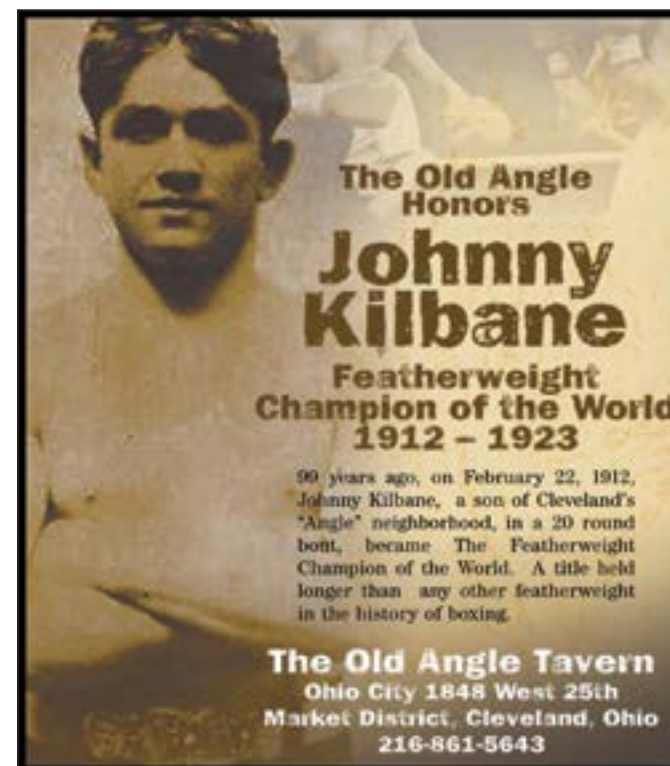
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The Cleveland Ceili Club promotes the musical traditions of Ireland by providing opportunities for adults to enjoy traditional Irish music and dance.

Set dancing lessons, Tuesdays 7:30-9:30 pm, St. Clarence Church, North Olmsted

Wednesdays 7-9 pm, Irish American Club - East Side

Ceili dancing lessons, Thursdays, April 5, 12 & 26 at the West Side Irish American Club

Save the date: Spring Ceili, Sunday, April 29, 4-8 pm, West Side Irish American Club

Traditional music by the Porter-sharks

Dance workshop, Sunday, April 22, 12-3 pm, P.J. McIntyre's. For more information, contact [CeiliClubCleveland@gmail.com](mailto:CeiliClubCleveland@gmail.com) or find us on Facebook

### Ongoing Traditional Irish Sessiúns Bring your instruments and play along!

Unitarian Universalist Church of Fairlawn, 3300 Morewood Dr. 7:30 p.m Wednesdays. All skill levels welcome.

Bardic Circle @The Shamrock Club of Columbus Beginner - friendly, intermediate level Irish session meeting every other Thursdays 8:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Briquette's - 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month, 2 -4 pm. Ashtabula on the Harbor

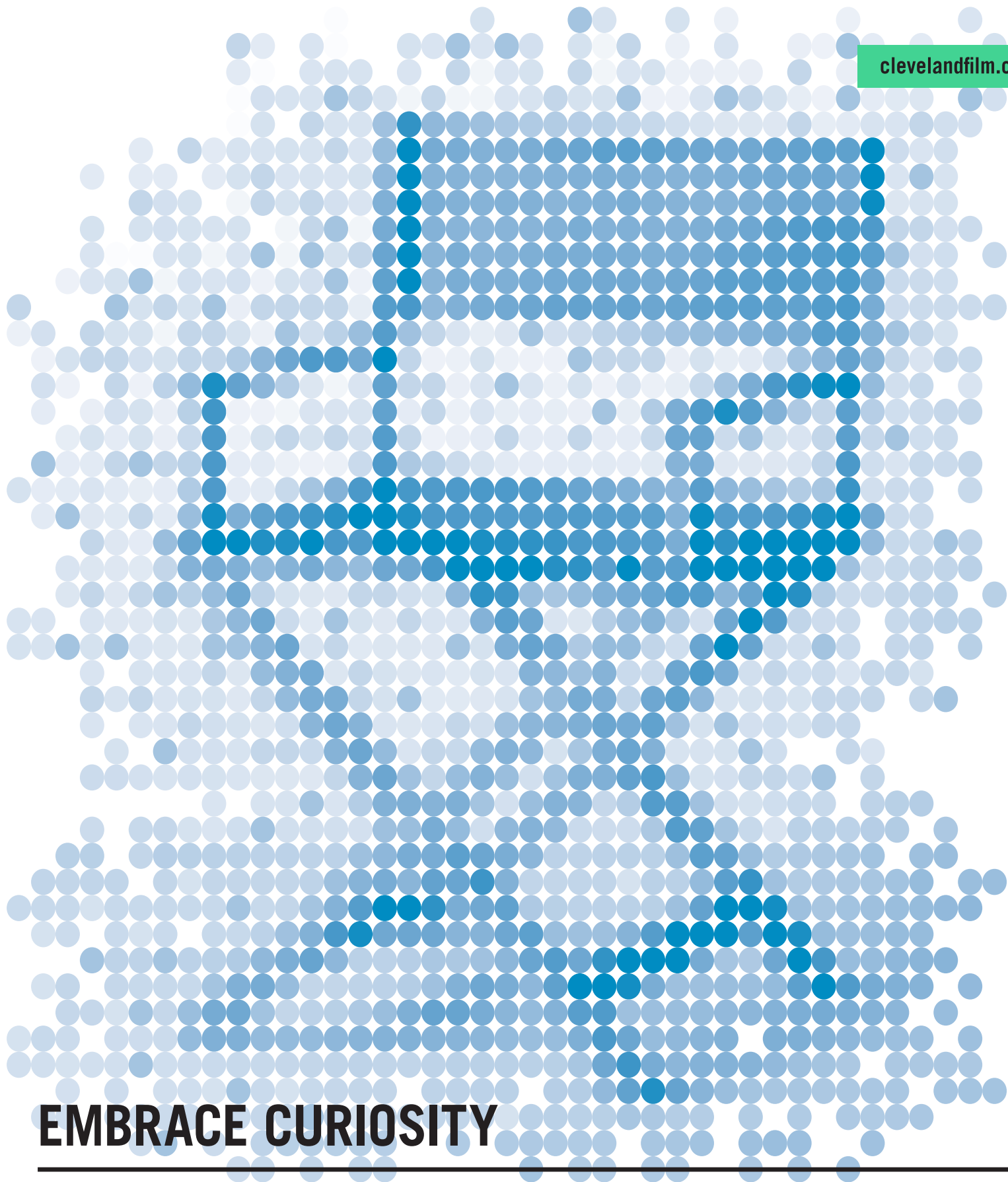
The Harp - 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of every month, 9pm. 4408 Detroit, Cleveland Logan's Irish Pub - 3rd Wednesday of the month, 414 S. Main St., Findlay, 7:30 pm

Plank Road - Every Thursday 7 - 10. All ages and experience welcome. 16719 Detroit Road, Lakewood, 44107

Tara Hall -Traditional Irish music w General Guinness Band & Friends 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday 8:00 - 11:00pm. 274 E. Innis Ave. Columbus, 43207 614.444.5949.



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