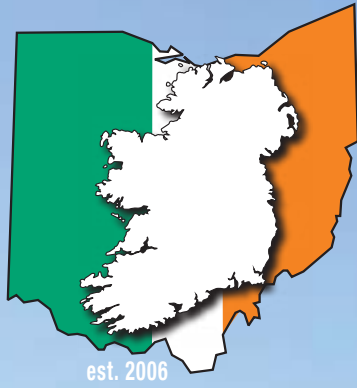


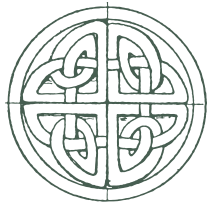
JANUARY 2019 • Volume 13 - Issue 1



OHIO IRISH AMERICAN NEWS



The Cliffs of Moher
Calls Us Home



Looking into the New Year

The Irish community is losing too many heroes. We can't stop the march of time, or the pain that comes with it. Patrick Fallon of Columbus passed away November 26th. He was a tough, proud Irishman, with a tender heart for those putting in the work. He always was encouraging to me with Cleveland Irish Fest, the paper and my books, and endlessly supportive. The obit is within; may he rest in peace; may his family find solace in how much he is loved. John Connor of Columbus, Una Ellis of Cleveland, Rodger Fallon of Cleveland and the mighty Roger Weist all went home to God too. All were noted for their dedication to serving others, and the laughter that always lurked - can you imagine this group, singing, dancing, telling stories ... let loose the Irish wit!

I greatly enjoyed Derek Warfield & The Young Wolfe Tones show at Music Box, and Tomaseen Foley's Celtic Christmas at Medina Performing Arts Center. It was the launch of the winter concert season, unimpeded by weather.



From Christmas season right through St. Patrick's Day, the musical offerings are varied, frequent and full of great joy and memory creating moments. Set aside a little of the leftover (ha, ha, I know) Christmas money and check out live music near you. Your support in person is more important than ever.

So looking forward to Scythian, Dublin City Ramblers and High Kings visits, as well as the unending blessings of locally based bands here in Ohio, who are equally as gifted and entertaining, and add such joy to our music scene all year long. Out & About Ohio on pages 26 & 27 give a great listing for what's happening, when and where to help budget those left over Christmas dollars.

We had our first OhioIANews

Christmas party in December. It was the first time some of our columnists and support staff have met in person. I loved seeing the interaction and the laughter. Twelve years gone, and we are just getting started.

If you know of someone looking for a great part-time job that pays well and is very time flexible, or seeking an internship where they have real responsibility and opportunity to learn and grow, we are looking for an advertising account rep and three interns. They can reach me at jobrien@ohioianews.com.

We are all looking forward to meeting the new Ohio Centre Rose of Tralee, being selected February 16th. The experience of being the Ohio Rose has dramatically altered and broadened the life of every Rose I have spoken to. The current Ohio Rose, Erin Stefancin, has a retrospective of her year within; you will see what I mean. The Impact will last the rest of her life.

Lat but not least, congratulations to all the Irish dancers and schools that competed in the 2018 Oireactas, held in Louisville this year. All did well, some won titles too. We share a few pics within.

To all of you, and all of us, may this year, be our best year yet.

Nuair a stadann an ceol, stadann an rince. (When the music stops, so does the dance)

John

MILESTONE

Congratulations to Fr. Jim, Sister Maggie and all the so generous volunteers who work with the Little Brothers and Sisters of the poor, and their main fundraiser, The Visitation Home Reunion Dance! For 20 years all of you have made a huge difference in so many young person's lives. Thank you. Readers, see the story within.



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Cliff Carlson & John O'Brien, Jr.

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About Our Cover:

The Cliffs of Moher Calls Us Home.

Photo by Kyle Buckel, Cleveland

PATRICK L. FALLON

March 17, 1934 - November 26, 2018
Patrick L. Fallon, age 84, November 26, 2018 peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family. Born on St. Patrick's Day 1934. Graduate of the Ohio State University. Past Owner of Columbus Marble Products,



1972 President of The Shamrock Club and Member of the Brothers Club. Pat and Kay travelled to all 50 States and 5 continents including Ireland 29 times. Preceded in death by his parents Agnes and Joe and brother Jim, daughter-in-law Brenda, grandson Rory. Survived by his wife of 61 years, Mary "Kay" Malone Fallon; sons, Tim (Lorie), Terry, Kelly and Patrick (Becky); grandchildren, Hillary (C.J.), Bryan, Daniel, Katie (Treyce), Sean, Connor, Michaela, Siobhan and their mother, Sandee Murphy, Ciara, Matthew, Ean and Aidan, great-grandson, Camden; sister-in-law, Dorothy Fallon; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends in Columbus, South Florida and especially in Ft. Myers. To sign the on-line register book and view memorial video, please visit www.MaederQuintTiberi.com

Obituary courtesy of the Columbus Dispatch. *Published in The Columbus Dispatch on Nov. 30, 2018.*

CONNOR II, JOHN A.

December 5, 2018
John A. Connor II, 78, died peacefully Wednesday, December 5, 2018, in the embrace of his two daughters. A third-generation attorney, John was a 1966 graduate of The Ohio State University College of Law. In the practice of law for more than



20 years, he represented the Catholic Diocese of Columbus and was special counsel to Ohio Attorneys General William J. Brown, Anthony Celebrezze, and Lee Fisher. Elected in 1992 as Judge of the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas, General Division, serving for more than 16 years. Elected to the Tenth District Court of Appeals in 2008, serving until retirement in



SAFE HOME



2015. President, Shamrock Club, 2013; Chair, Greater Columbus Irish Cultural Foundation; Clann Na nGael honoree 2019; Columbus St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal 2017; Shamrock Club Irishman of the Year 2006. Active in the Charity Newsies. He chose a life of recovery in December 2004, and since has helped many others. Preceded in death by his parents John D. and Ellen Connor; son J.D., wife Annie Luken Hall. Survived by daughters, Colleen (John) Williams and Erin (Ed) Winemiller; siblings, Steve, Kathleen Reardon, Jeff, Pete, Leslie Aymes, Mary Hill, Michael, and Suzanne Taggart; grandchildren, Brendan and Paddy Williams, and Eleanor Winemiller; many nieces, nephews, family members, and friends. The family welcomes contributions in his memory to Charity Newsies, 4300 Indianola Ave., Columbus OH 43214 (charitynewsies.org), or the Greater Columbus Irish Cultural Foundation, P.O. Box 164412, Columbus, OH 43216.

RODGER FALLON

December 12, 1931 - December 07, 2018
Rodger Fallon age 86, (native of Castlebar, Co. Mayo, Ireland) beloved husband of the late Teresa (nee O'Malley); father of Roger-deceased (Sherry), Michael (Kathleen) and Maureen-deceased; grandfather of Roger, Daniel, Ryan, Kyle and Nathan Fallon; brother of Patricia



O'Donnell and the late John, Joan and Tom; uncle, great uncle and friend of many. Rodger was past president of the West Side Irish American Club and proprietor of the Castlebar Inn that was located in Kamm's Corners. Passed away December 7, 2018. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital 50 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Obituary courtesy of Chambers Funeral Homes www.ChambersFuneral.com

UNA M. ELLIS

July 02, 1925 - December 12, 2018
UNA M. ELLIS (nee McCaughey), age 93, (native of Skerries, Dublin, Ireland). Beloved wife of 69 years to John J.; mother of Dr. John Ellis (Julie), Brian (deceased) (Eileen) and Kathleen (deceased); grandmother of



Elliot, Jennifer, Christine and Tatyana; great-grandmother of four; sister of the late Maureen Wathall; aunt, great-aunt and friend of many. Una was honored as the 2013 United Irish Societies Mother of the Year for the Cleveland St. Patrick's Day Parade. She was a longtime Irish dance teacher and was inducted into the North American Feis Commission Hall of Fame and was a longtime adjudicator for the United States, Canada and Ireland.

SHEILA A. McNALLY

April 27, 1937 - December 13, 2018
SHEILA A. McNALLY (nee McDonald), age 81, beloved wife of 59 years to John J.; loving mother of Sean (Jacqui), Michael (Amy), Maureen Kelley (Jack), Tim (Kim), and Mary Beth Tirpak (Stephen); loving grandmother of Lauren Larkin (Eamon), Kealy McNally, Molly Snarr (Nathan) and Katie McNally; Meghan McNally; Moira, Conor,



Brendan and Brigid Kelley; Brian, Andrew and Rory McNally; and Maria, Clare, Mollie and Stephen Tirpak; great-grandmother of Dylan, Declan, June and Sean Larkin and Nathan Snarr; dear sister of Moira Marciniak (John) (both deceased), Nora Patton (Patrick) (both deceased), Brian McDonald (Mary Jane), Brenda McDonald, Deidre O'Neill (deceased) (James), Terry McDonald (Debbie), Colleen Walsh (Dick, deceased) and Kevin Mc-

Donald (deceased); aunt and great-aunt of many. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the National MS Society, 6155 Rockside Road, Suite 202, Independence, OH 44131 or St. Joseph Academy, 3470 Rocky River Dr., Cleveland, OH 44111.

Obituary courtesy of Chambers Funeral Homes. www.chambersfuneral.com

ROGER STAUNTON WEIST

August 13, 1952 - December 13, 2018
Roger Stanton Weist, one of the most beloved members of Cleveland's Irish community, passed away on Dec. 13, 2018. Roger's tireless efforts advocating for Irish human and civil rights and his unparalleled passion for Irish culture and music, earned the WRUW FM 91.1



music director and Beyond the Pale radio host countless honors, awards and accolades.

Co-founder of the Ohio MacBride Principles Coalition, Roger earned the distinction as a prominent and trusted voice in support of enactment of the MacBride Principles, engaging with national and international dignitaries and organizations, including President Bill Clinton and his senior advisors and the National Security Council.

Roger is a life member of the Ancient Order of the Hibernians and served as an active member of Cleveland's Great Hunger Memorial Committee, Cleveland Heritage Foundation, Gaelic Athletic Association, Greater Cleveland Feis Society, Greater Cleveland Emerald Civic Society, West Side Irish American Club, Irish American Club - East Side, Irish Northern Aid Committee and Ohio Irish Congress.

Roger was touched by the many honors bestowed upon him, including his appointment as Grand Marshall of Cleveland's 175th St. Patrick's Day Parade in 2017. He also served as parade co-chair in 1989, was named Cleveland's Irish Person of the Year in 1990 and Hibernian of the Year in 2000. He received the Irish American Partnership Citizenship Award in 2001 the Commodore John Barry Award from the Ancient Order of Hibernians Ohio state board in

Continued on page 4

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Roger Staunton Weist

Continued from previous page

2015.

But Roger's true love and legacy are his family, including his parents, the late Angela Catherine Stanton Weist Kerrigan, Robert Weist and James Kerrigan and 17 siblings: The late Joseph Kerrigan (the late Geraldine), Rosemary Eyerman (the late John), Shirley Libbey (Eb), Ruth Keefe (Tim), Jim Kerrigan (Sandra), Paul Kerrigan (Natalie), Loretta Baird, James Weist (Patricia), Mary Hanna (Jerry), Eileen Crable (Harry), William Kerrigan (Kathleen), Pat Kerrigan (Carol), Robert Weist (Christine), Carol Gilligan Chack (Dennis), Sheila Harrison (Daniel), Mary Therese Mullen (John) and Angela Lawrence (Rusty).

An uncle of 58 and great uncle of 104, Roger's quick wit, gentle soul, infectious laugh and seemingly endless sense of adventure made an indelible mark on all those whose lives he touched. Donations to the Ancient Order of Hibernians Berry/Boland Division.C/o Jim Kilbane 22830 Detroit Road, Rocky River, Ohio 44116. *Obituary courtesy of Berry-McGreevey Funeral Homes.*

My deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Roger Weist, whose death has occurred in Cleveland, Ohio.

He was a strong advocate for Irish Unity all his life, working through both the AOH and INA. Roger was AOH State President and was also active on the National Freedom for All Ireland committee.

Roger used his communication skills effectively to promote the McBride Principles campaign and later the Peace process. It was in this regard that we knew Roger best. He hosted Cleveland's Beyond the Pale radio show on WRUW and gave considerable air time to Sinn Fein leaders visiting the city, including myself. His own knowledge of the history of Ireland, his background of activism, and his passion for justice made him an excellent interviewer and a pleasure to talk to.

Roger's commitment and activism helped bring us all closer to our goal of a United Ireland, based on equality and justice.

He was a friend. He will be missed.
Ar dheis De go raibh a anam
-Gerry Adams TD

We know that Roger is at peace but our hearts are heavy knowing that Roger's many family members and friends have lost him. I met Roger soon after college graduation working on the McBride Principles campaign in NE Ohio; I noticed his dedication to Irish political action and human rights. Once I got to know him better I also saw his strong love / dedication to family and to Irish music; both of which kept him busy and benefited so many. Roger was a very positive and active individual despite all the health challenges thrown his way and that has been an inspiration to me. RIP Roger; please pray for us!
-Kathy Whitford

One of the funniest times I ever enjoyed at an Irish event was when Four Men and a Dog was playing at Darby O'Toole's, about thirty years ago. Roger was their biggest fan. The front man, Gino, went into a improvised monologue slagging Roger Weist and making up plots for action thriller movies starring Roger Weist and Steven Seagal. The slagging was clever, biting, and relentless and nobody laughed more -than Roger. Roger's fun-loving musical side is well known but I knew him better as an activist over the past four decades, working for peace and justice in a United Ireland. - Jack Kilroy

We will all miss his good humor and quick wit. I don't believe Roger ever missed an Irish event in this area. He supported all humanitarian causes. Roger's radio show on Sunday was informative and humorous. He was a great asset to the Irish community and especially to INA. - John Conway

Ah my heart aches. No one lived more life and loved being Irish more than Roger Weist. He supported and loved everyone. From Beyond the Pale radio show, he promoted all the good in our community, and worked to right the injustice. I had the pleasure of working with and attending many projects and places with Roger, from Cleveland Irish Fest to The Greater Cleveland An Gorta Mor Memorial and a thousand or more in between. I knew he would be late, but I knew he would be there! He is part of the fabric of the Irish in Cleveland, and I suspect, far wider. Please God, may he rest in peace.
- John O'Brien, Jr. Publisher & Editor,



YOUNG & IRISH

By Mary Kate Campbell



Go n-éirí leat

It is no secret that the Irish follow a strict adherence to traditions and superstitions. As a kid I was taught to avoid walking under ladders, to not cross paths with a black cat, and when your nose itches it means you're going to get into a fight or kiss a fool.

