



OHIO IRISH AMERICAN NEWS

February 2020 • Volume 14 - Issue 2



**MARYS LANE ~ 10 YEARS OF ROCKIN' &
REELING OHIO, AND BEYOND THE PALE**



EDITOR'S CORNER

By John O'Brien, Jr.



We are all Americans, no matter what we put before the hyphen or the homeland. It is hard to be the first to scale down; to step back; to reset the conversation; to be the adult. Be the adult; be the one to break the cycle of hate that people can call discourse, but if they are not offering viable solutions, is really just a rant.

I thought, with the election, and the stories within, that February would be a good issue. I am so pleased to offer you this issue, full of the things you expect each month, like events, and humor, reviews and recipes, sports, puzzles and perspective, as well as a few surprises, found within.

So looking forward to seeing you all out & about Ohio this month, and as the Green Season comes into its own. Please say hello, before saying goodbye, so we can share a bit of the craic. ■

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

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Responsibility for the Future

Mild winters never bother me. Mild discourse never bothers me. And celebrating St. Patrick's Day is always one way I mark the end of the winter, no matter how hard or painful it has been. It is still February, and we still have a ways to go, I know, but maybe we have turned the corner, to the winter, the toxic discourse that is more rant than effort to actually accomplish something, anything, besides ranting.

And that is the point; if all someone is trying to do is rant, not to actually ACCOMPLISH something, then they are acting much like a

child, not an adult. If there are no viable solutions offered, then they are merely ranting, as any child can do. It takes an adult to break the temper tantrums, and have discourse on beliefs, then on solutions. Do not be ruled by your passions, but by your brain.

"Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future."

—John F. Kennedy

Please Don't let the Irish voice go silent this election. It was hard earned, and our brave forefathers would roll over in their graves if they saw how little we honor what they fought for; what many gave their lives for.

The Primary is scheduled on Tuesday March 17th.

Coincidence? I doubt it. We can't vote often, but we can VOTE in numbers never seen, and never needed more.

I don't agree with everything our government does, so as an adult I know not to criticize unless I also offer viable solutions; one of my options is to vote. Since I am vocal, I don't want to ever not show up to do my duty.

To make sure I never miss it, no matter the weather, the hooley or the chance to make a difference, I vote absentee.

Any Ohio voter can request to vote by mail, prior to the Primary or in person at your County's Board of Election Offices. Remember February 18th is the deadline to register or change your voting address for the 2020 March Primary: www.Ohiosos.gov.

Please get up; Please show up; Please Vote!

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About Our Cover:

Marys Lane, celebrating their 10th Anniversary Rockin' & Reeling Irish America, and Ireland too! We have a little look back, on page 36.

Photo courtesy of Marys Lane



SAFE HOME



Mark Dempsey

March 28, 1964 - January 10, 2020

Mark Dempsey, 55, passed away at Grant Hospital on January 10th, surrounded by family and the music of Queen and U2. A life-long Columbus resident and a proud south-ender, Mark graduated from South High School and later earned an Associate's degree in Business from Columbus State. In between stints at Deibel's Restaurant, catering, and owning Costello's bar in Thurber Village, Mark worked in key positions for the State of Ohio, the City of Columbus and Franklin County governments.

Mark married Megan Stapleton, the love of his life, and they were married for nearly 30 years. Megan was his partner, greatest supporter, and his rock – Mark was well aware of the fact that he had lucked out in the marriage department. Mark's greatest achievement and biggest source of pride was his family. Mark had five kids: Allison (Brady); Celia (Geff); Michaela, Conor and Mary Kate; and seven grandkids: Ava; Norah; Rowan; Haddie; Logan; Marek; and a namesake on the way—who he adored. Besides his family, Mark had three great passions in his life: the restaurant business, local politics, and his Irish heritage.

Mark was a leader, a charismatic and colorful character, and the hardest working individual on the face of the planet. He had an unmatched drive coupled with an Irish twinkle in his eye, ready to stir up trouble at will.

The Blarney Stone will never be stolen again. Mark was someone whom we all truly adored one minute and wanted to throw out a window the next. He took perverse pride in this attribute.

At the time of his passing, Mark was the proud owner of Dempsey's Food and Spirits, located Downtown across from the County Courthouse, where pictures of past and present elected officials and noteworthy people in the Irish community adorn the walls. Mark also revived the historic Jury Room around the corner, and hosted special events in the space.



He served as past president and was an active member of the Columbus Shamrock Club, and was also a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the 4S Club. He threw himself headlong into local politics, supporting local candidates, hosting fundraisers, and held an elected position on the Franklin County Democratic Party Central Committee.

Mark Dempsey was a force, a truly larger-than-life character, and he was taken from us way too soon. We'll not see the likes of him again. Sosa i síocháin, Mark.

Mark is preceded in death by his mother Barbara, brothers Daniel, David and Timothy, and sister Shelley. Besides his immediate family, he is survived by uncles James and Jerry Dempsey, aunt Mary Dempsey, cousins, and many, many friends.

Megan and the family would like to express their deep appreciation to the doctors, nurses and support staff at Grant Hospital for all of their hard work and for their sensitive care of Mark.

In lieu of flowers, please send contributions to the Columbus Shamrock Club, 60 W. Castle Road, Columbus OH 43207.

Obituary Courtesy of Egan-Ryan Funeral Home www.egan-ryan.com

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- Recommended for endorsement by the City and Ward Leaders of the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party.

• **Primary Election, March 17, 2020** •

Elect Colleen Ann
Reali
For Common Pleas Judge
Domestic Relations Division

colleenannrealiforjudge@gmail.com
Paid for by Colleen Ann Reali for Judge



**AT HOME,
ABROAD**
By Regina Costello



Spring is in the Air

Departing the homestead
Young shoulders bear heavy backpacks.
Sweet faces kissed by crisp early morning dew,
Cold, damp noses drip.
The playful terrier dances
Oblivious to the hardship.

Left-over Autumn leaves rustle underfoot.
Golden silence abounds
Broken by a yellow mammoth
Magically appearing in the mist
Grinding to a halt.

Children, bundled up warmly, clamber aboard
Eager to escape the cold wrath of the early hour.

The noisy engine roars with acceleration
Disturbing the peace once more
Disappears quickly into the mist
On its way to devour additional youngsters
Along its designated route.

I resume my walk with my wheaten.
Dawn begins to break
Casting light on peeping buds on trees and shrubbery.
A promise of a new beginning - A reminder of the cycle of life.
A hope for kinder weather and long daylight hours.
Envious that Spring has already arrived in Ireland,
I close my eyes and see the blooming daffodils and crocuses
freckling the landscape
Of the forty shades of green.

Be patient I tell myself,
Beidh on tEarrach san aer anseo go luath
Spring will be in the air here soon.

Regina is a graduate of History and Philosophy from the National University of Ireland, Galway and a post graduate of Library and Information Studies from the National University of Ireland, Dublin. She is the former Assistant Librarian of the Economic and Social Research Institute, Dublin; former Curator of Irish American Archives of the Cleveland History Center; former Executive Director of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Commission and former Executive Director 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

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Medina County AOH Annual Charitable Beer Run

The Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) Medina Division "Irish Brigade" will hold its 4th Annual Charitable Beer Run on Saturday March 28, 2020.

Cost is \$65 p/person & includes bus transportation, light breakfast and lunch, along with many snacks and water. We will be stopping at five local Micro Breweries including Rshea (new South Main location), Missing Falls Akronym, & more.

There will be games of chance, including poker, 50-50 & gift basket drawings. All monies raised after expenses will be

donated to charitable organizations. We have donated to Regina Health for the care of religious suffering from Alzheimer, Medina Food Pantry, Shop with a Cop, Birthcare, The Oaks Family Care Center and others.

The bus will leave from Hinckley Township Hall at 9am and return by 5:30pm. The Township Hall is located at the corner of Center Road (Route 303) & Ridge Road (Route 3) in Hinckley.

For tickets and more information, contact Dave Manley [(330) 273-3118 or ruthannanddavid@gmail.com. ■

ON THIS DAY IN IRISH HISTORY - FEBRUARY

1 February 1177 - With a small contingent of knights and footmen, Norman knight John de Courcy invades Eastern Ulster, seizing the town of Down from it's King, Rory Mac Donlevy.