As we ring in a new year, there are several steps the Irish take to rid themselves of bad luck and ensure good luck for the coming twelve months:

To ensure good luck, here's a little hack

At the stroke of midnight

Enter through the front door

Then leave through the back

A lot of meaning is placed

on the first New Year's visitor to pass through your door:

Beware if she's a red head

For it is bad luck she'll give

But if it is a tall dark handsome man

Good luck in your house will live

To remember loved ones passed:

There is no need to fast

At the first dinner of the New Year

Unlock the front door and set them a place

For their soul an easy return home before all can say grace

To drive out evil spirits, and welcome prosperity

A loaf of bread is all you need

Bang the bread against your walls

And from back luck your house will be freed

A tradition for the whole family

Mothers, fathers, and children all take a part

Must clean the house from top to bottom

To bring about a renewed hope and a fresh start

If you wish to find love

In the coming year

Sleep with a sprig of mistletoe under your pillow

And your dreams will be filled of your future dear

According to the Irish

Follow these to a T

And by next December 31st

You'll be as happy as one can be



CLEVELAND COMHRÁ

By Bob Carney

@BobCarneyGTR



Eanáir 1919

The Easter Uprising of 1916 led to a general election in 1918, with a victory by Sinn Féin (the Irish for ourselves alone), who declared Ireland an Independent Irish Republic. On January 21, 1919, a relatively small group of men calling themselves The Irish Volunteers, initiated a guerrilla war against the British in an effort to establish that republic.

An all out war against the British was out of the question, a lesson learned from the Uprising. The volunteers lacked the manpower, resources and training to go head to head with Britain's battle-tested troops. Instead they organized into small secretive groups who could strike and then blend back into the population.

By August, they had become the Irish Republican Army, acting in what they believed was the best interest of the Irish people. They attacked government properties to disrupt British authority and targeted persons of prominence, with the Royal Irish Constabulary being their most significant target.

The police were responsible for law and order on Britain's behalf, they were vulnerable, extremely unpopular and the best source for obtaining weapons and munitions. Many Irish civilians became supportive of the IRA in part because of a growing sense of patriotism but also because of the indiscriminate, oppressive nature of the British Government's response to the actions of the IRA.

Sinn Féin (pron. Shinn Fane) backed the IRA, and many of its members were active in both groups. Michael Collins was a key figure in both organizations. He was instrumental in providing the volunteers with money, arms and equipment as well as identifying targets. His largest contribution came in the form of intelligence. He created a network of informants and sympathizers that even reached into Dublin Castle and the police force.

In 1919, a group of men Collins hand picked, targeted and eliminated Dublin's

detective constables known as the "G" men. Although Michael Collins has been immortalized in countless books and films, it should be remembered in this type of warfare, it is the small individual groups and their commanders who inflict the real damage. Relentless attacks from an enemy you can't meet head on costs lives, finances and can destroy the moral of the most powerful army.

The violence peaked November 21, 1920, a date that came to be known as Bloody Sunday. Collins and his team, using information from his informants, targeted nineteen British Army intelligence officers, living undercover as civilians in Dublin. The attacks came early in the day, with the police retaliating just hours later by firing into the crowd at a football match at Croke Park, killing fourteen.

Earlier that year in August, the British Army had been given the authority to imprison people on suspicion alone, with no trial. By August 21, 1920, 4,500 had been imprisoned from the onset of the war. This act by the British sent many volunteers on the run and in essence became full-time warriors with no hope of returning to a normal existence until British rule and occupation was eradicated from Ireland.

Throughout the war the IRA waged an effective, costly war on the British, but by 1921, Sinn Féin leaders opted for negotiations with the British.

They feared continued violence would soon take its toll on the volunteers, especially as British troop numbers were increasing. They felt nothing more would be accomplished by prolonging the fight as the British Government seemed sincere in their desire for peace.

In two and a half years, 1,300 people had died in the war, 550 of them of them British troops and police.

A military victory was no longer seen as a sure thing, and the British people had become increasingly critical of the gov-

ernments agenda in Ireland as the cost in lives and money continued to grow. In 1920, Westminster passed The Government of Ireland Act, which created two governments. One, in Belfast, with jurisdiction over the six counties in the northeast, and one in Dublin to oversee the remainder of Ireland. Ulster Unionists accepted this act, but not so the nationalists that had supported the IRA during the war.

A truce in July led to negotiations between Sinn Féin and the British and a controversial treaty was signed. Those who favored it saw it as a way to unity in Ireland; those who opposed it saw it as a failure to do the one thing they fought for - to have Ireland become an independent republic. Civil war was inevitable.

It has been 103 years since The Proclamation of 1916, and the thirty-two

counties are still divided. A new hope for a united Ireland surfaced again with The Good Friday Agreement in 1998, and now there is talk once again of the prospect, as Brexit's reality comes closer. Whatever happens, let's pray it is in a peaceful and just manner; there has been enough pain in Ireland's history. ■

Síocháin

Bob Carney is a student of Irish history and language and teaches the Speak Irish Cleveland class held every Tuesday @Pj McIntyre's. He is also active in the Irish Wolfhounds and Irish dogs organizations in and around Cleveland. Wife Mary and hounds Cian and Morrighan and terrier Doolin keep the house jumping. He can be contacted at carneyspeakirish@gmail.com

ON THIS DAY IN IRISH HISTORY JANUARY

6 January 1818 - The General Post Office (GPO) on Sackville St. (O'Connell Street), Dublin, designed by Francis Johnston, opened to the public.

7 January 1928 - Death of Francis Ball, historian, author, notably of The Judges in Ireland (1221-1921) (1926), which was an important source, as the documents on which it was based were destroyed when the Public Record Office was blown up in 1922.

15 January 1988 - Death of Sean McBride (83) lawyer, revolutionary and international jurist, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize (1977).

20 January 1902 - Birth in Dublin of Kevin Barry, first IRA volunteer to be executed during the Anglo-Irish War.

20 January 1968 - Death of Sir Alfred Chester Beatty. Born in New York, he was the first honorary citizen of Ireland. He left his library in trust and was the first private citizen to be accorded a state funeral.

21 January 1919 - Dail Eireann meets for the first time, where it calls for the evacuation of the British Military garrison.

24 January 1973 - Death of musician, folklorist, and master carpenter Willie Clancy, most known for his playing of the uilleann pipes.

25 January 1627 - Robert Boyle, creator of Boyle's Law, is born in County Waterford.

30 January 1972 - Bloody Sunday- the British Army fires at unarmed civil rights protestors in the Bogside District of Derry; fourteen marchers die of their injuries.



AT HOME, ABROAD

By Regina Costello



New Year's in Ireland

Ceiliúradh na Bliana Nua
New Year Celebrations

I am happy to spend the Bliana Nua -New Year's - celebrations nestled in my warm home surrounded by family and close friends. An endless day of lounging in front of a blazing fire, sipping refills of mulled wine* from the simmering pot on the stove and helping myself to yet another mince pie with whipped cream.

New Years' Resolutions pass me by. I know where my strengths lie, and this is definitely a weakness. I know I will never make that "one in eight" who actually succeed in this endeavor. I satisfy myself by looking back on the better parts of the year gone by and like the rest of humanity, I hope for a better year ahead.

I enjoy finding that sweet spot on

the sofa in front of the TV and watch nations around the world ring in the New Year. These self-indulgent hours allow me to think of the friends gifted to me during my twenty years living in Cleveland as their countries of birth or origin pop up on the screen.

My family across the pond is foremost on my mind too. Stories that my parents shared with me, I in turn share with my twins. This holiday is the perfect time to recall some Irish New Year traditions of times gone by. It's an enjoyable venture and seeing my kid's reactions from disbelief to awe as I regale them with tales is a somber reminder that time really is passing, and the world is changing very rapidly. Let me share a few with you.

In years gone by, Irish New Year's Eve

traditions determined the luck of the house for the coming year. Everything that happened on NYE had significance for the year ahead - especially anything that transpired as midnight approached. Superstition taught that luck was limited and ensured careful behavior on that day to secure as much of it as possible! Like so many other cultures, the common ritual of cleansing the house to perfection in an effort to rid the home of any negativity and to "wipe the slate clean" as it were, also applied to the Irish.

It was imperative that the first person to enter the house after midnight be a dark-haired male. God forbid it was a redhead! A year of hardship and grief would ensue! This "first footing" belief was taken so seriously that if necessary, families sent out for a dark-haired male and gave him treats or money for his trouble.

A big feast was eaten that night in the hope that food would be plentiful for the year. It was common for the housewife to make a cake, which was pounded against the door of the house three times while saying prayers to ward off bad luck and to banish hunger in the months to come. Believe it or not, the family would then gather up the bits of cake and consume them! - "Yeah, sure Mam!" I can hear my kid say.

The same was done with animal feed to ensure plentiful food for the farm animals also. Young girls believed mistletoe to be magical and placed it under their pillows hoping to dream of their future husband. An extra place was set at the table in remembrance of loved ones who passed away and the latch on the door would be left unlocked during dinner. Visitors would enter by the front door but leave by the back door for good luck.

Families, neighbors and friends gathered around the fireplace sharing stories, joking and reminiscing about old times. As time goes by, I find myself in such company, but unfortunately not in front of a turf fire.

Ireland of today celebrates NYD with various themed parades in a few cities and villages scattered around the country that draw significant numbers. Of course, the parade in Dublin is the largest in the land, where musicians, dancers, artists and others gather on the streets. Interestingly enough, Portmagee, a small fishing village in County Kerry, focus on the year gone by rather than the new year to

come. Other rural areas chose religion as the theme for their parades.

One common activity throughout the coastal regions is to brave the chilly waters surrounding the island - The Irish Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. Courageous Irish mortals, old and young, boldly enter the freezing waters for short swims. The ancient tradition of sports and matches on this day continues, particularly hurling.

In Ballintoy, two hundred years ago, the Reverend Robert Trail noted that New Year's Day hurling "ended with drinking whiskey and broken heads." I hope to travel to Ireland this year and soak in traditions much missed. I look forward to continued reminiscing with my siblings of times gone by and join my kids for a dip in the beautiful crisp waters of Keem Bay on beautiful Achill Island. ■

MULLED WINE

Ingredients: 1 lemon; 1 orange, 4 dozen cloves, 6 oz brown sugar, 2 cinnamon sticks, 2-star anise, one bottle of red wine and half a bottle of ruby port. Method: 1. Peel the lemon and orange. 2 Insert cloves into peeled fruit and place fruit in saucepan with a pint of water. Add sugar, star anise and peel from the fruit. 3. Stir until sugar dissolves. Simmer for one hour to release flavors. 4. Strain and discard fruit and spices (I prefer to skip this and I enjoy the fruit chunks in my glass) and add the alcohol. Return to stove and reheat to a boil. 5. Serve hot with orange and lemon slices with nutmeg sprinkles. Recipe: The Irish Countrywomen's Association Book of Christmas. General Editor: Aoife Carrigy.

Sources consulted: www.irishcelticjewels.com; www.thefadingyear.wordpress.com; www.123newyear.com; www.thewildgeese.irish

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, former Executive Director of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Commission and former Executive Coordinator of the Northern Ohio Rose Centre. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Mayo Society of Greater Cleveland. She can be reached at rcostello@ameritech.net



WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING; BE VERY AFRAID

By Maury Collins



Smile and Be Happy

A lady walked in to find her husband standing on the bathroom scale, holding his stomach in: "That won't help" she said.

"Yes it will," her husband responded, "that's the only way I can see the numbers."

The graveside service had just barely finished when there was tremendous bolt of lightning and a massive clap of thunder rumbling in the distance. The little old man looked at the priest and calmly said, "Well, she's there."

My doctor charges forty dollars for a house call - more if he has to dial the number himself.

The Priest was writing the baptismal certificate and trying to remember the date, "Let me see, this is the thirtieth?" "Indeed not," said the indignant mother, "It's only the eleventh"

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 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."

O'Toole worked in the lumber yard for twenty years, and all that time he'd been stealing the wood and selling it. At last his conscience began to bother him and he went to confession to repent. "Father, it's 15 years since my last confession, and I've been stealing wood from the lumber yard all those years." "I understand my son," says the priest. "Can you make a Novena?"

O'Toole said, "Father, if you have the plans, I've got the lumber."

Pat walks into a pub and the first thing he notices is a card game with three men and a dog. Pat goes to the bartender and orders a pint and says to the bartender, "This is unbelievable. There is a dog at the table playing cards with three men."

The bartender is not impressed.



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He says, "The dog is not a very good player."

"How's that?" asked Pat.

"Well," says the bartender, "every time the dog gets a good hand, he starts wagging his tail."

Tucker wakes up one morning to find a bear on his roof. So he looks on the internet and sure enough, there's an ad for Bear Repellent. He calls the number, and the bear repellent says he'll be over in fifteen minutes. The bear repellent arrives, and gets out of his van. He's got a ladder, a baseball bat, a shotgun and a mean old Doberman. "What are you going to do," Tucker asks?

"I'm going to put this ladder up against the roof, and then I'm going to go up there and knock the bear off the roof with this baseball bat. When the bear falls off, the Doberman is trained to grab his testicles and not let go. The bear will then be subdued enough for me to put him in the cage in the back of the van." He hands the shotgun to the Tucker.

Why did you give this shotgun to me?" asks Tucker.

"If the bear knocks me off the roof, shoot the dog."

An old man is having a drink in a bar. Suddenly a gorgeous girl enters and sits down a few seats away. The girl is so attractive that he just can't take his eyes off her. After a short while, the girl notices him staring, and approaches him.

Before the man has time to apologize, the girl looks him deep in the eyes and says to him in a sultry tone: "I'll do anything you'd like. Anything you can imagine in your wildest dreams, it doesn't matter how extreme or unusual it is, I'm game. I want \$100, and there's another condition".

Completely stunned by the sudden turn of events, the man asks her what her condition is. "You have to tell me what you want me to do in just three words"

The man takes a moment to consider the offer from the beautiful woman. He then whips out his wallet and puts ten - \$10 bills in her outstretched hand.