2 February 1881 - Birth of James Joyce, poet, novelist, and playwright.

4 February 1868 - Constance Markiewicz, nee Gore Booth, revolutionary and Sein Fein politician, is born in London.

6 February 1685 - James II becomes King of England, Scotland, and Ireland - the last Catholic monarch to be crowned.

8 February 1983 - The 1981 Derby winner, Sherger, is stolen from a stable in Ireland. A two-million-pound ransom was demanded but not paid, and the horse was never seen again.

12 February 2009 - Hugh Leonard,

pseudonym of John Keyes Bryne, dramatist and writer, notably of Da (1973), died.

18 February 1948 - John A. Costello (Fianna Gael) was elected Taoiseach in the first inter-party government.

18 February 1366 - English King Edward III introduces "The Statutes of Kilkenny," in an attempt to prevent Norman settlers from becoming "more Irish than the Irish themselves."

25 February 1852 - Death of Thomas More, poet and author of "Melodies." He is the national lyric poet of Ireland.

28 February 1884 - Revolutionary Sean Mac Diarmada is born in Kiltycolgher, Co. Leitrim. He was one of the seven signatories of the Proclamation of the Republic and was court martialed and executed on May 12, 1916.



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TERRY FROM DERRY
By Terry Boyle



Send in the Clowns

Clowns are fascinating. Despite the recent upsurge of despicable clowns who aim to frighten rather than amuse, the genre of the funny man or woman is of great value.

For example, Shakespeare's funny men were smart. Some have even speculated that his jesters were Irish. Given their wicked sense of wry humour, I would believe it. Those men were experts in levity and satire.

Their acid wit could strip away the hyperbole in a phrase. The bard's entertainers knew how to deliver a joke with a jab. Whether it was about sex, death or power, there was no taboo subject for the

clown. They are able to address subjects we would normally avoid because they are able to make us laugh at ourselves.

The jester, despite his skating on thin ice, is tolerated by the king more than anyone else simply because the funny man speaks the truth. In a world full of sycophants, we need someone to unmask the truth, no matter how painful.

The scary clown, such as that of Stephen King's 'IT', is rooted in our fear of the strange. There are some funny people who put the laughter on the other side of our faces.

The dangerous clowns are those who are in power. It's a scary world when

incompetent buffoons govern our country. Such people instill fear; they destroy good will and make us fearful about who we are and where we live; their incompetency threatens our very existence. Donald Trump.

Donald Trump is one such clown. His actions, though laughable, are dangerous. His twittering thoughts, the signs of a deranged mind, are insidious. Those ideas are designed to play on our fears and force us to become dependent on his capricious leadership.

Clowns entertain, they subvert, and we love them for it. The clown delights us with their wit. We love the absurdity of custard pie, the whizzing bow tie and the big foot-in-mouth shoes. Even the darkest clowns of Samuel Beckett can make us laugh until we cry. Trump is a mutant clown of hazardous proportions. He makes our bellies ache, but not in a good way.

How can we like a man who despises the poor, ridicules the disenfranchised, and who is loved by people who are willing to abandon their consciences in order to get what they want? The recent reaction to the editorial in Christianity Today says it all.

When someone is lambasted for expressing their opinion, then we need to worry about what sort of government we have created. If freedom of speech is taken from us, then we've allowed ourselves to become slaves to a despot's whims.

Are Fundamentalists No Fun and All Mental
Donald Trump maybe the patron saint of fundamentalists, but, to use

a definition of fundamentalism that a friend once shared, fundamentalists are no fun and all mental. Fundamentalists, of any religion, do not engage with complex issues with any real integrity, rather they like to simplify things to suit a convenient agenda under an umbrella of pseudo-righteousness. Trump speaks their language when he reduces everything to propaganda and baseless opinion. He lies, creates fake news, and it's lapped up as though it is the truth. His clownish actions are not laughed at, as they should be; instead, his idiotic party are venerated by a Republican Party who has lost its moral compass. His presidency is the result of a joke backfiring on us.

It's one thing to be frustrated by Washington, but it's another thing to be made fun of by a man who uses his power to inflate his own ego. Now, the joke is on us.

When a grown man makes fun of a teenager who is trying to improve the world, should we laugh? When a president scoffs at those who suffer, is it funny? While Trump ignores the chaos he's creates, we should not.

Whether we like it or not, our world is fast becoming a wasteland because of men like Donald Trump. Heaven is refusing to accept the chemical waste we throw at it and soon our world will begin to implode on itself. This presidency has stretched us beyond the borders of sanity.

The clown in the White House spits in the hand of God while making a deal with the Devil. He is not alone in this wanton abandonment of good

Continued on facing page

Clowns

Continued from facing page

conscience. The senate Republicans, in wishing to acquit Trump of his impeachment, have judged truth and justice to be obsolete.

There is no fair trial if there is no fair representation of the charges that lay at Trump's feet. Democracy, in congress, has become a scapegoat for senators who have washed their hands of the truth. Instead, these politicians prefer to pray with their wallets, while smothering the voice of reason inside themselves, and, as such, make a joke of government.

The world we live in is sadly missing clowns. Washington did need someone to wake them up. However, if the vote in 2016 was meant to shake up those in

power it went sadly wrong. Our elections have been manipulated by outside forces, we stupidly placed a reality show celebrity in a powerful place and it's no joke. Now, when we're in a time when it's hard to know what is true and what is not, we need clowns. We need those who can help us regain our sanity. Those who can enable us to laugh at those who try to control us through their own selfish greed.

It's time for us to speak out against the senselessness and defend what we had, before it's gone for good. Democracy is at risk of becoming redundant as we pave the way for dictatorship. It's time to send in the clowns. ■

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What We Do for Love

I admit it, I am that person... I love love! I can't wait for Valentine's Day, read Jane Austen, watch Rom/Coms, just give it all to me! It is so pervasive that I have infected my entire family, which is amazing considering that I am at a gender disadvantage there; three to one.

You may think that I bullied them, but I like to think my pure enthusiasm and solid belief that love is indeed the answer permeated the minds of the men in my life. It speaks to their character that they endure me without criticism and even appear to absorb a little bonhomie from the experience.

In spite of all of this or maybe because of it, I decided that my reading list must expand. It has taken a macho turn, in an attempt to redress the omissions of my past, catching up on fearsome Hunter S. Thompson and his ilk, the snarky, inebriated wise-fools that assessed the world at large and suffered no fools in the process. So imagine my surprise when in one of these tomes, I read that love is really the singular motivation to human action! What, in one of these books? It must be true then. But is it?

History seemed like a good place to test

this theory. A quick search led to Irish stories that "changed history." The quotation marks are there because the history that they changed was personal narrative.

I was after bigger fish; did it change the fates of countries for example? Yes, yes it did. The very nature of Ireland was changed due to love, probably not for the better, and by an O'Rourke no less.

It happened hundreds of years ago, back when Ireland was a feudal system, many chiefs with many fiefdoms overseen by a high king. Alliances between the fiefdoms were forged in some instances, through marriage.

Just such an arrangement occurred to a young lady named Dervorgilla, in the 12th century. She was the daughter of the chieftain of Meath, a reportedly lovely young lady who was promised by her father to none other than Tiernan O'Rourke, chieftain of Breifne, who was reportedly neither young nor lovely.

To complicate things further, she had some prior relationship with another, Dermot MacMurrough, who was the chieftain of Leinster at that time. The story goes that Tiernan went out one day on a pilgrimage to Crough Patrick in Mayo only to return to find his lady had departed.

How she left is a matter of multiple interpretations, but she left with Dermot, and in no particular hurry, since she left with her furniture and cattle. She eventually returned to Breifne after spending years in Leinster, and Dermot was punished by being expelled from Ireland by the High King, Rory O'Connor.

Dermot did not take this banishment sitting down. He went to England and told his tale of woe to Henry II. When he returned to Ireland, it was with a champion in hand by the name of Strongbow, aka Richard de Clare. Strongbow was not fighting without reward and he got them.

Strongbow was promised Dermot's daughter Aoife as a bride, and land in Ireland. He defeated the last High King of



The Ros Tapestry on display in Wexford. This panel shows the abduction of Dervorgilla.

Ireland, Rory O'Connor, and was granted land in the East of Ireland, in Meath, which was known as the Pale. Rory eventually bent the knee to him and retired to the west of Ireland as the last High King of Ireland.

I first heard this story over a few pints in Cleveland. I was told was that the O'Rourkes were to blame for the English coming to Ireland! Tiernan O'Rourke couldn't keep his wife happy and then couldn't let go of the embarrassment of losing her to another man and invited the English in to fight his cause and they never left.

That is a heavy charge to put against a family, love or not. I was half honor bound and half terrified to even look into this. I should have known better than to think that there could be an Irish history that was clear cut.

There as many versions and interpretations as I have fingers. The most prevalent version is that Dervorgilla was kidnapped by Dermot. I had to consult the Four Masters for some source information.

For the uninitiated, this is the Bible of Irish history. The "kidnapping" of Dervorgilla was probably done at her brother's request to remove her from the potential harm in the fiefdom disputes. She was undoubtedly held by McMurrough to both anger O'Rourke, whom he did not like, and highlight his defiance of the other chieftains.

The idea of kidnapping was also a powerful tool in courting opinion with the other chieftains; it certainly painted Dermot as a bad guy. He probably wasn't a great guy, but ambition and arrogance

seem more attributable to him than any great love for Dervorgilla.

So, did love change the fate of Ireland? No, no it did not. Not unless we want to call narcissism and unbridled ambition love. This was not the Valentine that I supposed at the outset.

I wanted to think that some thwarted romance shifted history. And, not for nothing, the love part sells the narrative then and now. It sold the story and motivated some of the chieftains who backed O'Rourke hundreds of years ago.

But love does not live in politics. Politics is a sport, played by people vying for a top spot. Historians who put major political shifts down to love really want someone to blame, some vixen or enchantress to foist ambitious failings onto. At the end, the honest personal stories that I looked at first seem to be the only place to look for the answer. ■

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 Gaelic. She runs a Gaelic 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 puppy, cats and fish. Lisa can be contacted at olisa07@icloud.com. Please send any Akron events to the email listed above!

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by John Myer

Stormont Back in Business

The political parties leading the Six Counties have broken a three-year long deadlock in the Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly. The Assembly, created as part of the Good Friday Accord, has not met for the last three years. The Assembly, which meets at The Parliament Buildings at Stormont Estate in East Belfast, is often referred to as "Stormont."

An impasse was reached three years ago when the Loyalist parties (DUP & UUP) stopped recognition of Irish as one of the Official languages in the Six Counties, coupled with the "Ash for Cash" scandal involving the DUP. As part of the agreement to reconvene, Irish Language Legislation will now be introduced for adoption.

Losses in the London Parliament elections this past December motivated the DUP to come to the table. A functioning Assembly is critical to manage the implementation and impact of Brexit.

Brexit Set for January 1, 2020

Boris Johnson, the UK Prime Minister, with his new mandate from the December, 2019 elections, has successfully put through legislation to formally leave the European Union after January 31, 2020. In practice the UK will still operate under the European Union through the end of 2020, while the details of the 'divorce' are negotiated.

While historical for the UK, it is also one of the most significant events to hit Ireland in many generations, apart from the Good Friday Accord. As the

UK is Ireland's largest trading partner, the Irish economy will be hurt and benefitted.

Many financial and service companies currently located in London have



been eyeing Dublin or Amsterdam as likely places to move operations to stay within the EU. The Border with the Six Counties is the largest issue; PM Boris Johnson has bent to EU pressure and moved to soften any impact to the artificially created border between the Six Counties and Republic of Ireland.

This has created the likelihood of a customs border in the Irish Sea, much to the fury of the Unionists, who argue they are being treated differently than the other parts of the UK. In effect this will create a more united island of Ireland economy as the Six Counties will still be impacted by EU regulations, aligned with the Republic. This will also lay a firmer foundation for a United Ireland and increased calls for a "Border Poll" (ie a vote on uniting Ireland) provided for in the Good Friday Agreement. 2020 looks to be memorable year for Ireland.

A Nationalist Majority of MP's

Wigs on the Green

With the election of John Finucane, the son of slain Irish Civil Rights Lawyer Pat Finucane, to the North Belfast MP seat in the December 2019 UK Parliament elections, the Unionist MP's find themselves in the minority. Finucane, representing Sinn Fein, won the North Belfast seat, long held by DUP Westminster leader, Nigel Dodd.

This seat was held by the DUP since the creation of the Six County statelet a century ago. This tipped the balance to a majority of the 18 seats from the Six Counties in the UK Parliament to Nationalists. A certain milestone for the Six Counties.

The Dáil

2020 will also be a busy year for the Dáil Éireann (Irish Parliament). Look for Taoiseach (PM) Leo Varadkar to call a snap election for the 158 members of the Irish Legislative body in February 2020.

Varadkar, leader of the Fine Gael party, was recently forced to cancel a memorial ceremony related to the

centennial of the Irish War of Independence, where his Government was going to equally honor the despised "Black and Tans" with those fighting for Irish Independence. Upon immediate and forceful backlash to this tone-deaf action, Fine Gael cancelled the event.

Ohio March Primary

Our friends in Columbus have decided to honor the Feast of St. Patrick by setting the Ohio Primary Election on March 17th, 2020. Irish Americans in Ohio will, thankfully, be able to take advantage of Ohio's Early Voting. Any Ohio Voter can request to vote by mail prior to the Primary or in person at your County's Board of Election Offices. Remember February 18th is the deadline to register or change your voting address for the 2020 March Primary. www.Ohiosos.gov ■

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Introducing Your 2020 Ohio Rose of Tralee Applicants!



Shannon Enoch

SHANNON ENOCH
23, Wadsworth, Ohio

Hello! I am from Garrettsville, Ohio - the birthplace of Life Savers candy!

I work as an Accident Liaison for the Cleveland Clinic. This past year I graduated from Hiram College with a degree in Communication and Writing and have begun my next journey towards entering into the field of Public Health as I study to become a paralegal.

In my spare time, I enjoy being involved with my local community by volunteering at the Wadsworth YMCA, listening to National Public Radio podcasts, learning new crochet stitches, and writing Spoken Word poetry. My great-grandmother, Margaret O'Hara, traveled to the United States from Foxford, Co. Mayo. From dancing in the kitchen to Gaelic folk tunes to telling stories of Cu Chulainn and the Fianna, I am blessed to carry on my great-grandmother's legacy and heritage. Applicant Sponsor: Quinn Irish Radio.



Meaghan Gallagher

MEGHAN GALLAGHER
20, Cleveland, Ohio

Hello, I am a full-time student at Mercyhurst University. At my university, I founded the first Irish Club, where we focus on uniting students of Irish descent as well as educating those who wish to learn more about the culture.

I spend my time in Cleveland working as a waitress at Edgewater Yacht Club.

My roots run deep in the West Park community of Cleveland, where the community itself embraces the Irish culture with immense pride. My Irish heritage runs on both sides of my family along the West of Ireland (Claire, Achill, and Donegal) and obtaining my own



Maureen Rose Ginley

dual citizenship to Ireland has allowed the staple of my heritage to open endless possibilities for my future.

All that I am and who I've become is because of the sacrifices made by those before to emigrate to the United States.

Applicant Sponsor: 5 Points Coffee and Tea. Charity of Choice: Mercy International Centre.

MAUREEN ROSE GINLEY
27, Columbus, Ohio

Hello! I live/work in Columbus. A proud alumna of John Carroll University and the NEOMFA in Creative Writing Program, I made the move from Cleveland to Buckeye Land in August 2017.

I currently work as a User Experience Content Writer at Huntington National Bank. Here, I put my creative and editorial skills to work to create better financial experiences for customers and bankers alike.

In my spare time, I write for the Ohio Irish American News and volunteer side-by-side with my rescue dog Elvis (who is a Friendly Pet Visitor with the National Church Residences). My paternal grandmother, Mary Josephine Ginley (née Loftus), was born in Bunahowna, Co. Mayo, and came to the States at age 19. My paternal grandfather, Thomas Ginley, has family roots in the same village. My great-grandfathers on this side even grew up on neighboring farms. Applicant Sponsor: BUA Irish Whiskey.

ERIN HOGAN
24, Cleveland, Ohio

Hi everyone, I have strong Irish roots from Co. Mayo and Co. Clare.

I graduated from John Carroll University in 2017 with a BA in Theology and Religious Studies, with a minor in Business and Classical Studies. I basically tried to cover as many different subjects as I could in my four years as an undergrad.

Currently, I work full time as a high school youth minister at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Cuyahoga Falls and am working towards my MA in Theology.

Whenever I'm not diving head-first into slip-n-slides covered in shaving cream with my teens, I enjoy teaching Irish Dance, drinking hot coffee, and watching all things superhero-related with my little sister. Applicant Sponsor: The Harp.