He then looks her square in the eyes, and says slowly and clearly, "Paint my house." ■

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BLOWIN' IN

By Susan Mangan
@SueMangan



In the Presence of Angels

*"It is coming on Christmas.
They're cutting down trees.
They're putting up reindeer
Singing songs of joy and peace.
I wish I had a river
I could skate away on."
—Joni Mitchell "The River"*

When I was a child, my mother played the piano. I still see myself, hiding in the dark, long after she thought I had drifted off to sleep. Concealed in the shadow of our staircase, I could view the colored lights of the Christmas tree and my mother's silhouette at the piano as she played "Silent Night." To me, she appeared as an angel, easing the care from her shoulders, singing softly the age-old carol about the beauty of a mother and her child.

Each Christmas, this image comes to me unbidden by the passage of time. The fairy lights are as bright as ever, and my mother's voice is crystalline. I once wrote that over the course of one's life, "memory becomes sense." We must live through joy and grief to fully understand this metamorphosis, as the two are inextricably entwined.

On New Year' Eve, amid all the celebrations, there is still a feeling of trepidation in leaving the old year behind and entering in to one that is new. Faith inspires us to accept the unknown with courage and an open heart.

Still, I always think of loved ones that are departed and those who may not be with us when midnight strikes on this same night in the coming year. This time last year, I would never have dreamt that my mother would pass on to that other world, and that the memory of her seated at the piano would change into something more profound. My mother has become an angel on my journey from grief into all that is light.

My mother, as all mothers do, possessed a litany of advice. One of her

greatest phrases was the reminder that "life is for the living." While others would complain about the cold and snow of winter, my mother quietly relished in the beauty of her snow-covered lake, and the stark white backdrop that the granite skies provided for a scarlet cardinal perched upon the leafless branches of her cottonwood tree. She breathed deeply of the country air as she bent over and picked up autumn sticks.

On her last day with me, despite a recent accident that left her weakened, she bent over to pick up scraps off the kitchen floor. Instinctively protective, I reached out to cradle her stooped form and chastised her for bending down in case she should fall. With utter pride, she told me, "I have been bending. You bet I've been bending."

Even though my mother left the rural farm on which she was raised to live in Chicago, and later to retire on peaceful Crooked Lake, her penchant for country wisdom remained. Her words were metaphors for a deeper meaning, a mother's advice for how I should live my life to the fullest.

On the day she died, I was out shopping at a health food store on what would become the final errand I would run for my mother. Her friend's son was a yoga instructor and recommended a certain tea that brings wellness and vitality. My mother had been drinking it every day since she took an unwanted tumble into her lake.

The tea would help restore both physical and figurative balance in her life.

She gave me the empty packet of tea and sent me back to Cleveland in the hopes of finding a box. On the Monday that she died, I learned there were multiple varieties of the sought-after tea, none of which was the original that she desired. I decided to buy one of each flavor, figuring more is always best.

A certain young man works at this



store. To my writer's mind, he has the blond, curled hair, and otherworldly face of a Baroque angel. He has always greeted me kindly on my regular visits to this store.

He noticed my purchase and asked if I had ever tried this particular brand of herbal tea. I said no, but then in an outpouring of emotion told him the story of my mother's near drowning and the hope that this tea would be restorative. With great sincerity, he bagged up my parcels and looked me in the eye and said, "I really hope your mother continues to get better and that she enjoys the tea."

On my way home, I thought about his kindness and the genuine regard in his young, unlined face. At 8:08 that night, my mother sent me a text: "As I am getting ready for bed, I have thought about your blackberry column. I thought it quite interesting. Remind me to tell you about the blackberries that grew in the red clay of southern Missouri."

Distracted by nightly routines, I did not see her text until midnight. A few hours later, she died at home in her bed after kissing my father goodnight and thinking about wild blackberries.

My mother was not one to shy away

from pain or joy. For her, a river stands for hope and new journeys, and a bramble of blackberries is a testament to the ever-evolving gifts that nature offers. Even when river water freezes, spring always promises a good thaw, another chance for renewal, and the likelihood that a barren branch of blackberries will, at long last, bear fruit.

On this New Year's Eve, I will shed tears for my newest angel, my lovely mother. I will remember the cornflower blue of her eyes and the way they shone when she hugged her grandchildren. I will pray that one day I will hold my own grandchild and see that same beautiful color, the color of the sky in summer, in his or her eyes. I will see her beauty in the new gold of a maple tree in spring. I will remember the picnic lunch we shared beneath a Scottish viaduct along the River Tweed. I will remember her words and treasure her love. My mother is not a memory, but an angel ever-present in my midst. ■

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



ILLUMINATIONS

By J. Michael Finn



The First Dáil Éireann

As a new year arrives, we continue to recognize significant 100-year anniversaries in the history of Ireland that followed in the wake of the 1916 Easter Rising. The first significant anniversary for 2019 is the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the First Dáil Éireann (doyle-air-uhn), or Irish Assembly.

In 1917, Eamon de Valera was elected president of Sinn Féin. De Valera set the national agenda when he said, "Sinn Féin aims at securing the international recognition of Ireland as an independent Irish republic. Having achieved that status, the Irish people may, by referendum, freely choose their own form of government." [Chris, word bubble quote] De Valera began planning for the 1918 elections, assigning Sinn Féin members as candidates, usually to their home counties.

The historic all-Ireland parliamentary election was held December 14, 1918. When the votes were counted, Sinn Féin had won seventy-three of the 105 seats in Parliament (Sinn Féin 73; Irish Party 6; and Unionist 26). In that election, Countess Constance de Markievicz, a Sinn Féin candidate for Dublin, became the first woman elected to the British Parliament.

All of the newly elected Sinn Féin MPs had campaigned that, if elected, they would decline to take their seats in the British House of Commons and instead establish an Irish Parliament based on the republican principles as set forth in the 1916 Proclamation.

On January 2, 1919, invitations were sent from Sinn Féin headquarters to all elected MPs (Sinn Féin, Unionist, Nationalist, or Irish Party) to attend a private meeting at the Mansion House in Dublin on Tuesday, January 7. At that meeting, it was decided that an all-Ireland assembly would be formed.

The first meeting of Dáil Éireann was held January 21, 1919 in Dublin. It was

held in the Round Room of the Mansion House (the residence of the Lord Mayor of Dublin). With the establishment of the First Dáil, a united Ireland had its first independent assembly as voted by the majority of its citizens.

When the First Dáil convened, thirty-four of its members had been imprisoned by the British, having been arrested for violating the Defense of the Realm Act (DORA), or in the words of the act, for "having acted or



being about to act in a manner prejudicial to the public safety and the defense of the realm."

At the roll call of the First Dáil they were officially recorded as "Fé glas ag Gallaibh (fay-glas-ag-gal-iv)," or "imprisoned by the foreigner." Persons unknown answered the roll call as "present" for two members who were absent. Michael Collins and Harry Boland were then aboard a boat headed for England on a secret mission to organize a prison break that would free Eamon de Valera from Lincoln Jail.

Being the first and highly symbolic meeting, the proceedings of the First Dáil were conducted for the only time entirely in the Irish Language, except for previously drafted declarations

that were read in French and English. The Dáil elected Cathal Brugha as chairman, as Eamon de Valera was in prison. Initially, a temporary cabinet of four ministers was also elected. Known as the 1st Ministry, they served only until April 1, 1919.

On April 1, 1919, the 2nd Ministry was elected. Their term would end April 1, 1921. Eamon De Valera was elected as *Príomh Aire* (preev-air-a), which means Prime Minister. The following cabinet members were also elected: Minister for Finance Michael Collins; Minister for Home Affairs Arthur Griffith; Minister for Foreign Affairs Count Plunkett; Minister for Defense Cathal Brugha; Minister for Labor Countess de Markievicz; Minister for Industries Eoin MacNeill; Minister for Local Government W. T. Cosgrave; and Minister for Irish Seán T. O'Kelly. Countess de Markievicz became the first female Dáil cabinet



minister.

On the same day as the First Dáil met, but in unconnected circumstances, two members of the Royal Irish Constabulary were ambushed and killed by Irish Volunteers (led by Sean Tracy and Dan Breen) at Soloheadbeg in County Tipperary, acting on their own initiative. This is considered as the beginning of the Irish War of Independence. Shortly afterwards, the Irish Volunteers were renamed as the Irish Republican Army, a force that was nominally under the control of the First Dáil.

The British, meanwhile, sought to destroy the First Dáil's influence by declaring it illegal in September 1919. In addition, the British also took

action on two other fronts: first, a military campaign was conducted to suppress the Dáil and the Republic; and second, a constitutional process was initiated to subvert the will of the Irish people.

The constitutional process consisted of the establishment of the Irish Committee of the British Cabinet, created in October 1919, and heavily under northern Unionist influence. The Government of Ireland Act of December 23, 1920 was the result. Members of the Dáil were slow to realize the full implications of the Act, which dealt a severe blow to the Dáil's battle for self-determination by establishing the six-county state of Northern Ireland, thereby denying the unity of Ireland that had been secured by the vote of the Irish people.

After the First Dáil was declared illegal by the British, they met only intermittently and at various locations. The First Dáil held its last meeting on May 10, 1921. After the elections on May 24, 1921, the First Dáil was succeeded by the Second Dáil, which was seated for the first time on August 16, 1921.

Today the name Dáil Éireann is used to identify the lower house of the modern Oireachtas (*irr-okh-tuhss*). This name refers to both houses of the national parliament of the Republic of Ireland. The upper house of the Oireachtas is known as the Seanad Éireann (*senad-air-uhn*). Members of Dáil Éireann are known as Teachta Dála (*tahx-ta-dahla*), or by the abbreviation TD after their name.

Successive Dála (plural for Dáil) continue to be numbered from the First Dáil convened in 1919. The current Dáil Éireann, elected in 2016, is known as the 32nd Dáil. Seán MacEntee, who died on January 10, 1984 at the age of 94, was the last surviving member of the First Dáil. ■

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.



COOKING UP A HOOLEY IN THE KITCHEN

By Katie Gagne



Cozy and Cheesy Irish Onion Soup with Mushroom & Brie Grilled Cheese

Now that the hustle and bustle of the holidays are over, we need something to warm and tasty to enjoy on these cold winter nights. This Irish take on the classic onion soup and the sophisticated twist on the always-popular grilled cheese sandwich is the perfect combo of savory and homey.

Irish Onion Soup *Makes 8 servings*

Ingredients:

- 8 Large Sweet Yellow Onions – thinly sliced
- 3 Tbsp. Unsalted Butter
- 8 Garlic Cloves – finely chopped or minced
- 12 oz. Guinness Stout Beer
- 2 Tbsp. Flour
- 1 Tbsp. White Sugar
- 6 Tbsp. Worcestershire Sauce
- 10 cups Beef Broth
- 2 Tbsp. Dried Thyme
- 1 Bay Leaf
- 2 Tbsp. Black Pepper
- Salt to taste
- 8 Slices Rye Bread
- 8 Slices or 8 ounces Irish Cheddar Cheese (I like using Kerrygold Dubliner)



In a large soup pot, over medium heat sauté butter and garlic until soft and fragrant

Add sliced onions - cover and cook for 30-40 minutes stirring frequently until

Mushroom Brie Grilled Cheese *Makes 6 Servings*

Ingredients:

- 16 oz. (2 packages) Mushrooms – any variety (I use a blend of button, cremini and shitake)
- 2 Tbsp. Unsalted Butter
- Salt and Pepper to taste
- 4 ounces Spreadable Butter
- 12 Slices of Hearty Bread (Sourdough or Multigrain works great)
- 12 ounces Shredded Greyer Cheese (you can use Swiss here if you like)
- 6-8 ounces Soft Brie Cheese (you can use any number of flavors – I use a mushroom or a truffle- flavored one)

Sauté the mushrooms and butter in a skillet until browned and caramelized. Salt and pepper to taste.

Remove from pan and allow to drain.

Spread both sides of each slice of bread with spreadable butter. Spread one side of 6 slices with the Brie Cheese. Place those 6 slices Brie side up in skillet (cook only 3 at a time) Top each one with mushrooms and then the Greyer. Top with remaining 6 slices of bread. Cook over medium until golden. Flip and cook the second side until golden and the cheese is melted and gooey.

Place sandwiches on plate and slice in half. Enjoy! ■

they are brown and caramelized. Stirring is important to prevent the onions from burning.

Sprinkle with flour and cook 2 minutes. Sprinkle with white sugar and cook an additional 2 minutes

Add Guinness and cook for 5 minutes. Add Beef Broth, Worcestershire Sauce, Thyme, Bay Leaf, and Black Pepper

Simmer for 1 hour (can simmer all day if desired)

Add Salt to taste.

Place Rye Bread inside bottom of oven-safe soup bowl or crock

Top with Cheddar Cheese

Ladle soup into bowl or crock on top of bread and cheese. The bread and cheese should rise to the top. Add additional cheese and place on cookie sheet under the broiler for 1 minute until cheese is brown and bubbly.

Be careful – the bowls will be very hot.



MADIGAN MUSES

By Marilyn Madigan



Ballymurphy Massacre Speaker Needs Our Help

I was honored to Chair the Ancient Order of Hibernians and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Freedom for All Ireland FFAI Event featuring Carmel Quinn from Ballymurphy. The AOH and LAOH National Boards were well represented. The AOH National Board was represented by Na Vice President Danny O'Connell, Director Denny Parks and Hunger Chair Paul Gowdy.

The LAOH was represented by President Carol Sheyer, Missions and Charities Chair Colleen Bowers, FFAI Chair Agnes Gowdy, Fundraiser Maire Leffel, Assistant Editor Hibernian Digest Shannon Lehn and me in attendance. Many LAOH State Officers Sisters from around Ohio joined

the local Division at this event.

Carmel Quinn spoke about the Ballymurphy Massacre. It was a very emotional experience for all in attendance. The AOH recorded her speech and can be found on the website; highly recommend for everyone to listen to Carmel Quinn. The Ballymurphy Families and others with Relatives for Justice need to know the truth about the loss of their loved ones.

During the time the Inquest started, Carmel Quinn was visiting the United States. When she returned home, she spoke at the Inquest. They need our help so please participate with the AOH and LAOH FFAI Christmas Appeal.

AOH and LAOH members from



AOH & LAOH Leaders with Carmel Quinn (Long Turquoise Dress).

Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania were represented at this event. In addition to the Hibernians, members of Irish Northern Aid of Cleveland were present.

I was honored to present Carmel Quinn with a Proclamations from Congresswomen Marcy Kaptur and from City of Cleveland Council President Kevin Kelly. National President Carol Sheyer presented a Certification of Friendship from the LAOH.