GRAINNE HUTCHINSON
24, Cleveland, Ohio

Dia dhuit! I was born, raised, and educated a Buckeye! I have a Bachelor's in Marketing with a Global Option, which required a fantastic semester abroad at Trinity College Dublin.

I now use my degree at Huntington National Bank as a Customer Insights Specialist. There I utilize customer research and data to be the voice of the customer throughout the company.

In my spare time, I volunteer at the largest Ronald McDonald House in the world and The Royals Project, where I get to hang out with princess Anna. As my brother was diagnosed with cancer at two, charities helping kids facing terminal illnesses hold a special place in my heart.

Disney and Traveling are my two greatest passions. I hold dual citizenship with Ireland, and my family is

from Portlinton, Offaly. Applicant Sponsor: Fado Pub & Kitchen, Dublin, OH.

CAILIN MARY KLEIN
19, Ohio University

Hello, I am eagerly pursuing a degree in Business and Marketing. My student experiences thus far have been wonderful, I as I was inducted into the Schey Sales Program, accepted into the Women in Leadership Organization, and I am also actively involved in the DSP Business Fraternity.

I am passionate about education, health, and volunteerism. I am the product of wonderful people; my grandparents were both born and raised in Co. Mayo Ireland, and my parents are educators.

I was raised to value education and taught early on that it would give me the opportunity to do something meaningful with my life.

Overall, my goals follow the path that will lead me to success. I am excited to continue learning, meet new people, and build my skillset, so that I can then make a great impact on others. Applicant Sponsor: Brady Campbell Irish Dance.

SARAH MCINERNEY
28, University of Akron, Ohio

I was born and raised in Co. Clare on the west coast of Ireland. I moved to Ohio in 2017 to pursue a PhD, specializing in the area of Biomimicry.

Biomimicry is an interdisciplinary design approach, based on the idea that natural selection has led to the development of resource efficient strategies that if emulated have the

potential to contribute to environmentally sustainable design. I have spent time travelling the world and working in conservation, which led me to focus my career and research on promoting environmentally sustainable behavior across all age groups through education and innovation; by looking to nature for inspiration.

Outside of work I play Gaelic football and camogie, enjoy horse-riding and rock-climbing and exploring the beautiful Ohio Metroparks. Yet, overall my favorite thing to do is to have a cup of tea and chat with the family at home. Applicant Sponsor: Cleveland GAA.

SARA SCACCHI
24, Parma, Ohio

Hello! I found my heart's home in Tremont. I am not ready to face the fact that I am almost half-way to 50! I attended Bowling Green State University to obtain my BSBA in Marketing and am currently pursuing my MBA in Entrepreneurship from Ashland University.

I am a proud little sister, a plant-lover, a cat mother, a very sad (but committed) Cleveland sports fan & a small business owner. I enjoy practicing yoga, eating too much sushi and creating art of all kinds. I believe in love, the Universe's way of creating strange yet perfect timing and that it's okay for us all to take breaks when we need it.

My Irish legacy descends from Cork and every year my family coordinates a "Quinn Clan Reunion" to honor our heritage and family. Applicant Sponsor: Gormley's Pub.

LYNN SCHUTTE
23, Hamilton, Ohio

Hello, I am a marketing professional with an entrepreneurial side hustle! After graduating from the University of South Carolina Honors College, I started my business, writing blogs and creating social media content for other businesses and entrepreneurs.

By day, I'm also a marketer at a healthcare technology manufacturing company, helping healthcare providers improve the patient experience. I love reading, traveling and spending time focusing on personal development.

While in school, I was active at the Catholic Center, leading small groups and beginning my journey as a Sunday school teacher. My maternal grandmother was raised in Co. Cork. Although she passed away before I was born, I feel a deep connection to her because her maiden name was Lynn.

Last summer my family and I traveled to Ireland, fulfilling the dream of visiting her hometown and exploring our Irish heritage. Applicant Sponsor: Coffee Break Communications.

MOLLY SHONK
24, Columbus, Ohio

Hello, I attended numerous schools playing collegiate volleyball, but graduated cum laude in Criminal Justice from Lourdes University, in 2018. My internship led me to Capital University Law School, where I completed my paralegal and now work as a litigation paralegal.

In my free time, I am a competitive volleyball player and travel and play in as many tournaments as possible. Music is one of my passions and there

isn't a day I don't listen and sing along. I am a big advocate for mental health and am working to establish annual charity volleyball tournaments to benefit that cause.

We trace my family back to County Clare, Ireland. For my middle name, I was given my grandmother's maiden name of Irwin to honor my family. I wear it proudly. Applicant Sponsor: Ohio Irish American News.

CHRISTINE SMYTH
22, Cleveland, Ohio

Hello! My passion is Irish dance. Irish culture is an essential part of my life, with having proud family roots in Co. Clare. My future aspirations are to be an Irish dance teacher, wife, and mother someday.

Currently, I am working towards opening The Smyth School of Irish Dance, named in honor of my deceased father. I teach classes to adults, children, and special needs students so that all may experience the joy of dance.

My background as a Regional Champion and World Medal Holder, paired with my passion for teaching, inspires my life goals. I am a student at Baldwin Wallace University, studying Arts Management, Entrepreneurship, & Dance. I love spending my free time with family, and I am so grateful to be a part of the Cleveland Irish Community. Applicant Sponsor: Casey's Irish Imports, Rocky River, OH.

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Erin Hogan



Grainne Hutchinson



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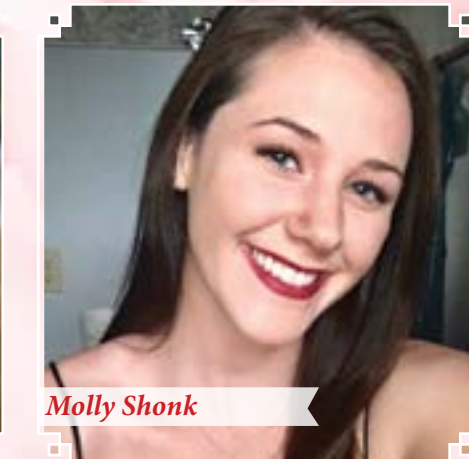
Sarah McInerney



Sara Scacchi



Lynn Schutte



Molly Shonk



Christine Smyth



CLEVELAND IRISH

By Francis McGarry



The Originals: Part One

It was a tad bit chilly the other day. As I left school, I placed a knitted stocking cap on my head. It was knitted by a friend of mine who is at the early stages of knitted stocking caps. The end product was rather unique.

One of the students commented on the uniqueness of the stocking cap on my head. Another turned to him and said, "He's Irish." That happens quite a bit at school. It has been used to explain my haberdashery, vocabulary and my forehead on Ash Wednesday.

The kids have no idea what "Irish" means and who the Irish were in America. In Cleveland we have records that elucidate who the Irish originals, including an article by William Gleason in the Plain Dealer in 1896. The following is an

excerpt from that article:

The earliest settlers of Cleveland number among its inhabitants a respectable sprinkling of the vigorous sons and daughters of the Emerald Isle. Among the first people of that nationality to make their homes here and grow up in our community as useful, industrious and thrifty citizens were the following: William Murphy, 1830; the Evans family, Arthur Quinn, John Smith, 1833; Dr. Robert Bailey; Dr. Johnson (died 1847); Robert Sanderson and Joseph Turney, 1834; Hugh Buckley, Sr., and David Pollock, 1835; Hugh Blee, Patrick Smith and Fathers Dillon and O'Dwyer, 1836; Capt. Michael C. Frawley, D. McFarland, the Cahill, Conlan and Whelan families, 1837; Father Peter McLoughlin, Michael Feely, Michael

Gallagher and Philip Olwill, 1838; the Farnan and Gibbons families and Charles C. Rogers, 1839; Patrick Farley, 1840; John and William Given, 1841; Rev. A. McReynolds and William Milford, 1842; the West Side McMahan family, John, Matthew, Thomas and Patrick McCart, 1845; Prof. Fitzgerald, Patrick W. and his son William J. Gleason; Patrick H. Breslin, Peter F. and Patrick McGuire, Squire Duffy, William McReynolds, Dr. Strong and the Story family, 1847; William and his son, Thomas G. Fitzsimons; Dennis and his sons John, Patrick, W.D. and L.D. Gleason, John Holland, Patrick Walsh, William Kenney, Patrick Monks, Patrick O'Rourke, Daniel and Patrick O'Brien, Frank and his son, Owen Kane, Thomas Maher, James Farasey, Patrick O'Mara, Patrick Buckley, Michael Mooney, Paul McGuire, Patrick M. Smith, John Shields, Christopher Mullen, James Dunn, William Mulcahy, Luke Brennan, James McMahan, James Walsh, James Reardon, the Barrett, Brasell, Carr, Carroll, Collins, Connelly, Costello, Daley, Day, Delaney, Dempsey, Fanning, Farrell, Gallagher, Galwey, Hayes, Keary, Kelley, Lynch, Lee, Manning, McGee, Nevins, Powers, Reeves, Ryan, Sheehan, Tobin, Tierney

and Washington families, 1848.

Passage over the stormy Atlantic was far different in the early days from what it is at the present time. The pioneer emigrants came over in sailing vessels, and six weeks was considered a quick passage.

The frail vessels tossed about on the angry ocean waves, followed by a calm that would last for weeks at a time. How the poor people suffered with sickness, often with hunger and thirst, but never with despair; for on the other side was God's own country, liberty, and the opportunity to secure a home, a fortune, to be a man among America's free men.

One of our old friends recently told us that it took him three months and three days to cross from Liverpool to New York; and three weeks and four days by canal boat, stage and foot, from New York to Cleveland, but at the end of his tedious journey he found his father and mother and a little patch of their own ground to till, which repaid him for all of the hardships he endured.

He has for years been one of our most prosperous citizens, but he has always preserved a warm spot in his heart for the land of his birth.

Continued on facing page

Annual St. Brigid's Day Mass and Celebration

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Our Lady of the Rosary Division's annual St. Brigid's Day Mass and Celebration is Sunday, February

9th, 11:00 a.m. @St. Patrick's Church West Park, 4427 Rocky River Drive, Cleveland, Ohio 44135.

Seating will be reserved in the pews

on the right front side of the Church for the Hibernians, Family and Friends.

Following Mass, please join us for a breakfast buffet & short program to introduce the 2020 Hibernian of the Year and the United Irish Societies Honorees for the first time

of the Season, in Thorpe Hall.

2020 Hibernian of the Year Robert Fitzgerald; Grand Marshal Thomas Scanlon; Mother of the Year Kathleen Mangan; Inside Co-Chair Maureen Mohney; Outside Co-Chair Chris Cooper.

Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. Our Lady of the Rosary Division Cleveland, Ohio



The Originals

Continued from previous page

After 1848 there was a steady arrival of Irish emigrants, composed of a sturdy, intelligent class. Those who latterly arrived and those who followed were impelled thither by the sad conditions existing in the old land.

An artificially created famine existed in all parts of Ireland from 1846 to 1849; people died by the thousands from actual starvation; the bogs, the hedges and highways were strewn with the dying and the dead. Added to this was the shocking cruelty and infamous government of England.

From the time of the unfortunate "union" down to this time Daniel O'Connell, the elegant tribune of the Irish race, appealed to the British government for justice for his people with the same breath counseling peace and obedience to the laws enacted by an alien government. Finally, the long-suffering people were driven to desperation and openly rebelled.

The revolutionary party, known in history as the "Young Ireland party," organized throughout all of Ireland for the overthrow of British misrule in that sorely oppressed country. The bone and sinew of Ireland were in the movement, having for their object the tearing asunder of the hated union with England, the establishment of an Irish republic, the freedom of their native land, the government of Ireland by the people of Ireland.

This commendable object was led by a gallant band of young Irish patriots, opposed to O'Connell's fruitless peace policy. Prominent among them were Thomas Davis, Thomas Francis Meagher (later the commander of the famous Irish brigade in our civil war), William Smith O'Brien, John Mitchell, Terrence Bellow McManus, John Martin, Charles Gavin Duffy, Kevin Izod O' Dougherty, and James Finton Lalor.

The "rising" took place in 1848, but,

unfortunately, was not successful. The English government captured its leaders, and thus these young Irish rebels joined their revolutionary kindred in this free and prosperous country, our city getting its share. It was not many years until these young Irish "rebels" became American patriots and took pride in fighting and dying for the overthrow of human slavery, for a United America and for the humiliation of their ancient and hereditary foe, who aided the southern confederacy with recognition, privateers, cannon, rifle, shot and shell.

The vast majority of the Irish race came to America with a feeling of vengeance against the English government that will never be eradicated until home rule is exists in their native land. To illustrate the supreme contempt of the Irish emigrant or exile for the British government it is only necessary to call attention to the well-established truth that every Irishman worthy of the name throws off the yoke of England and becomes a naturalized citizen of the United States as soon as the law permits.

Francis McGarry holds undergraduate degrees from Indiana University in Anthropology, Education and History and a Masters in Social Science from the University of Chicago. He is an assistant principal and history teacher. Francis is a past president of the Irish American Club East Side. He is the founder and past president of the Bluestone Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

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MADIGAN MUSES

By Marilyn Madigan



Year of the Nurse

In honor of the 200th Anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared 2020 as the Year of the Nurse. WHO Director General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus stated, "Nurses and Midwives are the backbone of every health system: in 2020 we're calling on all countries to invest in nurses and midwives as part of their commitment to health for all."

Nurses and midwives have dedicated themselves to providing care for those in need from birth to death, since the days of Florence Nightingale. According to the WHO, the world "needs 9 million more nurses to achieve universal health coverage by 2030."

Last February, I had the honor to march on O'Connell Street Dublin with the Irish Nurses in bringing their concerns to the public. The concerns that the Irish Nurses were addressing were the same as Nurses have in the United States. These concerns are always patient focused, and deal with working conditions that prevent nurses providing the best care to their patients.

There are still many concerns with health care in Ireland. Nurses have spoken out and continued to do so; nurses are truly the best advocates for their patients and health care in general.

St. Brigid's Prayer for Compassion and Justice

I think it is fitting to write about the Nursing profession in the Month of February, for February is the month that we celebrate two important Feast Days: St. Brigid and St. Valentine. St. Brigid's Prayer for Compassion and Justice is a Prayer to St. Brigid that to me can be said by Nurses.

St. Brigid of Ireland, blessed woman of endless generosity, fill our hearts with a desire for peace and a love for justice and compassion. Inspire us to be advocates for reconciliation in the face of conflict and strengthen us to speak for the poor, the homeless and those who cannot speak for themselves. St. Brigid of Kildare, help us to find within us the patience, vision and will to stoke the fire of compassion and charity to help those who need our support and guidance-especially those who hurt us or disappoint us.

Help us to forgive and enable us to act onto that path. St. Brigid Pray for us.

On St. Valentine's Day, the commercial world celebrates the day with sentiments of love with cards, flowers and more. Nurses demonstrate and witness love every day of their careers; Midwives and nurses in the delivery room welcome us to the world and witness the love of our parents; nurses are in the Emergency Room to help us when we are hurt or experiencing a life altering condition; nurses are in the Operating Room, making sure that are needs are take care of when we cannot speak for ourselves; Nurses are in our patient rooms and in Intensive Care Units, providing care so that we can heal; In hospitals, your best friend and advocate are the nursing staff; Nurses are out in the community, teaching us how to care for ourselves to remain healthy. Their impact is felt every day; we are blessed.

Little Nurse

I did not originally plan to become a nurse. I always wanted to be a History Teacher. God had other plans for me. He gave me signs that I missed. When I was 4, my grandmother was in a very serious accident. For her recovery, she came to my house for my mother to take care of her. There were times when my mother asked me to keep my eye on my grandmother. My grandmother used to call me her little nurse. I forgot about that after her death.

When I was a Junior in High School, still planning on being a History teacher, my aunt hurt her foot and developed Tetanus. For over a month, we did not know if she would live or die.

Again, my mother was the one that took care of my Aunt after she left the hospital. I again helped my mother and she reminded me that my grandmother used to call me her little nurse. Finally, I recognized the signs God was sending me. I changed my career goals from teaching to nursing.

I had the privilege and honor to be a nurse for forty-one years at University Hospitals. During that time, I witnessed the love of parents for their child in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. The love story that will always stay with me was when a mother told us to stop CPR and let her child go home to God.

What a blessing that was for her child. I thank God that I was able to touch many lives as a nurse and work with the best nurses and other health care workers.

Nursing has been recognized as one of the most respected professions. In our nation's capital, there are only two monuments dedicated to women. How fitting that these monuments recognize the Nursing profession.