An event is not successful without help from many dedicated individuals. A special thank you to my Sisters of the Our Lady of the Rosary Division for all their help from working the door, bar,

and hall arrangements, but mostly for their hospitality in providing baked goods. I would like to thank Billy Chambers and Francis Quinn for sharing their musical talents and John O'Brien Jr for taking photos. A special thank you also sent to the Officers and Members of the West Side Irish American Club for the use of the hall. Many of those attended by the event stated how beautiful the West Side Irish American Club is and how lucky we are to have such a facility.

Together we can accomplish anything. So let us step up to help with FFAI and other Irish/ Irish American issues. ■



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CLEVELAND IRISH

By Francis McGarry



1884 Cleveland AOH

My Uncle liked to get a pint. One of his talents was, he could always unearth a distinguishing and redeemable trait about any pub. He would traverse from the Heights, mostly back to Collinwood, his Cleveland point of origin, and have a pint or two.

"The Bucket of Blood" was the hang out, with Mr. Murphy. On occasion it was a wee bit more than a pint or two. He prided himself on his aptitude to arrive back in the Heights. It was part his self-conceptualization of being an Irishman.

Thing is, when he was over-pinted, he would tend to follow whatever car was in front of him. One morning he woke up in Erie with a hangover; he grumbled Erie was punishment enough. Good thing Collinwood was not touristy.

It did not happen every time, but often enough to be deemed habitual. Aunt Irene was not fond of his travels, yet did not confront him. She concocted a strategy. She would follow my Uncle, but she would not go in. Uncle did what Uncle did and, upon his exit, she would pull in front of his car.

He followed her home time and time

again. I asked Aunt Irene why she did not just drive him. "That makes no sense."

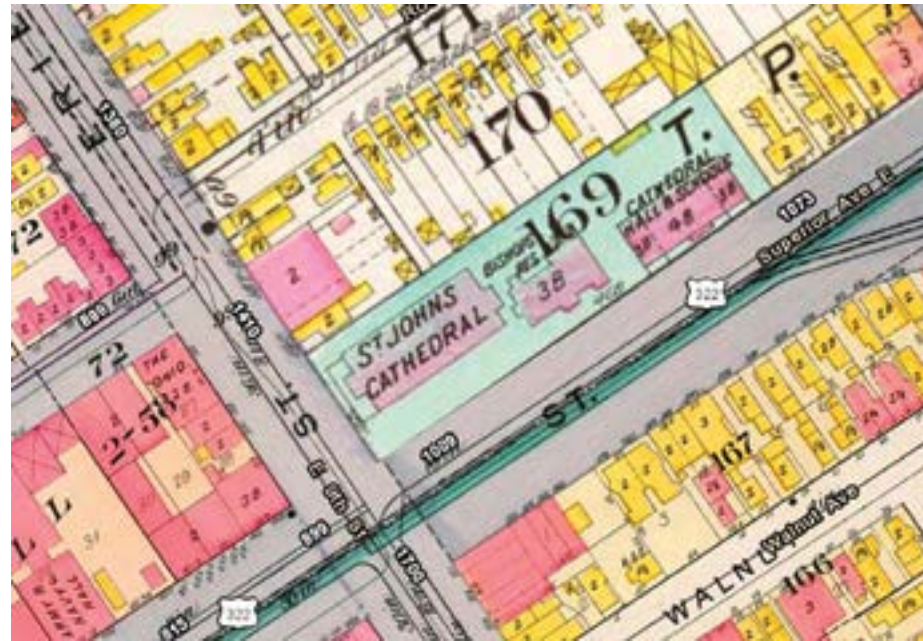
In Cleveland during the 1880s, it was just as important to some people how you got there, and not that you got there. The Land League has been shown to be an example of that paradox.

Bishop Gilmour was a supporter of the Land League and its proposed reforms for Ireland, as was much of the American Catholic Church.

He was not a fan, to put it mildly, of the Ladies Land League. Mary Rowland and her colleagues were compelled to make a choice. Their excommunication signaled one of many divisions in the movement for a free Ireland.

The No Rent Manifesto was a form of passive resistance that separated those who wanted freedoms adjudicated or bequeathed by the state and those more revolutionary. That more "revolutionary" stance alienated some in America. It caused a split in the once unified support of the American Catholic Church.

That in turn prompted individuals and Irish American organizations to declare a position. The Cleveland Ancient Order of Hibernians supported



the Church and Bishop Gilmour with respect to the local Ladies Land League. As the disputes became increasingly dogmatic, Hibernians were obligated to make other choices.

In August of 1883, the County Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians held their quarterly meeting at Cathedral Hall, in the same building as the school just east of the Cathedral. They discussed the arrival of fellow Hibernian Alexander Sullivan from Chicago.

He was President of the Irish National League of America and was to visit Cleveland on the 23rd of August. There was a picnic planned at Rocky River and it was sponsored by Cleveland's Parnell Branch of the Land League. The AOH published their intentions in the Plain Dealer:

"Be it resolved that the Hibernian Rifles and Presidents of the divisions act as an escort to Mr. Sullivan from the hotel to the depot and pay him that respect and attention which is due him as an honored member. Further than this the action of the meeting did not extend. The Ancient Order of Hibernians is not called out as a body to attend the picnic now as a dress parade or drill exercise promised on the part of the military. While sympathizing individually with the objects of the League of which Mr. Sullivan is president, the Ancient Order of Hibernians as a body belongs to no other society or organization and apart from the demonstrations connected with the church or civic celebrations cannot and will not as a body take in other gatherings. It is deemed necessary to make this correc-

tion because of the erroneous report of the proceedings of the above meeting which appeared in the daily papers the following day and which have since been the cause of much misunderstanding."

It is astounding how much Irish American discourse was printed in the daily papers. It is also clear that the Irish American community in Cleveland was concerned with how they were covered in the press and were quick to correct any real or perceived errors. The AOH was steadfast in its purpose and mission. It also made clear the separation of the organization from the individual actions of members. History does not detail how many Hibernians were at the picnic in Rocky River on the 23rd of August, 1883. What is safe to say is, considering the logistics, there was no Guinness.

The Diocese of Cleveland had just established St. Coleman's Church in 1880. In the next fifteen years, the Diocese would open three more Irish churches: St. Aloysius Church, St. Thomas Aquinas Church and St. Catherine's Church. Further indication of the mutual support of the AOH and Diocese was the ability to host the AOH National Convention in 1884 at the Cathedral Hall.

Members found accommodation at the Kennard House, Bank (W. 6th) and St. Clair. The procession marched on St. Clair to Water, then up Superior to the Cathedral for Mass. As Michael Byrne would say, "It was a scene."

Continued on facing page



OFF THE SHELF

By Terry Kenneally
@TerryKenneally



THE VOGUE

By Eoin McNamee

Faber & Faber Pub. ISBN 978-0-571-33160-4 2018 266 pp.



This month's Off the Shelf column features two books, both by Northern Irish writers. The first, The Vogue, is the second book reviewed in this column by Eoin McNamee, the first

was, Blue is the Night. The second book, Northern Heist, is the first fictional book by Richard O'Rawe, and is a blockbuster!

For a contemporary Northern Irish author, the subjects of burned bodies, military conflict and religious indoctrination are hard to avoid. The book begins with the discovery of the body of a young woman in a sand pit who has been unceremoniously interred at Piramill Aerodrome in a place the author spells Morne (rather than the expected Mourne), a fictionalized version of the vast abandoned former RAF based in County Down where British and US servicemen were billeted during allied resistance to Hitler.

1884 Cleveland AOH

Continued from previous page

Father Thorpe read and explained the Gospel of St. John, Chapter 15, verses 1-11. "You are a convention of Catholic benevolent societies and have done much good to your fellow-members and to others. The daily press have told us but yesterday of the good you have done in dollars and cents. But Christ shall reward good works only in so far as they are done in Him. Your association and its works must be built on a higher and more lasting foundation than human praise and human motives. You are here as a Catholic association. Be Catholic in reality. You are

Piramill is close to what is now a geriatric rest home, but in ways vital to the story, has previously been a workhouse and orphanage. A time-jump structure switches between 2000, when the corpse is discovered, 1972, the time of the fatal event and 1944-45, where the resolution to the mystery lies.

In the oldest narrative thread, scenes shift Morne and Shepton Mallet, a town in South West England where in a military prison, a black US airman has been charged with capital offenses. The Vogue is the name of the local cinema and a popular dance in one of the featured eras. The jitterbug, though, seems to have influenced the novel's structure, requiring the reader to keep careful track of the names of the people and places.

McNamee's skills of concealment and misdirection are neatly employed in The Vogue to hold back until satisfyingly late in the novel what links the second World War, via the 70s, to the brink of the third millennium.

Set against an eerie landscape awash with secrets, The Vogue is a gritty poetic dance through the intertwining stories of a deeply religious community, an abandoned air base, and a long-shuttered children's orphanage. This writer rates this a TOP SHELF read. ■

sons of the martyrs and co-heirs with Christ. Make yourselves worthy of that high dignity. Look higher than time for your reward, look to eternity."

After the sermon, delegates met in secret session. Hibernians were well-known and well-respected in Catholic Cleveland. They supported the Bishop and the Church. Their ability to host the AOH National Convention indicated their position in Irish Catholic America. Following their private meetings, they then toured the city in their own vehicles, each able to take a separate path to a common destination. They did not make a stop in Collinwood, Aunt Irene would have approved. ■

NORTHERN HEIST

By Richard "Ricky" O'Reare

Merriam Press ISBN 978178371936
Pub. 2018 262 pp.



On 19 December 2004, masked raiders took \$26.5 million in cash from the vaults of Belfast's Northern Bank, loaded it on a truck and vanished into the night. The thieves have never been

caught nor the money recovered. The investigation remains open.

The second of this month's Off the Shelf selections is about a fictional robbery, written by a former IRA man and convicted bank robber, Ricky O'Reare.

The IRA was always suspected of pulling off the real robbery, a claim it denied and while it is not involved in the fictional one, it demanded a cut of the proceeds. The mastermind of this story is a character named James "Ructions" O'Hare, a professional thief. Given the authors background, some wonder how

much of Northern Heist is fiction?

Posing as police officers, masked men entered the homes of two Northern Bank executives and hold their family's hostage while the executives gave the robbers access to the bank's underground vaults. Interviewed about his book, O'Reare stresses that the book is pure entertainment, but he also hoped to capture the reality of violent crime, such as the tiger kidnapping (a tiger kidnapping is a specific act that pairs kidnapping with a second separate illegal activity, in this case the robbery) of the story.

"I'd like readers to really feel the fear of the family that has been held at gunpoint. When that happens, there's always a fundamental question- will the gunmen actually carry out their threat to commit murder if their instructions are not obeyed?"

O'Reare definitely accomplishes that feeling in the book. Eoin McNamee, author of the first Off the Shelf review this month, describes Northern Heist as "gritty, authentic close to the bone. Very close to the bone" Northern Heist is a page turner and this reviewer rates it a TOP SHELF read. ■

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Annual Visitation Home Reunion Dance Celebrates 20 Years

By Erin McIntyre Fuentes and Margaret McIntyre Stacy

Earlier this month, we sat around the table at The Harp on Cleveland's near west side. We spoke with some of the founding and long-time members of the Visitation Home's Fundraiser Committee, as they gathered to talk about this year's dance.

This group has been gathering for 20 years to raise funds for the Visitation Home, a non-profit organization that is a ministry of the Little Brothers and Sisters of the Eucharist. "We just do a little bit," says one of the ladies.

If you have been around the Cleveland Irish scene for any length of time, you'd recognize these faces. And you too would find this statement hard to believe. We chose not to argue with them, and rather ask, why. Why have you been a part of this work?

"It makes you feel good, and when you see the need, how can you not?" says another.

Something beautiful in the local



Little Brothes & Sisters of the Eucharist Fundraiser.

Irish community is the generations of involvement. The Visitation Home Reunion Dance began in 1999 when one of the Irish elders said it is time to do something for one of our own.

Father Jim O'Donnell, a priest in the Diocese of Cleveland, grew up in an immigrant family in Cleveland's

Irish community. Called by his faith and commitment to the Gospel, he moved to the Central neighborhood of Cleveland and there, he and Sr. Maggie Walsh-Conrad co-founded the Little Brothers and Sisters of the Eucharist to respond to those in economic and/or spiritual poverty.

Bishop Pilla received them as a religious community in 1980 and gave them his blessing to go forth to live as a ministry of presence among our neighbors most in need. Over the years, it has included hospitality - welcoming people into their home whether for a meal or Thursday evening Mass; companionship - visiting the incarcerated and responding to those in crisis; solidarity - praying with and for people in need; and love - creating a place and space for children to call home.

Eventually, this place and space would become the Visitation Home, named for its dedication on the Feast of the Visitation, and it would be the project Fr. Jim finally said yes to, to hold a fundraiser through Cleveland's Irish community.

Initially, the purpose of the Visitation Home Dance was to raise money to retrofit their home on East 35th Street to foster children. It was going to be a one-time fundraiser. That's it.

But then, something magical happened. An incredible number of folks came together, family and friends of the Community of the Little Brothers and Sisters of the Eucharist, and invited their family

and friends to come too.

So many people showed up the night of the first fundraiser; they danced the night away to live Irish music, connected and re-connected with new and old friends, and had such a good time, all in the name of the Visitation Home. A lot of money was raised that night and even more was given through in-kind support of those in the trades who worked on the home.

More importantly, Fr. Jim saw how good it was to bring people together to celebrate one another and to share in the goodness of the Good News.

It was because of this, Fr. Jim gave the green light for the committee to hold a fundraiser the following year as long as it was scaled back. As important as it is to raise funds for operating the Visitation Home, he saw it was just as important to invite people out for an evening of fun and fellowship.

Fr. Jim says, "It's a time to go out and enjoy each other, and what better way than with a good cup of tea, Irish soda bread, and Irish dancing to warm up the spirits on a cold winter's night."

In recent years, the Visitation Home moved to a new location, yet it is safe to say Fr. Jim's heart is still in Central. It always will be. He has been and continues to be moved by the people there - their joy, perseverance, determination, and humanness.

Where others found hopelessness, Fr. Jim found opportunity for friendship and relationship. Where others found strangers, he found friends who challenged him to be more present to the realities of the world, country, and city. And for forty years, he has been inviting others to have their hearts and minds opened, too.

As the Visitation Home Reunion Dance marks their 20th anniversary, the long-standing committee members will be honored at this year's event for their persistence and dedication to this cause, for their saying yes to respond to the need in our community, to Fr. Jim's invitation.