The first Monument is the Nuns of the Battlefield, dedicated in 1924, recognizing the Sister Nurses of the American Civil War. The second Monument recognizes the Nurses of the Vietnam War. Nurses should be recognized for all their contributions, not just at War. We all know someone who is a nurse. During this Year of the Nurse, make it a point to thank a nurse for her service and dedication. ■

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DUBLIN DIARIES

By Margaret Mary Hicks



2020 Vision - Growth and Inspiration for the Future

The last couple months have been a whirlwind. It was so busy, but I got to have so many wonderful experiences packed into a very short amount of time. I also managed to make a lot of progress in becoming more independent and growing to be confident in doing things on my own.

In early December, I had the opportunity to see Hozier live for the second time. I saw him for the first time in concert about five years ago when he played in Cleveland at Jacobs Pavilion at Nautica. I loved that concert because I got to go with my cousin, and I remember it being a phenomenal show.

Being able to see him again in Dublin was amazing. He has a beautiful voice and is an extraordinary performer. Seeing the show in Dublin was a reflective moment for me because back when I saw Hozier in Cleveland, I was a first-semester freshman at Ohio University. It was a time of major personal growth for me and the same can be said for the last show in Dublin.

I am at a crossroads in my life and these past five months in Dublin have inspired me to grow in ways I never imagined. While both shows were great, it was a special feeling being able to hear his beautiful music live in Dublin. It was a very memorable experience and I was so glad to be able to see him in his home country.

In mid-December I made a somewhat impulsive decision to go to Vienna with my friend Beck. I am so happy I went. Austria is a beautiful country and Vienna is filled with so much history, art and culture.

I was so lucky to be able to experience it during Christmas. The Christmas Markets there were wonderful and being able to embrace all the treats, mulled wine and decorations was something I will

remember for the rest of my life.

My dad was so happy to find out I was visiting Vienna; his mom's family is actually from Vienna. I learned so much about the history of the country and got to see where some of my family came from, which was awesome. My time in Vienna was well-spent and it made me more comfortable with traveling in that I could navigate a country that does not have English as its first language.

After Vienna, I spent a few days back in Dublin suffering with tonsillitis before heading to Manchester for Christmas. This was only my second time on a flight alone, so I was a little nervous I'd mess something up or forget to go through customs or something.

I got to the airport super early, but I was glad because it gave me time to get more accustomed. Everything went according to plan and I didn't miss my flight or board the wrong plane, thank God.

Upon arrival in Manchester, I was greeted by my lovely cousins. When I was a child, they came to visit my family and I in Cleveland several times and it was like no time had passed at all between us. The last time I saw my cousin Jessica was when my grandmother passed away, so it has been about six years.

It was great to catch up with her and the rest of the family and I was thrilled to meet the kids and spend time with them. Before going, I was worried I wouldn't be able to connect with the kids because I am not around kids their age back home, but it was great because they were just as excited to meet me as I was to meet them.

I brought over Hershey Kisses so we could make Christmas cookies (which is pretty much only an American tradition, I learned). They absolutely loved baking the cookies and it was so magical to see their little faces light up when they came

out of the oven. We even made a special cookie with extra Hershey Kisses on it for Santa.

Christmas Day was great, but also a bit draining. Jessica had twenty people over for dinner and it has been awhile since I have had a big Christmas with a lot of people around. Nonetheless, it was great to meet everyone; they were so welcoming and thoughtful.

Getting to meet more of my grandma's family was so lovely and it made me feel more at home even though most of them were only meeting me for the first time. I am so blessed to have such wonderful people so close to me.

After almost a week in Manchester, I had to (reluctantly) go back home to Dublin. While I was glad to get settled back in and see friends and family, it was so hard to say goodbye. We were all sad, but we quickly reminded ourselves that it's only an hour flight between us and we will have another visit again soon.

When I got back to Dublin, I started out the search for my own apartment. While I enjoyed living with my aunt, it was time for me to become independent now that I am pretty familiar with Dublin. With the housing crisis going on here, I was genuinely worried about finding a place, especially as a student. I started out by sifting through listings on Daft.ie; it is a great tool to find places, and I found my apartment through this site.

I was extremely lucky to find my apartment. It was actually the first viewing I went to and I did not know what it was going to look like beforehand, but I was pleasantly surprised. That day alone, this apartment had seven viewings scheduled.

I was so worried it would not work out, but through it all I ended up getting it. The timing was just perfect and there definitely had to be a few people looking out for me up in heaven.

I now live down on the southside of



Margaret Mary enjoying a cheesecake-flavored pretzel in the Spittelberg Christmas Market in Vienna, Austria.

Dublin, and I am in love with everything about it. My apartment is small, but it has everything I need inside and there are so many amenities that are just a few minutes walk away.

It is also nice to have my own space and be able to decorate and plan what I want for the apartment. Moving out made me realize just how much I missed being independent and having my own space, so I am really happy everything fell into place.

My second semester at Trinity starts on January 27, so I am counting down the days to go back. While I enjoyed this well-deserved break, I miss my friends and the buzz of campus. It should be busier than the last, due to the pressure of completing my thesis in July, but I am excited to be booked up again.

Slán go fóill. ■

Margaret Mary is a postgraduate student studying marketing at Trinity College Dublin. She is an alumna of the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University and is from Cleveland, Ohio. To keep up with her adventures abroad, follow @margamary on Instagram.



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**COOKING UP
A HOOLEY**
By Katie Gagne



Perfect Cold Weather Dinner

Tasty, Colorful, Homey, and so Versatile. Stuffed Peppers were one of my favorite meals growing up. It was simple but so yummy. Mom always paired it with mashed potatoes. Even though so much has changed in the food world with so many new and

robust flavors everywhere, my favorite version of these peppers is still very much the old-school, traditional one from my childhood. So, here is that delicious, basic recipe, but with some ideas for how you could change them up a bit.

Mom's Stuffed Peppers

Serves 4
Ingredients
2 cups uncooked instant white rice
2 lbs. ground beef
8 green bell peppers
1 envelope onion soup mix
2 cans tomato soup

2 tablespoons salt
2 tablespoons granulated garlic
1 tablespoon black pepper

Prepare rice according to package directions, adding the salt to the water. Crumble the ground meat into a skillet, sprinkle with the granulated garlic and pepper and cook until browned. Place cooked rice and meat in a large bowl and toss with onion soup mix.

Cut tops off the peppers and remove the seeds and membranes. Blanch in boiling water for 3-4 minutes, just to soften slightly. Drain and cool so you can handle them. Spread one can of the tomato soup in the bottom of a casserole dish (9x13) Fill each pepper with the meat and rice mixture.

Place each pepper open side up in the casserole dish. Spoon remaining can of soup over top of the peppers.

Cover with foil and bake in a 350 degree oven for approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes, until the peppers are soft and everything is hot.

Placed two on a plate and serve with mashed potatoes. The soup makes a great gravy to ladle over the mashed potatoes.

Variations
Use brown or jasmine rice. Use orzo pasta or quinoa instead of rice. Substitute ground turkey or chicken or any variety of sausage for the ground beef. Top the peppers with salsa instead of the soup.



Top the peppers with cheese. Use poblano, or red, yellow, and orange bell peppers. Enjoy!!

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

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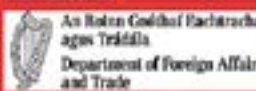
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TAKING THE FIELDS OF GLORY: GAA MONTHLY

By Vincent Beach



Midwest Gaelic Athletic Association

With the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) being the largest Irish organization outside of Ireland, the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) provides annual grants to strengthen communities abroad. Local GAA clubs provide the support system for new arrivals and maintain the cultural links of Irish descendants with their ancestral nation.

In collaboration with the GAA in Croke Park, the DFAT packages the funding under the guise of the Global Games Development Fund. In the past, Cleveland has secured grants to help offset adult and youth indoor rental and new equipment costs. This year Cleveland continues its youth program of free trial nights for new and perspective players during the months of January and February for Gaelic Football.

Then, in the months of March and April, we will run a league format of weekly games, (like last spring) at a small fee of \$25. The youth are divided by age: 5-6, 7-9, and 10-14. For

the first time, youth indoor hurling has its own dedicated nights running once per month in January through April. Being an introductory session, hurling will be free. Check out our website and the flyers.



Clevelandgaa.com/youth.

The adults also participate in the Global Games Development Grant. Funding last year ignited the growth of the club into two

men's teams and a new ladies' team. The goal is the same this year.

Indoor sessions will begin after St. Patrick's Day on a weekly basis and will lead into the outdoor season. The Cleveland Memorial 7's outdoor tournament will be fast approaching.

The development grants are not limited to clubs, and the Midwest Division has requested funding for two specific items.

The first will be held April 18 and 19 in Pittsburgh for coaches and aspiring coaches. The division will host two coaches from Munster. The program will be an x's and o's approach to the game differing from the

standard GAA foundation and Level 1 classes held in prior years. The second application was for an annual Youth tournament to be held in June each year. The Midwest invitational would be held in Detroit in 2020, then rotate amongst the Midwest youth clubs with the idea of becoming self-sustaining and actually revenue generating.

Night at the Races

Cleveland GAA and the WSIA marching units jointly host the annual event on February 15th out at the club in Olmsted Township. Tickets include a full chicken dinner and open bar of Guinness, Harp, Miller Lite, and wine

There will also be free childcare in the Abbey Room, where kids play games, do crafts, and enjoy pizza. With sideboards and the pub full of great raffle baskets, there are many chances win beyond the race picks. Contact clevelandgaa@gmail.com for more information including tickets, sponsorships, and raffle donations. This is always a sell-out event, so do not wait too long.

St Patrick's Day

March with Us: Supports, players, families, and friends are welcome to march with the GAA in the St. Patrick's Day parade on Tuesday, March 17. Contact clevelandgaa@gmail.com for more information.

Upcoming Indoor Sessions

Cleveland hosts indoor sessions youth football and hurling, and adult

football from January through April. See our flyer or visit our website and Facebook page (clevelandgaa.com or @clevelandgaelic) for more information.

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 of A. Beyond sports, the Association also promotes Irish music, song and dance, and the Irish language as an integral part of its objectives. Cleveland GAA is open to all who want to play competitive sports, meet new people, and join an athletic, fitness-minded club.

Follow @ClevelandGaelic on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for the 2019 activities for Men, Women, and Youth. Or, visit ClevelandGAA.com.

Vincent Thomas Francis Xavier Beach is a proud Greater Cleveland and emigrant of Michigan. He joined the St. Pat's Gaelic Football Club in 1999 and, with much help, is the current caretaker of the Cleveland GAA. His Irish is a cross of dialects from the University of Cincinnati and An Cheathrú Rua. With his wife, Michelle, he enjoys watching time absolutely fly by as their children, Ambrose (10), Bernadette (8), and Cedric (5), grow.

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TOLEDO IRISH

By Maury Collins
@MauryCollins



"Wrong Way" Corrigan's Toledo Connection

My Father, Maurice Collins, immigrated from Mullintoura, County Cork to Toledo, Ohio in 1928. He kept a scrapbook of newspaper articles of things that interested him, mostly about Irish events. There was one article about "Wrong Way Corrigan," with his handwritten notation; "He knew exactly where he was going."

History.com tells the story of Douglas Corrigan. The last of the early glory-seeking fliers, takes off from Floyd Bennett field in Brooklyn, New York, on a flight that would finally win him a place in aviation history.

Eleven years earlier, American Charles A. Lindbergh had become an international celebrity with his solo nonstop flight across the Atlantic. Corrigan was among the mechanics who had worked on Lindbergh's Spirit of St. Louis aircraft, but that mere footnote in the history of flight was not enough for the Texas-born aviator.

In 1938, he bought a 1929 Curtiss Robin aircraft off a trash heap, rebuilt

it, and modified it for long-distance flight. In preparation for his great adventure, Corrigan gave his plane a name. 'I had always considered my plane as a little ray of sunshine,' he said, 'so now I put the name Sunshine on the cowling.'

In July 1938, Corrigan piloted the single-engine plane nonstop from California to New York. Although the transcontinental flight was far from unprecedented, Corrigan received national attention simply because the press was amazed that his rattletrap aircraft had survived the journey.

Almost immediately after arriving in New York, he filed plans for a transatlantic flight, but aviation authorities deemed it a suicide flight, and he was promptly denied. Instead, they would allow Corrigan to fly back to the West Coast, and on July 17 he took off from Floyd Bennett field, ostentatiously pointed west. However, a few minutes later, he made a 180-degree turn and vanished into a cloudbank to the

puzzlement of a few onlookers.

Wrong Way Corrigan takes flight

Twenty-eight hours later, Corrigan landed his plane in Dublin, Ireland, stepped out of his plane, and exclaimed, "Just got in from New York. Where am I?" He claimed that he lost his direction in the clouds and that his compass had malfunctioned.

The authorities didn't buy the story and suspended his license, but Corrigan stuck to the story, to the amusement of the public on both sides of the Atlantic. By the time "Wrong Way" Corrigan and his crated plane returned to New York by ship, his license suspension had been lifted, he was a national celebrity, and a mob of autograph seekers met him on the gangway.

Now for the Toledo connection; the annual St. Patrick's Mass at the Historic Church of St. Patrick in downtown Toledo took place on March 17, 2019. At the end of the Mass Msgr. Christopher Vasko accepted what he reckoned as the historical Irish "key to the city."

Pat Foy Daly traveled from Defiance, Ohio, to present her grandfather's shillelagh to Monsignor Vasko. Mrs. Daly said the historical weapon was supposed to remain in her family's lineage after her grandfather, then-Toledo city councilman Dominic Foy's, refusal to give the gift to famous pilot Douglas "Wrong Way" Corrigan.

Mrs. Daly added that Mr. Corrigan was one of few pilots at the time, and as tradition, he was scheduled to "barnstorm," buzzing the barns of small communities and rally locals to a small landing strip in Toledo. Per Irish tradition, a local politician would



Penny (The Saint) Collins & Monsignor Vasko

greet the pilot with a significant gift.

Rich in local history, Mrs. Daly said her grandfather cut blackthorn from Magee Marsh near Bay View Park and shellacked the weapon for presentation, only to refuse to give it to Mr. Corrigan because his ancestry included being an "Orangeman." She added that her grandfather's ancestors lived along the border of Northern Ireland and had many troubles with the Orangemen, so much so that her grandfather swore to never return to Ireland. "So Wrong Way Corrigan was an Orangeman; grandpa kept the shillelagh," she said.

Crediting Monsignor Vasko for his diligence in up keeping both the Historic Church of St. Patrick and Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Mrs. Daly said she felt

compelled to donate the shillelagh to the Immaculate Conception, the parish of both her grandparents and great grandparents.

Monsignor Vasko said the gift is a part of the Catholic Parishes Legacy Initiative, created to raise donations and awareness for the parishes' repairs. Upholding a long legacy of outreach, Mrs. Daly said she hopes that Irish men and women will travel to visit both local parishes and donate to the worthy project.

She said local parishes are seasoned

with the history of Hungarian, Polish, and early Irish parishes that were formed by early immigrants. "A long time ago in Pioneer Toledo, even before it was called Toledo, the immigrants came over here and they formed their own parishes... this one has survived grandly, and we hope Immaculate Conception will do the same," she said. ■

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BLOWIN' IN

By Susan Mangan
@SueMangan



Actually, Love

"It does not do to dwell on dreams and forget to live."

—Albus Dumbledore, J.K. Rowling

My youngest is a man of few words and many unspoken ideas. When he does decide to share his thoughts, they are of value. In some instances, his sage words take my breath away. Shortly after midnight on New Year's Eve, my youngest and I began to talk, not about his future, but the goals and aspirations of others. He explained that when a person discovers that one thing that actually causes his or her heart to hurt, that is passion; that is the reason for waking up each day.

According to my young druid, that passion is not always for another

human. It is that often elusive "something" which your heart cannot live without. My son referenced my love for literature as his primary example. Indeed, the seeming truth that emits out of the mouths of babes.

My son, however, is obviously not a mother, so he does not understand how the cry of a child or the howl of a beloved pet can cause one to move from a place of dreams to immediate action in a millisecond. In time, he may learn. Until then, let him think that my defining act, my reason for breathing, is the creation and discovery of words. My motivation is actually love.

A Mother's Love

Throughout the years, my greatest acts as a mother do involve those passions that cause my heart to tremble. As my youngest explained, knowledge and literature always seem to entwine the moment.

I can still feel the scramble of my three children clambering for space on my lap, near the curl of my hair, close to my heart, as we settled in for bedtime stories. We read their favorite stories for hours: Curious George at the candy factory, Madeline and her schoolmates, the broom that carried a witch, a cat, and a dog, and the ethereal tale of Wynken, Blynken, and Nod, who sailed off one night in a wooden shoe.

This memory of my children - the sound of their sighs, the smell of their milky breath, the trusting weight of their tired bodies, makes my heart hurt. This ritual of nighttime reading seemed to last for hours, but in the great expanse of time was over in a fleeting second.