Just like that first year, they show up, sell tickets, ask others to join in, solicit donations, and spread the message of love. They lead by example, inviting others to be a part of the committee and assuring the next generation



Some of the founding and longtime members of the Visitation Home Dance Committee Helen Mulloy, Bridie Joyce, Kathleen Mangan, and Joan Reali.

is included. All of the committee members would agree that by saying yes, they receive more than they give.

The 20th Visitation Home Reunion Dance will be held on Friday, January 18, 2019 at St. Clarence Social Hall, beginning at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$25.00 and include heavy hors d'oeuvres, an open bar, complimentary valet, and entertainment by The

Portersharks. Tickets can be purchased at Casey's Irish Imports, 19626 Center Ridge Road, Rocky River, OH 44116 or by calling Helen Malloy at 216-251-4075 or Ellen Spear at 440-668-3104. Mark your calendars and join in the fun. There is a good chance you will feel the goodness, joy and sense of connectedness that brings us all coming back each year. ■

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TOLEDO IRISH

By Maury Collins
@MauryCollins



The Toledo Irish American Club's Traditional Irish Music Showcase

The Toledo Irish American Club will present a "Traditional Irish Music Showcase" on Sunday, January 13th, 2019 ~ 2pm-4pm, at the Art and Performance Center of West Toledo 2702 W. Sylvania Ave. Toledo, OH 43613. You are invited to join for an afternoon of fun for this FREE event! The showcase will feature local musician and teacher, Mary Dennis, leading the group. The musicians will be playing a series of sets often played in traditional Irish sessions along with discussing the origins, traditions and community of Traditional Irish Music.

You will get a chance to learn about each of the instruments commonly played in sessions and an opportunity to pluck/play/pet the instruments with questions highly encouraged! Complimentary Desserts, coffee, soda, and water will be offered at the event.

Traditional Irish music has returned Toledo and Northwest Ohio thanks to a Bowling Green, Ohio couple, Bob Midden and Mary Dennis. Bob and Mary led a session group called Toraih An Sonas, which is Irish for "in search

of happiness" Regular sessions are held at The Blarney Pub, 601 Monroe St. in downtown Toledo on the first Saturday of the month and at Logan's Irish Pub, 414 S. Main St., Findlay on the third Wednesday of each month. They also appear occasionally at Stone's Throw in Bowling Green.

The Summer of 2017 had the Toledo Irish American club roaring back into existence, led by club president, Kelly Zawierucha. New members were added; fund raising events were scheduled; a concert was set for February 10, 2018 at the Maumee Indoor Theater, titled, "For the Love of Irish Music," featuring The Drowsy Lads.

The Lads are fond of creating their own spirited arrangements and offering occasional original compositions, and even mixing in some bits of Bluegrass or Classical, but mostly they play the pure old traditional Irish tunes and songs.

The show also featured a session by Toraih An Sonas, and a performance by the Ardan Irish Dancers. The final set was performed by the Drowsy Lads and the Toraih An Sonas group playing



together while the Ardan Irish dancers danced.

Bob and Mary were also were a part of the Toledo Hibernian "River Cruise" on the Sandpiper last Summer. During the last months, while the number of people performing during the session at the Blarney increased, Mary Dennis was not there and was missed. It is great to see Mary back teaching others the joy of traditional Irish music.

Mary Dennis started out playing piano as a youngster but as she grew older her interests shifted. In high school she taught herself to play the guitar after watching both of her brothers learn,

playing mostly folk music jamming with friends.

Mary had listened to her Dad sing Irish songs around the house while she was growing up. In the spring of 1992, Mary decided to learn the fiddle. She bought a violin from a friend and began to teach herself to play using books and tapes, learning the traditional Irish style. I wish Mary and the Toledo Irish American Club a very successful "Traditional Irish Music Showcase" on January 13th. I hope the club continues to grow and to increase the number of people playing traditional Irish music. ■

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SPEAK IRISH

By Bob Carney
@BobCarneyGTR
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More on Pronunciation

Irish is one of the oldest languages still spoken today. It belongs to the Celtic Family of languages, which is divided into two branches. The Gaelic branch consists of Irish, Scots Gaelic, and Manx and are similar to one another. The other branch consists of Welsh, Breton and Cornish and differ dramatically from the Gaelic branch. Together the two form one of the twelve branches of the Indo-European linguistic family. Irish speakers refer to Irish as Gaeilge (gahl-ih-gay), derived from an old Irish word for Irishman, Góidél (goy-del).

There are three regional dialects: Donegal, Galway and Kerry, along with an official dialect that was established during the language reform of 1950. That official dialect is what is taught in schools, on-line courses and most self-learning materials.

There are eighteen letters in the Irish alphabet: ABCDEFGHILMNO-PRSTU, although you will see the remaining letters of the English alphabet used in "loan words." Vowels can be long or short, indicated by a mark over the vowel called a fada (fah-da), which means long. Vowels and consonants are broad or slender.

We have no word for yes or no: you can't have something, something will be with you or on you. Sentence structure is common to other European languages, verb-pronoun- adjective. Spelling can appear confusing at first, but the vowels that appear to be extra or unnecessary are there to aid in the pronunciation of the consonants. In English, there are far more exceptions than rules, in Irish there are few exceptions to the rules.

A fada over a vowel indicates it is a long vowel, and changes its pronunciation will also change the meaning of the word. For example, briste (brihshta) means broken, and briste (bree-

shta) means pants.

The vowels are also grouped into two types, broad and slender. An a o and u are broad, while e and i are slender. Whether the vowel is broad or slender affects the pronunciation of the consonant next to it. The spelling rule: Leathan le leathan agus caol le caol (leh-hin leh-hin ah-gus keel le keel) is broad with broad and slender with slender; it keeps pronunciation consistent. Since we know e and i are slender vowels, we can look at the word briste, and know that the consonants are slender as well. You will never see a consonant between a slender vowel and a broad vowel.

Typically, broad consonants are pronounced as they would be in English, with exceptions in the letters d and t. Slender consonants can be a bit trickier to pronounce. They can be pronounced the way they might be in English or with a very faint "y" sound at the very end. For example, in the word beo, which means alive, the b is slender because it is next to e, a slender vowel; the word is pronounced b-yeo. In the guide below, notice the exceptions to the slender pronunciation in the letters d, s and t.

VOWELS:

Short

a - uh
e - eh
i - ih
o - uh
u - uh

Long

á - aw
é - ay
í - ee
ó - oh
ú - oo

CONSONANTS:

Broad

b (b) as in ball
c (k) as in cat
d (d or like the word the) as in dot
f (f) as in fawn
g (g) as in gone
h (h) as in hall
l (l) as in law

Slender

b (b) as in bill
c (ky) as in cute
d (dj) as in jar
f (f) as in fee
g (gy) as in regiment
h (h) as in heel
l (l) as in leap

m (m) as in mop
n (n) as in no
p (p) as in paw
r (r) as in raw
s (s) as in saw
t (t) as in top

m (m) as in mope
n (n) as in knee
p (p) as in pill
r (r) as in read
s (sh) as in shop
t (tch) as in itch

SÉIMHIÚ AGUS URÚ

The beginnings of Irish words can be changed by words that precede them. These changes can be very confusing at first, but with practice become quite natural. In séimhiú (shay-voo), or lenition, an h is added after the first letter of words starting with the following consonants and change the pronunciation of the letter: b- bh(v or w), c-ch (ch as in loch), d-dh (y), f-fh (silent), g-gh (ch as in loch), m-mh (w), p-ph (f), s-sh (h), t-th (h-yah).

Urú (uh-roo), or eclipsis, involves adding a letter before the first letter of words starting with the following consonants. These changes are easier to pronounce as the eclipsing letter takes over the original first letter: b-mb, c-gc, d-nd f-bhf (silent), g-ng, p-bp, t-dt. For now, just be aware that these changes exist and how they change pronunciation, we'll get into when and why later. Also be aware if you are having difficulty looking up a word in the dictionary, try looking it up without the h if that's the second letter or dropping the first letter, the word you're looking for may have been lenited or eclipsed.

WORD STRESS

In Irish stress is usually placed on the first syllable. In Kerry, the dialect in the south of Ireland, stress is on the second or third syllable.

RESOURCES:

A dictionary is essential in your study of Irish, one of the best also happens to be available free on-line @ teanglann.ie. Along with the translation of a word, there are grammatical examples and an audio pronunciation guide in the three regional dialects. You can easily add the link to your homepage on your smartphone or computer.

Vicipéid: wikipedia "as Gaelige" <http://ga.wikipedia.org>

Litríocht: Every book "as Gaelige" available www.litriocht.com

Buntús Cainte - cd's and book Now You're Talking Irish - com-

panion book to the BBC program viewable on-line

Turas Teanga - DVD and book Teach Yourself Irish - book Speak Irish Now - book (used in our Speak Irish Cleveland classes)

YOUTUBE SEARCHES

TG4 - Irish language television, most programs have english subtitles An Grá faoi Ghlas - "Love under Lock" parody produced for the series Turas Teanga by RTE

Yu Ming is Ainm Dom - TG4 short film

TV and RADIO

TG4 - www.tg4.ie/ga

RnaG - national station for Irish language radio www.rnag.ie or www.rte.ie/rnag

Numerous children's books are available in Irish and are a good way to build comprehensive reading skills in Irish. The best tip I can give when it comes to Irish pronunciation is to listen and practice. ■

Slán go Foill!

Bob

Bob Carney is a student of Irish history and language and teaches the Speak Irish Cleveland class held every Tuesday @Pj McIntyre's. He is also active in the Irish Wolfhounds and Irish dogs organizations in and around Cleveland. Wife Mary and hounds Cian and Morrighan and terrier Dool-in keep the house jumping. He can be contacted at carneyspeakirish@gmail.com

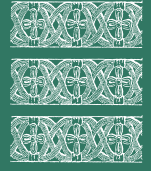
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TERRY FROM DERRY

By Terry Boyle



All in Jest

They are very friendly, seems to be a catch phrase for most people when describing the Irish. No doubt there is some truth to the Irish charm, the smiling eyes etc. But as much as it seems cliched, and stereotypical, it's also complimentary.

It's certainly preferable to the more negative side of the caricature, the Irish drunk. Wherever I go, I rarely hear anyone say anything derogatory about the Irish. We seemed to have conquered the world with our witty sense of humour; especially at times of real tragedy. Nothing seems to dampen our need for a laugh and this is a gift.

People know us for our musicians, dramatists, poets, writers and of course dancing. For a small country, we have made our impression.

In the 80s, I would be frequently asked about the Troubles. How could such friendly people end up fighting each other; a question that required an extensive and overbearing lesson in Irish history that had no guarantee of satisfying the questioner.

In the 90s, it was the Celtic Tiger. Ireland, was now a ferocious money-making animal, capable of leading the way towards a bright and prosperous future. For the first time, Ireland was a honeypot that attracted people in need of work. The new millennium saw the notorious finan-

cial crash with its subsequent austerity measures. Our ascension, and dramatic fall from prosperity was on a par with Icarus himself.

Now, when people think about Ireland, it's Brexit. Have you ever tried to explain the complexities of the UK's decision to leave Europe? If you thought explaining 800 years of history under British rule was too in-depth, too complicated for the beginner, then try explaining Brexit.

For two years running, I've been part of an esteemed panel put together to break down in easy to understand language the latest news on Brexit. Such a challenge is, as you can imagine, fraught with great problems. If you simplify for ease, you lose the more complex nuances of the situation, or if you complicate the subject to the point of abstraction, the audience is lost.

My Jewish friends say, 'two Jews, three opinions.' Everybody has their take on what Brexit means.

Indeed, the many faceted sides of the British divorce from Europe is much akin to a Beckett play. You can say anything about it without being absolutely wrong or absolutely right. Everyone has an opinion, usually based on their own political bias. To quote Joyce's Stephen in Ulysses, Brexit is the 'nightmare from which we are trying to awake.'

Most people would agree that the

referendum to leave Europe was poorly orchestrated. Voters were ill-informed as to what they were voting for and reacted to fear mongering. However, the deed is done, and now we are faced with the inevitable reality that such decisions to 'uncouple' do not happen quickly.

Separation affects more than one party. There are financial repercussions, and repositioning of future relations between those parties involved. It is somewhat funny that the sticking point to separation, ironically enough, is Northern Ireland.

Since the peace agreement of 1998, the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland have enjoyed a fruitful relationship. Cross-border security, trade, and movement of people has continued to unite the two separate parts of the country in ways that has been a beneficial to the island as a whole. So much so, that any discussion of resurrecting a hard border would jeopardize the good relations between the two countries.

A hard border would be retrogressive, and would undo all the good work of the peace agreement. So, with the date of separation, March 19, looming, there has been a lot of shuffling back and forth between the UK and Europe regarding the future Ireland.

No border would ensure the unchecked movement of people, something the UK wants to curb. A checkpoint between Northern Ireland and Britain would mean treating British province differently to other parts of the UK, something the Unionists refuse to endorse.

So now, where are we in all of the endless discussions? Again, I reiterate, it's anyone guess. The recent tentative agreement is proving to be yet another false claim of progress. For, when there is one step forward, two backward steps follow in succession.

In such a climate of uncertainty, old loyalties are bared. Nationalists continue to question the legitimacy of the Northern Irish State, while Unionists hold fast to the 'no surrender' policy of earlier years. The stalemate between the two communities that had softened after the Good Friday Agreement has become more pronounced as the finger-pointing continues to exacerbate fears on both sides.

Needless to say, even with such polarization there is always one constant, the Irish sense of humour. Give us an enigma of colossal proportions and we will find a way of poking fun at it. I think it's to our credit that no matter how much life takes us seriously, we find a way to lighten its grip.

There is no way to describe the unflappable humour of the Irish. Its sacrilegious, rich in wit, and devastating to those who would ruin a good joke with sobriety. When Heaney, reacting to the English press and their jaundiced view of the Northern Irish violence, writes, 'Yet I live here, I live here too, I sing', he demonstrates the Irish love of life.

My Jewish friend also shared this sentiment about the Jews, 'they tried to kill us, we survived, let's eat.' I love the humour; desperate times require comedy. We cannot sustain or survive on a diet of parliamentary debates that end up in the same cul-de-sac. Humour keeps us sane. We need to be reminded that life is for singing, laughing, and enjoying. ■

Terry Boyle is a professor at Loyola University, Chicago. He writes and reviews plays, while also teaching modern Irish and English drama. Moving from Derry, N. Ireland to Chicago in 2004, he continues to enjoy his work with the Irish American community. He can be reached at tboyle1@luc.edu



COLUMBUS IRISH

By Maureen Ginley
@MaureenGinley



A Conversation with Mary Grady Strickland

On St. Patrick's Day in 1979, Mary Grady Strickland and the Daughters of Erin (an Irish women's organization she was pivotal in forming) swung open the door to St. Patrick's Church and were met with a sea of green. While the day always began with Mass, there was an air of excitement for this group.

It was 73 degrees and sunny; the first two rows of pews were reserved for them. Months after the group's inception, they were celebrating one of the most wonderful days of the year, surrounded by the people and community they loved.

This sense of exhilaration is a hallmark of Mary's personality. When I met her at the Dublin Irish Festival (albeit briefly when I signed up to be a member), I could tell how excited she was to be a part of the Columbus Irish community.

I had stopped by the Shamrock Club's booth to look into possible membership, because I'd be moving to Central Ohio a week later. As I filled out my paperwork, I was introduced to Mary (the Club's President at the time) as "the Shamrock Club's newest member!" Without missing a beat, she happily shook my hand and welcomed me to a community that would grow to be an important part of my life in Columbus.

Mary is only the second female President in the history of the Shamrock Club. Upon learning this information, I knew I had to talk to her for the *Ohio Irish American News*. After a few months of emailing back and forth, we were finally able to meet up and talk about her experiences as an Irish American woman living and celebrating her heritage in Ohio's capital city. Our conversation was enlightening, and it showed me a lot about what I can

do as a young woman who is passionate about Irish music, literature, culture, and community.

I learned a lot of interesting information about and from Mary, including (but not limited to):

1. Her family has a rich history at the Shamrock Club and within the Columbus Irish Community as a whole.

In 1992, her brother Michael served as President of the Shamrock Club. When she was sworn in as the Club's President, her family participated - making a special moment even more memorable. She grew up hearing stories of her grandparents' lives in Ireland, and she spent time listening to and enjoying Irish music. Wanting an opportunity for Irish women in Columbus to celebrate their heritage, she founded the Daughters of Erin; this group not only allows this celebration to occur, its members also give of their time and talents to make Central Ohio a better place.

2. One of her favorite St. Patrick's Day memories is when she opened the doors of St. Patrick's Church on 03/17/1979 and sat in the front with the group she helped form.

Getting an organization off the

ground is no easy feat. The Daughters of Erin had come to fruition months before. As I spoke with Mary about this day, I could sense the pride she had in seeing her group's hard work pay off.

3. She is a wealth of advice for Irish folk all around Ohio.

One of the last questions I asked Mary when we sat down to chat was what advice she had for young, Irish folk - particularly women - in Ohio. I was (and still am) so impressed with her involvement with the DOE and the Shamrock Club, and I was eager to see what wisdom she could impart on those looking to see themselves reach similar roles. While she shared a lot of tips and tricks for truly embracing the Irish life experience in Columbus, one of the things she said stuck with me even more, and I find myself thinking about it every time I leave the Shamrock Club, chat with one of my friends who I met through the Ohio Rose Centre, or attend another event where the Irish gather. "You're cheating yourself if you don't share it with people."

In this situation, the "it" is our

shared Irish heritage. Mary encouraged me - and hopefully by extension, others - to truly embrace the nights at the pub, the opportunities to serve our communities, the festivals, the feiseanna. By fully throwing ourselves into these experiences, we can learn so much about ourselves, our Irish brothers and sisters, and the diaspora around the globe that connects us together as one, big community.

My life would be much, much different if I didn't approach the Shamrock Club's booth at the Dublin Irish Festival last summer. I had thought about waiting until I settled into my new life in Columbus before reaching out to different organizations I was interested in getting involved with. I am so glad I didn't.

As I filled out my membership application on that hot summer day, I was taking Mary's advice before I had even heard it. I was taking the first steps necessary to share my Irish heritage with the community in the city I now call home. I cannot wait to see where that decision takes me in the days, months, and years to come. ■

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TAKING THE FIELDS OF GLORY: GAA MONTHLY
By Vincent Beach



Cleveland GAA January Update

Cleveland St. Pat's – St. Jarlath's Gaelic Football Club has a newly elected board: Chairperson – Vincent Beach; Vice-Chairperson – Nick Cobos; Secretary – Tom Beach; Treasurer – Joe Coyne; Public Relations Officer – Dan Kampman; and Player's Representative – Kevin DeFranco. Congratulations and Good Luck!

A huge thank you goes to two members of the board stepping down from their roles, but not their commitments. First, Vice-Chairperson Jim Coyne has been instrumental both on and of the field, bringing the two former clubs of St. Pat's and St. Jarlath's together. Jim will continue to work with the team alongside Simon O'Doherty (Coach), to be a support and alumni recruiter, to run the Super Bowl fundraiser, and to chair the upcoming Cleveland 7-a-Side Tournament. Jeepers! He may be doing more now than he was doing on the board, hahaha. Go raibh míle maith agat, a Shéamuis!

Secondly, Public Relation Officer Steve Pepin has brought the club into the 21st century of social media, having established and grown our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram followers (sign-up, if ye are not already). Steve is also a veteran of the club (sorry old man) who's wisdom and experience will be missed from the board.

Steve will be just as active with the Club, as he will now chair the Sponsorship Committee. Contact info@clevelandgaa.com is you are interested in establishing a partnership with your local GAA club. Agus, go raibh míle maith agat, a Stiofáin.

Replacing the lads will be Nick Cobos and upcomer Dan Kampman. Nick, in all essence, has been on the board, having participated in most of the prior years monthly meetings. He will be a great asset this year and for years to come.

Dan Kampman was a fresh face and formidable presence on the field in his rookie season last year. He is one of the guys that got the GAA itch, barely missing a training session and now wanting to get more involved with his Club. We are very excited to have him on board. Go n-éirí libh, a leaideanna!

Onto the fields. At the time of publication, our first groups of footballers will be taking on the softies of that foreign sport, soccer. Cleveland GAA has put both a Men's team and a Co-ed team into the Caps Fieldhouse indoor league for a bit of fitness, fraternity, and fun. The league runs every week from January to the end of February. Good luck players.

From the soccer fields, Cleveland has committed to starting an indoor 7-a-side Coed Gaelic Football league. The league



L-R. Secretary Tom Beach, Vice Chairperson Nick Cobos, Chairperson Vincent Beach, Public Relations Officer Dan Kampman, Treasurer Joe Coyne, Players Representative Kevin DeFranco.

will commence in March after an introductory skills session and new players will be mixed with experienced players. The league will run for two months until training for the summer league begins outdoors in May. Sound interesting? Want to learn more, meet new people, and get active in the cold months? Contact info@clevelandgaa.com.

Cleveland GAA is also forming a Ladies Gaelic Football team for competition in the summer. Those interested in playing or learning more should email: ClevelandLadiesGAA@gmail.com.

Youth Gaelic Football: The Youth will once again resume indoor activities on January 12th and 26th for FREE SKILLS CAMP. These are especially for the new player to understand and feel comfortable with the game. The camp will be divided by ages this year.

Following the Skills Camps in January, the sessions will open into League play of games every-other week for the months of February, March, and April. Teams will comprise of up to ten players of the same age group. Contact ClevelandYouthGAA@gmail.com to sign-up or learn more.

Night at the Races: Our annual fund-

raiser is February 16th at the West Side Irish American Club; doors open at 6pm. There is free baby-sitting onsite. The kids have a blast. This event is more than a fundraiser, it is a chance for supporters, alumni, sponsors, players, and families to get together for a few hours and have fun. Full tables are available (8-10 seats) or individual tickets.

The \$25 night includes a hot dinner, Guinness, Harp, Miller Lite, wine, and soft drinks. Feel free to bring your own desserts or appetizers. You can also name the racing horses – lots of opportunities for sponsorship and advertisement. Contact Vincent at ClevelandGAA@gmail.com.

Follow @ClevelandGaelic on Facebook and Twitter for the 2019 activities for Men, Women, and Youth.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh (thanks y'all) to our readers and supporters. Consider getting involved at any level. Fáilte (welcome) to all. The Gaelic Athletic Association is Ireland's largest sporting organization and a bit of home for the Irish abroad here in the US. Beyond sports, the Association also promotes Irish music, song and dance and the Irish language as an integral part of its objectives. ■

Our Rose Remembers a Special Reign

I am so incredibly blessed and honored to represent Ohio as the 2018 Ohio Rose in the International Rose of Tralee Festival. I had the pleasure of participating in the Festival alongside fifty-six ambitious, intellectual, and modern women of proud Irish heritage. I had countless incredible experiences, including seeing the wonder of "The Dome" in Tralee; feeling the warm welcome of County Kilkenny and County Kerry; seeing the majestic views of the Ring of Kerry; meeting remarkable Irish people; learning falconry and catching a hawk on my arm; and meeting my wonderful rosebud, Alice, a native to Tralee, and her family. I even had the honor of unveiling a plaque in Tralee dedicated to Ohio-native Neil Armstrong, alongside Tralee Mayor Graham Spring.

One of the most magical nights by far was the Rose Ball, an extravagant event where I sat with my fellow Roses and Escorts on the Dome Stage and enjoyed an amazing meal, all while looking out onto hundreds of people that had come in support of the International Rose of Tralee Festival and all of us. The various parades were also incredibly special, especially during the day parade when I heard an "O-H" from the crowd and, like a current OSU student's reflex, shouted back "I-O"; I saw 2 strangers in



the crowd.

Later, I received a Facebook message from them stating that they were visiting Ireland from Ohio and had to go to the parade to support their fellow Ohioan. It brought together my family, who braced the cold rain of the night parade with signs and smiles, and strangers who came to support me and show their Ohio pride even from across the Atlantic Ocean.

There were so many sites and beautiful scenery that we saw with awe throughout Ireland. Of course, pictures cannot do any justice to 3D beauty! However, one of the most memorable things I will take back from this are the amazing conversations on the bus rides, late night talks with my roommate Celine, the Kerry Rose,

and ordering a large pepperoni pizza to eat with Michelle, the Washington DC Rose, after a busy day of activities, because we just couldn't bear to miss a second taking everything in.

It has been a whirlwind experience after being selected on a cold February night in Westlake; I am so thankful for the support I have received from the beginning. From my family members that travelled across the pond to Ireland to support me and my Irish family from Cong in Co. Mayo who supported me with signs, shirts, and buttons. I cannot express my gratitude of looking out into a crowd of people and seeing my proud Ohio family. A special thank you to Gormley's Pub in Rocky River for their support during my Ohio selections and over in Ireland; to the 2017 Ohio Rose, Meghan Adams; and for the amazing team at the Ohio Rose Centre, Denise, Mike, Kyle and Ashley. Finally, thank you to the Irish community of Cleveland for their support in my journey and the many well wishes I have received.

I have been so welcomed at many events, including the Mayo Society Tea, appearances on the Gerry Quinn Irish Radio Show, marching in the Saint Patrick's Day Parade and Cleveland Irish Festival, and at every turn, I met people from all over wishing me the best of luck in my journey, including Patrick Murphy of Gaelic Storm!

This unforgettable experience took me to parts of Ireland, including Dublin, Kildare, and Kerry, that I have never been before, and I was able to explore these beautiful parts of Ireland with wonderful people by my side. I have many couches to crash on when visiting Germany, Ireland, Australia, Canada, England and all over the United States. It has also been an amazing experience to spread my Irish Heritage through philanthropy when I was able to donate to Youth Challenge Sports through the Ohio Rose Centre, a cause in which I am very passionate about. I look forward to completing my year as the 2018 Ohio Rose and welcoming in future Ohio Rose classes for years to come! ■

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6:00 Cash Bar 6:30 Dinner
7:30 Awards Ceremony

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We Get Letters

To Ohio Irish American News:

I just loved Tara Quinn's article in December 2018 publication!!! It hit "Home" for me.

"Bloom Where You Are Planted" ruled and Blessed my life for many years in Euclid Ohio when I was a single Mommy raising 2 daughters.

Merry Christmas AND Happy Holidays to y'all!!!!

Love and thanks,
Maureen Walsh Khal

Hi John,

I just wanted to thank you for publishing Terry Boyle's article in

the December Issue. It is thoughtful and inspiring. Although not the point of his article, I believe that he truly defined the meaning of 'Being Irish'.

As a young boy, my grandmother counseled me on how to become a true Irishman. She explained that the Irish had been scorned and belittled. She stated that no True Irishman (this meant Irish person, the time was the 50s) would be racist, selfish, greedy, dishonest or mistreat anyone as a lesser person: "An Irishman always without fear sees the beautiful and possible. Never act out of fear or anger."

I believe that my grandmother

sadly left her family in Ireland as a teenager by herself, like many others. She never was able to see her parents or her beloved country again. She never forgot the lessons learned about bigotry in Ireland. She decried any form of racism or treating any group or person as lower class. To her all life was worthwhile and all people no matter race, religion or sex deserved respect.

I hope that Terry's article will achieve a wide circulation.

Best regards,
John Conway
Chairman of Cleveland Chapter INA

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Ireland Honors Founder of Milwaukee Irish Fest with Prestigious Presidential Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Abroad

CelticMKE is proud to share that Ed Ward, founder of the world-renowned Milwaukee Irish Fest, has been awarded Ireland's Presidential Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Abroad.

Founded in 2012, the award is presented by the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, and recognizes individuals living abroad for their extraordinary service to the country of Ireland and Irish communities. Former recipients include businessman and diplomat Dan Rooney as well as acclaimed actor and philanthropist Liam Neeson.

Each year, no more than ten individuals receive this honor for their efforts across six categories, including Arts, Culture and Sports; Business and Education; Charitable Works; Irish Community Support; Peace, Reconciliation and Development; and Science, Technology and Innovation.

The Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Coveney, T.D., announced and commended this year's



recipients, "Through their work, they contribute to building an invaluable positive image of Ireland and Irish people around the world."

Milwaukee Irish Fest started out as a one-of-a-kind festival almost four de-

cadecades ago and since then, has become the world's largest celebration of Irish music and culture. Every August, the festival welcomes over 100,000 fans of Irish and Celtic music and culture for four days of unprecedented music, cultural events, family activities and so much more.

"Ed's concept of staging an event to celebrate Irish and Celtic music and culture has evolved into the thriving organization known today as CelticMKE," said Linda Clark Klibowitz, president of the board of directors for CelticMKE. "We're incredibly happy for him and especially grateful for his tireless efforts over the years to build the festival."

With Ed's help, CelticMKE is now home to a number of informative programs such as the Ward Irish Music Archives and Milwaukee Irish Fest

Summer School, which further educates the next generation on the music and history of Ireland.

Mick Moloney, global distinguished professor at New York University, also applauded Ed's inclusion in this year's honorees, "For close to forty years, I have watched, often with amazement, as Ed pioneered and developed a breathtaking vision for the presentation and preservation of Irish culture all over North America and beyond."

"Ed has been a mentor to me for more than two decades, said Ohio Irish American News Publisher, John O'Brien, Jr. "Whether with Cleveland Irish Fest or the OhioIANews, I know I can always call Ed for feedback, ideas, and direction. He will steer me right. Ed has been a great friend to the Irish, the world over." ■

St. Augustine Health Ministries Celebrates 50 Years of Serving Cleveland

St. Augustine Health Ministries is celebrating 50 years of serving the Cleveland community. To celebrate, Gandalf's Pub & Restaurant and the Frankie Kong Players will be presenting two special benefit shows of Flanagan's Wake on Sunday, January 27, at Kennedy's at Playhouse Square!

Join the villagers of the beautiful fictional village of Grapplin, County Sligo, Ireland, as they tell tales, sing songs, and

mourn the passing of one of their own, Flanagan. During this hilarious interactive Irish wake, you'll be transported to the Emerald Isle to grieve as only the Irish can. You can share tales of your own experiences and misadventures with dear old Flanagan, or simply enjoy the stories and songs of the locals as they recall life with "Himself."

We are asking for your support with a unique opportunity to help sponsor this event. The money raised will support St. Augustine's sensory stimulation program for residents who have brain injuries, dementia or are on ventilators. Over the past 50 years, St. Augustine has cared for many of our brothers and sisters most in need.

Please join us in supporting in the good works of St. Augustine with a sponsorship! Confirm your support with us by Monday, January 14, so that we can begin to acknowledge your donation. If you have questions or are interested in additional tickets, please contact Lia Serpico at St. Augustine's Advancement Office at lserpico@st-aug.org or call 216-939-7711

Tell them you saw their ad in the OhioIANews! ■

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By Dottie Wenger



Irish Phrase for Kids' Craic

"Athbhliain faoi mhaise duit."

Pronunciation:
ah-vleen free vosh-ah gwit

Translation:
"A happy and prosperous New Year to you."



Irish New Year Traditions Over the Centuries

The Irish are known for ancient customs and superstitions regarding the ringing in of each new year, a few fun examples include:

House Cleaning: Years ago, it was customary to begin the New Year with a spotless house. So, the final days of the previous year were spent thoroughly cleaning the house. This signified a fresh start to the New Year.

Honoring the Departed: On the first night of the New Year, families would remember those who passed away the previous year by setting a place for them at the dinner table and leaving the house unlocked.

Getting Rid of Bad Luck: This tradition involved banging on the doors and walls of the house with Christmas bread. This was thought to remove bad luck from the house and invite good fortune in for the New Year.

Wishing for a Spouse: Single men and women often would put sprigs of mistletoe, holly and ivy leaves under their pillow. By doing this, it was believed they would dream of their future husband or wife.

Predicting Luck - Good or Bad - in the New Year: There have been superstitions about the first visitor to the house on New Year's Day. If a tall, dark handsome man was the first to pass through the door, it meant that the family would have good luck that year. But if it was a girl - especially a red-haired one! - hardship and grief would visit the home.

Setting the Stage for the New Year at the Stroke of Midnight: Many Irish folks would, as the clock struck twelve, enter the house through the front door and exit through the back door. This was another way in which it was thought a family could ensure good luck in the New Year.

FLANAGAN'S WAKE IS BACK!

The Hilarious Interactive Irish Wake is Every Friday & Saturday at 8pm starting January 4th. Kennedy's Theatre at Playhouse Square, Downtown Cleveland. 216-241-6000 or 866-546-1353 www.playhousesquare.org

BROOKLYN

HOOLEY HOUSE!

4th - Disco Inferno, 11th - Old Skool, 19th - Abbey Rodeo. 10310 Cascade Crossing, Brooklyn 216-362-7700. 1FunPub.com

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12th - Andrew McManus 10am-2pm. 24th - Doug Kusak - Cleveland Metroparks Zoo History 7pm-9pm. 3600 West Park Road. Cleveland, Oh 44111 www.5pointscfe.com



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THE HARP

4th - The Kilroy's Session 8p, 5th - Chris Allen 8p, 9th - Lonesome Stars 8p, 11h - Kristine Jackson 8p, 12th - The Porter Sharks 8p, 16th - Chris & Tom 8p, 18th - Walking Cane 8p, 19th - The Auld Pitch 8p, 23rd - Lonesome Stars 8p, 25th - Rachel Brown 8p, 26th - Bill Lestock 8p, 30th - Chris & Tom 8p. 4408 Detroit Road, 44113 www.the-harp.com

FLAT IRON CAFÉ

4th - Donegal Doggs 6:30-10pm, 11th - Jimmy-O 6-10pm, 18th - Cats on Holiday 6:30-9:30pm, 25th - Donal O'Shaughnessy. 1114 Center St. Cleveland 44113-2406 216.696.6968. www.flatironcafe.com

TREEHOUSE

6th - Thor Platter; 13th - Kristine Jackson; 20th - Michael Crawley Trio; 27th - brokENglish. 820 College Avenue, Cleveland, 44113 www.treehousecleveland.com

PJ MCINTYRE'S

5th - Marys Lane, 9th - Monthly Pub Quiz w Mike D. @ 7, 19th - Yellow Delicious, 23rd - Comedy Night, 26th - The Rockin Ravers, 27th - Loch Eire.
Don't forget T-Shirt Tues: wear any PJs T-Shirt get 15% off bill! Whiskey Wed: ½ off every whiskey in the house. Thurs -

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EUCLID

IRISH AMERICAN CLUB EAST SIDE

4th - Kennedy/Riley, 11th - Comedy Night, 18th - Loch Erie, 26th - 41st Anniversary Dance w Marys Lane. PUB: 7:30 - 10:30. IACES 22770 Lake Shore Blvd. Euclid, 44123. 216.731.4003 www.eastsideirish.org

FAIRVIEW PARK

GUNSELMAN'S

31st - New Year's Eve Bash; 7pm cocktails, 8pm Dinner. Party Room available for rent. Kitchen is open 11am-10pm - Daily Comfort Food Specials. Sunday Brunch 11AM-2PM. Gift Cards straight to their cell phone. 21490 Lorain Rd, Cleveland, OH 44126. www.gunselmans.com

ROCKY RIVER

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12/31 - Irish New Year's Eve: 3:30pm to 7pm w/ The Portersharks! Champagne toast @7pm (12 midnight in Ireland) Pub will remain open until 9pm. 3rd - Brittany a& Brent Hopper, 4th - Jeff Varga, 10th - New Barleycorn, 11th - No Strangers Here, 12th - WSIA Pipe Band Fundraiser, 13th - Sunday Irish Session w Francis Quinn, 17th - Mossy Moran, 18th - Crosswinds, 19th - Ballinloch, 24th - West Awake, 25th - Chris Allen, 31st - Pat Shepard. 9500 Center Ridge Rd, Rocky

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MEDINA / MONTROSE

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4th - New Barleycorn, 5th - Music Men, 11th - Mossy Moran, 12th - Brother Crowe, 18th - Dan McCoy, 19th - Other Brothers, 25th - West Awake, 26th - Donal Shaughnessy. Don't Miss The Druid Ball Jackson Celebration w/ New Barleycorn on 2/23! 117 West Liberty Medina, 44256 www.sullysmedina.com.

HOOLEY HOUSE MONTROSE

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11th - Big in Japan, 18th - Disco Inferno, 25th - Abby Normal & the Detroit Lean. 7861 Reynolds Rd Mentor www.1funpub.com (440) 942-6611.

OLMSTED TWP

WEST SIDE

IRISH AMERICAN CLUB

5th - New Barleycorn in the Pub, 6th - Marching registration & practice, 12th -

Open Mic night. Great live music & food in The Pub every Friday. Join us in October for the 2019 Italy tour!! WSIA Club 8559 Jennings Rd. 44138 www.wsia-club.org. 440-235-5868.

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GANDALF'S

5 - Furious George, 12 - Lego Legros, 19 - Jay Wonkovich, 26 - Crooked Trio. Join us for Brunch EVERY SUNDAY. Great food, atmosphere, staff and fun. 6757 Center Road Valley City, 44280 www.gandalfspub.com.

WESTLAKE

HOOLEY HOUSE

11th - New Barleycorn, 18th - Marys Lane, 25th - Morning Glory, 26th - The Feedbacks. 24940 Sperry Dr. Westlake 44145. 1FunPub.com (440) 835-2890

COLUMBUS

SHAMROCK CLUB

4th - Quiz Night, 5th, CNG Dart Tournament, 6th - General Meeting, 18th - Ladies of Longford, 26th - Hooligans. Happy Hour every Friday from 5-7pm! 60 W. Castle Rd. Columbus 43207 614-491-4449 www.shamrockclubofcolumbus.com

TARA HALL

Traditional Irish music w General Guinness Band & Friends 2nd Friday 8:00 - 11:00pm. No Cover. Tara Hall 274 E. Innis Ave. Columbus, 43207 614.444.5949.

TOLEDO

TOLEDO IRISH AMERICAN CLUB

13th - Traditional Irish Music Showcase, 2pm-4pm Art & Performance Center of West Toledo, 2702 W. Sylvania Ave. Toledo, OH 43613. Fun, FREE event! Featuring local musician and teacher Mary Dennis; musicians will play a series of sets often played in traditional Irish sessions, along with discussing the origins, traditions and community of Traditional Irish Music. Learn about each of the instruments commonly played in sessions & an opportunity to pluck/play/pet the instruments with questions highly encouraged! Complimentary Desserts, coffee, soda, and water will be offered.



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Unitarian Universalist Church of Fairlawn, 3300 Morewood Dr. 7:30 pm. 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 - 1st Saturday of the month, 2 -4 pm. Ashtabula on the Harbor

The Harp - 1st 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 Rd., Lakewood, 44107

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

Traditional Irish Social Dancing with the Cleveland Ceili Club

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: Thursday November 1, 8, 29 @West Side Irish American Club.

Fall Ceili, Friday, November 9 @West Side Irish American Club, 8 pm. Music by the Portersharks, \$10.00 @ door, under 18 free

For more info: contact CeiliClubCleveland@gmail.com or find us on Facebook





FIRM FOUNDATION
By Ken Callahan
@KennethRCallahanJr



Sr. Kathleen Flannery

Novelists, screenwriters and trial lawyers share the knowledge that the human mind is attracted to a good story. One of the great attractions of living in northern Ohio is the innumerable stories of its many immigrants, African Americans, Hungarians, Irish, Jewish Americans and so many others, the various cultures and traditions and food that each bring combine to make the rich stew that is us.

Sr. Kathleen Flannery's family history is a unique twist on the familiar story of Irish American immigrants. Her Dad, Francis Flannery, was one of thirteen children born in Belcoo, County Fermanagh, Ireland, whose Mom died in the childbirth of number 13; her Grandfather died soon thereafter, causing the surviving children to be divided, some in Ireland, some to England, and her Dad, Frank, to live with cousin Kennedys in Bratenahl.

Frank grew up in St. Aloysius parish and graduated from Cathedral Latin in 1934. When the Second World War broke out, Frank served in the Army Military Intelligence and first met his future wife, Mary FitzGerald (of Dublin family ancestry, and yes, capital G), who was a nurse in the South Pacific.



Sr. Kathleen Flannery

Their romance did not bloom however until the two met at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Cleveland in 1946, viewing the parade in front of the old Hollenden House Hotel at 6th and Superior, across from the review stand; the couple wed soon thereafter, moved to Euclid and eventually found a home in Holy Cross Parish (now, Our Lady of the Lake) at E.200th and Lakeshore. Sr. Kathleen is the oldest of ten children.



Sr. Kathleen Flannery Dad's family around 1920.

The family home was right next door to the parish convent of Ursuline sisters, a fact that, through observation, influenced Sr. Kathleen's vocation.

Frank Flannery worked at the Labor Department; among his tasks there was to investigate organized crime's penetration of the labor unions, including a certain Danny Green, who, notwithstanding, told her Dad that after a sister's spinal surgery, he "had lit a candle for her."

Her Mom, to contribute to the family and to remain close to her children, set her nursing career aside, went back to college and received her Education Degree from St. John's College and taught at Holy Cross and St. Robert Schools.

Sr. Kathleen attended grade school at Holy Cross and later graduated from Regina High School in 1965 and attended St. John's College in Cleveland.

"I grew up in a very real and prayerful family," Sr. Kathleen recalls. Her parent's bedrock faith was a mainstay even in times of hardship, particularly struggling through a sibling's polio diagnosis, and other major surgeries and illness.

The family had a picture of the Sacred Heart in the living room; it was not until high school that Kathleen learned that there was an envelope taped to the back of it where intentions, often for the sick and special needs, were placed by her parents, grandmother and even their friends.

Sr. Kathleen joined the Ursuline Order in 1966. "I think my



Flannery's mother.

inspirations were the sisters at Holy Cross," she says. "I saw them as real persons, who were dedicated to their lives, to the children they taught, and who seemed so genuinely happy. That was very attracting!"

Sr. has taught at St. Clare School and at St. Mary Magdalene, and also ministered at St. Noel Parish. During that time, she also served in the diocesan Liturgy Office coordinating RCIA. She was able to return to familiar territory from 1990 to 2011 as Pastoral Associate at Holy Cross. Sr. Kathleen is now Parish Life Director at Gesu Parish, coordinating Parish Life and as Director of Liturgy.

We live in a land of immigrants; each group and individual has their own story, their peculiar tale of crossing the bridge from the old world to the new. For the Irish, so often the keys to stability and progress were supported by the pillars of faith, family and education. The unique history of Sr. Kathleen Flannery embraces all three. ■



AKRON IRISH
By Lisa O'Rourke



Comhrá

Language is a virus, sang the punk performance artist Laurie Anderson. While not exactly a catchy tune, it has something that stuck with me. The quote really belongs to William Burroughs, but he didn't play a saxophone. Anyway, what stuck with me was the idea that language could be an impediment to true communication. While language can reveal our thoughts, it can also disguise our true natures and be full of trickery.

Everyone feels frustration with words and their persistent inability to capture our thoughts and emotions. For as much as we are able to reveal with words, language both frames and confines. The heart may feel Shakespeare, but something more like Donald Duck often comes out of the mouth. Language can also get us into trouble, a man's tongue often broke his nose, as the saying goes. Yet, the right words at the right time have inspired actions both good and bad.

It was positive inspiration last weekend at an evening that celebrated the Irish language that I was lucky enough to attend. There is something about Irish, it gets under your skin in a good way.

The evening was a combination of storytelling, personal anecdotes, poetry and song performed by the actor and Gaelgeoir, Dónall O' Héalaí. A Gaelgeoir (galgor) is an Irish language enthusiast, and Dónall is most certainly that. The theme of the evening was about how conversation has the power to change lives.

In his case, it was an evening spent beside the fireplace with his father, watching the turf glow and discussing the fate of the Irish language that proved to be pivotal.

His family have lived as Irish speakers in the Gaeltacht their whole lives and the talk turned, as it had before, to the declining use of Irish.

He asked his father what harm would come if the Irish language disappeared. His father replied that it would mean the death of beauty. Now that might come as a surprise to many, Irish can sound harsh and guttural. It is more



German than Italian to the ear.

But look at the landscape of Ireland that so people love, and you will see that it is harsh too. The language mirrors that stony landscape. Something else to keep in mind, is that the sound is affected by the person speaking as much as a violin is affected by the musician.

One of the most vexing things about Irish is the twists and turns the meanings and uses of words take, again mirroring the landscape, just like the twisting country roads. It is in the twists that the words weave, and that fabric is what makes the Irish oral tradition so famous. The winding road is not the quickest, but it has more scenery.

In what has to be my favorite response to the why learn Irish question,

Dónall said because Irish is an organic invitation to the soul to see life a little differently. Wow, that comment alone was inspiring and had to motivate some learning.

He shared some charming phrases to illustrate his point; a wolf in Irish is called Mac tire (mak teera) or Son of the land, a ladybug is called bóin Dé (boeen day), or God's little cow. It is pretty easy to see the that it does change your perspective on the world. Besides different descriptions, the Irish language just thinks differently. When you talk about speaking in Irish, the preposition that is used is with-you do not tell to or talk at a person, when

you speak, it is always with them. Just the frame changes the perspective and implies connection and sharing. It is no wonder lives are altered through conversation or in Irish, comhrá.

Irish is an old language with a rich oral tradition. That may be why many people feel that it can reach the heart of a situation more directly. It may not be the first choice when you are discussing internet stock mergers, but it is life changing when in a sad love song.

Dónall advised the group to reject any language that is not generous enough to your heart or imagination. When he sang it was in the Sean Nós, or old style, a capella, and with eyes closed so that the song comes from inside singer alone.

He compared it to the singing of a

stream, the sound it makes is pure and for itself. There is no trickery in the conversation that we hear in a stream or the wind. Reject language that is too small for your heart.

Coming home and sitting on the plane, I had that slight dread of my seat mate, the curse of flying alone and not being able to choose your company. A man sat down and immediately began the small talk that you would associate with strangers on a plane, "how 'bout them Browns, weather?" etc. Banal, but where are people to begin?

I am as guilty as anyone of not always being a good listener, but he wanted to talk, and I felt inspired to listen. He told me about growing up in Cleveland, moving away to pursue his career, making good, and then having his life turned upside-down with the birth of his twin daughters.

Normal enough reaction, but the challenge of having a family was compounded by the challenge of having one of the girls born with severe disabilities. His life changed and he wonders about things that he did not before, like why we live in a world that does not help others more and can be downright unkind to his child, and why he and his wife are left to feel so alone in this struggle. He proudly produced pictures of both girls, being sisters and having fun together, mostly due to the care and modifications that he and his wife provide, striving to make a happy normal life for the girls. I listened and heard and learned through that conversation. Reject language that is too small for your heart. ■

Dónall Ó Héalaí @ www.celticconsciousness.com

Lisa O'Rourke is an educator from Akron. She has a BA in English and a Master's in Reading/Elementary Education. Lisa is a student of everything Irish, primarily Gaelige. She runs a Gaelige study group 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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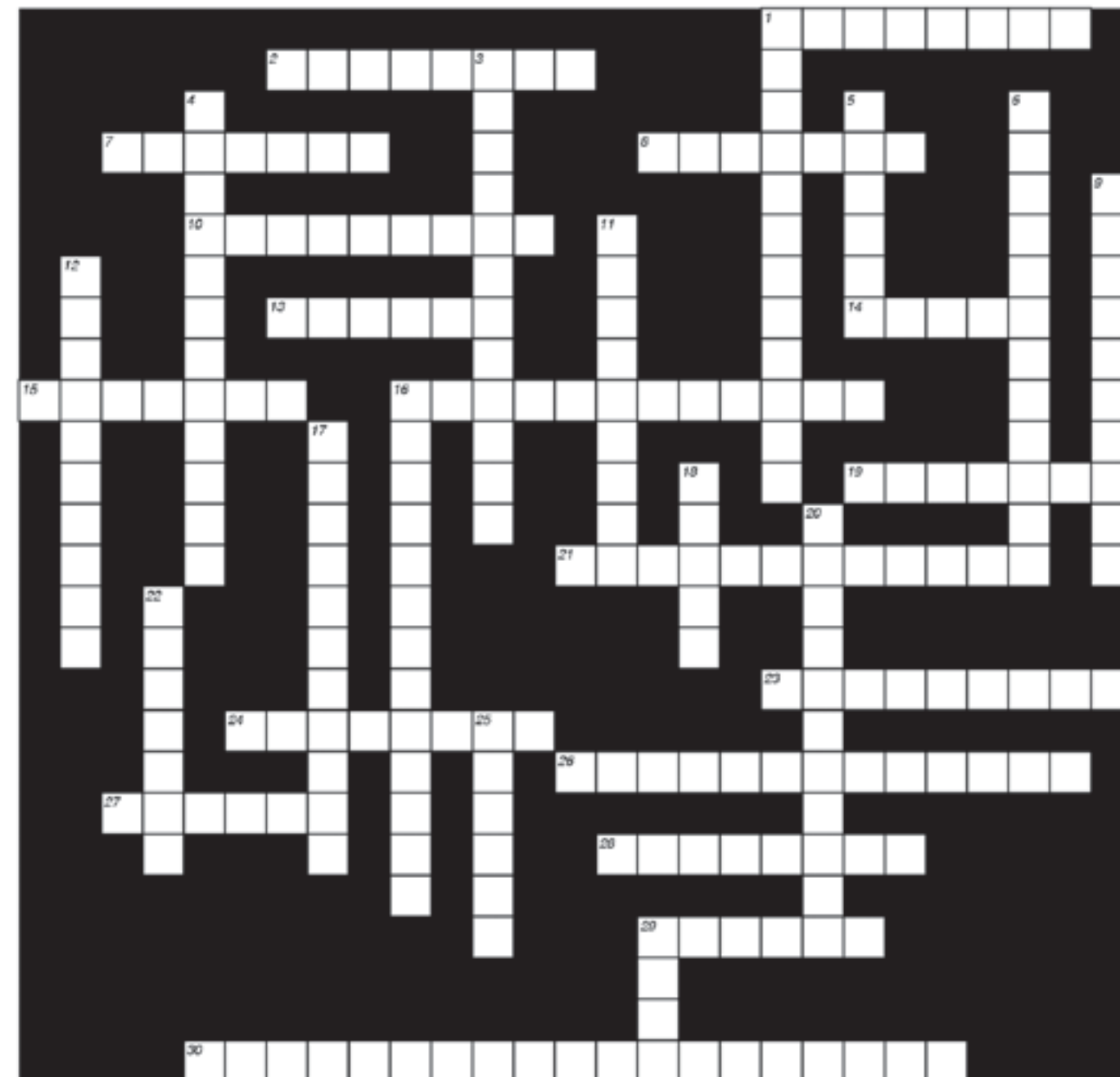
- 1 Located on a short, sandy peninsula jutting into the sea where they temporarily buried the remains of the dead in stormy weather
- 2 Home of BEAL BORU located on the Shannon River across from Ballina
- 7 Home of GALLOW'S HILL and MORRISSEY'S CHAIR
- 8 Home of Trump's Golf Resort
- 10 Famous for its stone and near Cliffs of Moher
- 13 Home of DOONAGORE CASTLE and several pubs that feature traditional music nightly
- 14 Home of a DE VALERA MEMORIAL, STEELES ROCK: and CUSACK PARK: The County G.A.A. grounds
- 15 Home of the VANDELEUR WALLED GARDEN: and CAPP PIER
- 16 Town of a song about a dream at the fair
- 19 Home to an international airport
- 21 Home of AILLWEE CAVE, CORKSCREW HILL, and GREGAN'S CASTLE-HOTEL
- 23 3 Holy Wells: Tobar Breacain, Tobar Ruadhan and one at Lacknashannagh which is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin
- 24 Home of MOYNOE CHURCH where St. Colman the Leper was commemorated and THE CLOGHAUN RIVER has numerous small trout.
- 26 Home of Dangan Castle, Paradise House: and The Clondegad Falls
- 27 The town is a particularly popular Irish seaside resort along the Wild Atlantic Way
- 28 Village just outside Doolin
- 29 Located on a stretch of coast that is dangerous for shipping and home to "Stella Maris" -Star of the Sea. Church with a bell from the shipwreck Leon.
- 30 Home of KNOCKADOON RING FORTS, DROMOLAND CASTLE and CLENAGH CASTLE

DOWN

- 1 Home of the Armada Hotel just outside Miltown Malbay
- 3 Home of the MATCHMAKER FESTIVAL
- 4 Home of AILLWEE CAVE and CAHERMORE RING FORT
- 5 Home of COTTAGE OF Biddu Early and The Battle of Kilbarron took place in this east Clare village in 1289
- 6 Holy Island which is also called the "Island of the Seven Churches," is in Lough Derg
- 9 Home of St. Cronan's Church of Ireland church is the oldest in the county still used, A Famine Memorial Park, and Garden of Remembrance
- 11 Home of a famous Ceili band
- 12 Home of CHURCH HILL and THE FALLS in the town.
- 16 Home of THE MILLS, or] the first rape-seed oil mills.
- 17 Home to an Ecology Park and The blessed well at Tobarniddaun
- 18 You'll find THE TAUMEENS, and WEDGE SHAPED GALLERY GRAVES
- 20 Town on Loophead Peninsula
- 22 Home of INCHUIQUIN CASTLE and THE TAU CROSS
- 25 You will find The Khyber Pass, The Caher Valley and Caher River here.
- 29 You'll find KNAPPOGUE CASTLE, CRAGGAUNOWEN, and a beautiful abbey here

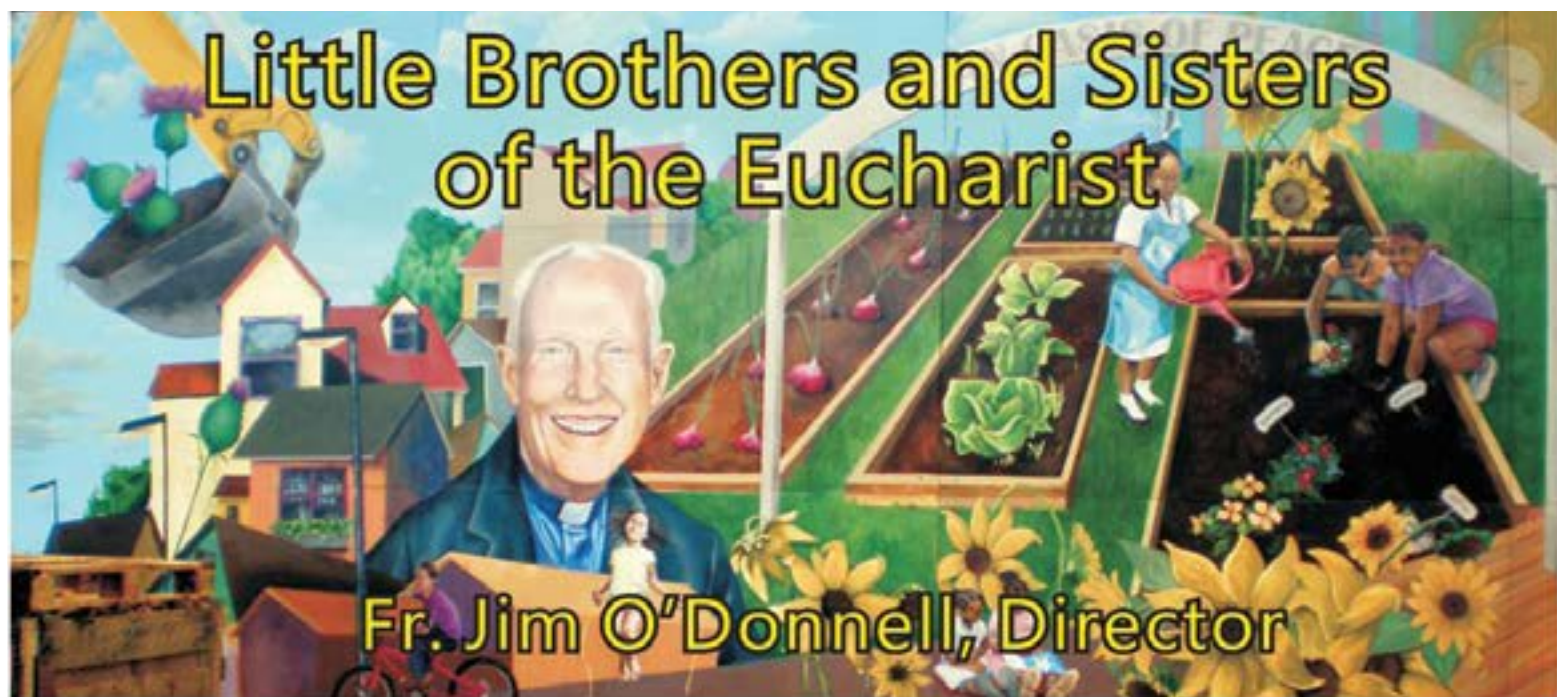
County Clare Towns & Villages

Linda Fulton Burke



WORD BANK: Ballynacally, Ballyvaughan, Carrigaholt, Corofin, Cratloe, Doolin, Doonbeg, Ennis, Ennistymon, Fanore, Feakle, Kildysart, Kilfenora, Kilkee, Killaloe, Kilrush, Liscannor, Lisdoonvarna, Lisseycasey, Mountshannon, Newmarket-on-Fergus, Quilty, Quin, Roadford, Scarriff, Seafield, Shannon, Sixmilebridge, Spancel-hill, Spanishpoint, Tuamgraney, Tulla.

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