Now, such episodes of literary reckoning are spare and last a mere moment. Bedtime reading has been supplanted with SnapChat and Netflix. My heart hurts, but not in a good way. I comfort myself with the knowledge



that those hours spent reading and the joy of time spent with a book are lying dormant in my children's hearts and are just waiting for that moment of quiet stillness to manifest.

At times, this literary epiphany rises not from the still depths of quietude, but out of the din of a city filled with traffic, diverse people, bustling shops, and grand architecture; a place where charm, history, and magic marry in a most exquisite coupling. For my daughter, this place was London.

Study Abroad

Her journey to study abroad was a quest of self-discovery, a search for dreams, the rediscovery of her heart-beat. Interestingly, my daughter's odyssey evolved from a passion for literature.

As a young child, my only girl loved the stories of Laura Ingalls Wilder. A curious three-year-old, she wanted know where Laura lived and if she could see her. I explained, as her heart broke, that Laura lived with the angels, but we could always listen to and read her stories.

As a schoolgirl, the adventures of Harry Potter became her literary obsession. She once told me that the books brought her to magical places that she wished to return to over and over again. In truth, she has.

Having read the entire series many

times as a child, the tales of Hogwarts spoke to my now adult daughter through her Air Pods as she traveled across London, navigating the Tube like a native. She visited Platform 9¾ King's Cross, and journeyed to Edinburgh, Scotland and the places that inspired J.K. Rowling to create her iconic tales.

When I visited Katie in London, I brought her to one of my favorite literary haunts, The Charles Dickens Home and Museum in Bloomsbury. A bit unsure of her taste for Victorian literature, she didn't know if she would be interested.

In my mother's heart, I knew Katie would be enchanted by this special place. After all, I have spent years waxing poetic about the Christmas Carol to my children.

Decorated in fragrantly fresh Christmas greens, our visit to the museum did not disappoint. This is my second visit to Charles Dickens' home with two out of my three children. The magic is real.

As Katie and I gazed into the mirror in Charles Dickens' parlor, I could feel his creative presence. I knew that literature is not just the stuff of dreams, but impacts our personal journeys, the unique calling of our own realities.

More than ever, I felt encouraged to holdfast to my passion for literature. I renewed my commitment to share my experiences with others through words and teaching. Above all, I felt such privilege to gaze into a mirror that allowed my daughter and I to see into the past, while beholding a present moment that will in the future become a treasured memory.

I suppose my young sage was correct. My passion for literature has always defined my life. In time, the trust that I put into words will inspire and comfort those for whom my heart aches with unparalleled joy, and at times, unbearable pain, but actually and always with love: my greatest inspiration - my children. ■

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

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FIRM FOUNDATION

By Ken Callahan
@KennethRCallahanJr



Paul Hoynes

In the book Irish Americans and Their Communities in Cleveland, the authors note the obvious phenomenon of the tendency of the Irish Americans of Greater Cleveland to radiate out, on both sides of the river, parish by parish. It is asserted therein that on the east side, from the Cathedral Parish, Immaculate Conception, St. Philomena, St. Aloywiches, and finally, to St. Ann's, "the last Irish parish on the east side."

St. Ann's was founded and established almost single handedly by Fr. John Mary Powers, who, as an assistant at St. Thomas, was directed to do so by Bishop Farley in 1915. Fr. Powers remained in his leadership role for fifty-one years.

Between 1954 and 1970, the elementary school enrolled an average of 1,250 students a year. Fr. Powers was a relentless advocate for fair housing, for the theatre, and in pursuit of his singular and successful construction of the current Church and its unique furnishings.

Among those students was future and now longtime Cleveland.com/Plain Dealer sportswriter Paul Hoynes and his siblings. Paul's dad, "Jimmy" Hoynes, also grew up in the parish - the family business was Central Electrotrope on East 22nd.

Paul's mom, Billie Marie (nee Cook), a native of Saskatchewan, met Jim on vacation to a farm owned by Billy's dad in Kingston, Ontario. Billie Marie was the daughter of Bill Cook, and niece of Bun Cook, both of whom are in the NHL Hall of Fame, having played with the New York Rangers in the 1920s and 1930s.

Cleveland's Al Sutphin, who owned the old Arena, hired Bill Cook to coach the Cleveland Barons of the AHL. Bun Cook also coached the Barons for several years.

Paul's grandfather, Dan Hoynes, traced his roots to County Mayo; he married Loretta McDonnell of the



Paul Hoynes

famous Cleveland Heights and St. Ann family that produced, among others, former presiding Judge Nancy and attorneys Jim and Billy. Billy is always among the color guard for the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Paul was a twin to Mary Claire (deceased), brother Billy and sisters Susan and Patricia "Tish." He attended Cathedral Latin High School and graduated from Marquette with a degree in journalism.

Paul's early career in sports writing was by necessity, and given the vicissitudes of the newspaper business, varied. He began covering all sorts of sports from the now-departed Painesville Telegraph, including high school sports, but also Little League baseball.

He later moved to the News-Herald, where he focused on the Browns and sports generally. Like a desert traveler, he moved to the Cleveland Press, until that proud institution succumbed to the market realities that would no longer support an evening and morning paper in a single market.

Paul eventually returned to the News-Herald, where he was assigned

to the Cleveland Indians. Finally, he was hired by The Cleveland Plain Dealer and then moved to Cleveland.com (owned by the same company as The Plain Dealer), where he will begin his 37th year covering the Indians, when spring training begins Feb. 11 in Goodyear, Arizona.

Including spring training, that is north of 6,000 baseball games for the PD/Cleveland.com alone. When asked how much travel that requires, he replied: "Well, I have 300,00 Marriot points." He guesses he flies 100,000 miles a year, and never on the team plane like others in the media, because of the constant pressure of deadline.

On growing up in the St. Ann community, Paul says the Catholic, "environment was a big part of my life." My parents told us to, "always do the right



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thing - treat others the way you would want to be treated."

Paul married Jackie Demeter, a teacher who became Superintendent of Schools in Mentor, where the couple resides. They have two boys, Ed and Jimmy and four grandchildren.

It has always seemed to me that Cleveland has been fortunate to have some very good sports writers: Gordon Cobbleck, Chuck Heaton, Hal Lebovitz, Bob August, to mention a few.

When Paul Hoynes leaves behind his last deadline and Marriot Point, he will be a member of that esteemed club, and part of Cleveland journalism history. ■

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(bar lum who no kayd bo bahn-ya)
I love you more than a hundred milk cows

In celebration of St. Valentine’s Day, I thought we could cover some ways to express our loves, likes, preferences and even our dislikes. Before we get into that, however, I’ve shared in the past one of the things that draws me to Irish speech and literature is the beauty and expressiveness of the language. A column in The Irish Times by Manchán Magan titled, “A magical vision is hidden in the Irish language – we need to rediscover it,” was recently brought to my attention. Originally published on July 14, 2018, it is well worth searching out on-line if you’re a student of Irish or just have an interest in your Irish heritage.

TERMS of ENDEARMENT

Tá grá agam duit. (taw graw ah-gum gwit) I love you.
Tá tú ag féachaint go hiontach. (taw too ahg fay-cant guh hee-on-tach) You look wonderful.



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An bhfuil grá agat dom? (ahn will graw ah-gut dom) Do you love me?
Nach bhfuil grá agat dom? (noch will graw ah-gut) Don't you love me?
Tá tú an-álainn! (taw too ahn awl inn) You are very beautiful.
Mo mhíle grá. (moh vee-la graw) My thousand loves.
Mo rún. (moh roo-in) My secret (love)
Tá grá ag Pádraigin do Bhrian. (taw graw ehg paw-druh-geen duh vree-un) Patricia loves Brian

Grá (graw) Love - only used for affectionate love – Tá grá agam duit- lit. I have love for you.

Fear céile (far kayla) husband
Bean chéile (ban kayla) wife
Grá geal (graw gal) sweetheart / darling
Caidreamh (caw-driv) relationship
Croí (kree) heart
Álainn (awl-inn) beautiful
Dathúil (da-hool) handsome
Cara (kar-ah) friend
LOVING THINGS

Is breá liom briosaí. (iss braw lum bris-kee) I love cookies.
Is breá léi a bheith ag rince. (iss braw lay-ih ah veh ehg ring-kuh) She loves dancing
Is breá leis úlla. (iss braw lesh oo-la) He loves apples.
An breá leat úlla? (ahn braw laht oo-la) Do you love apples?
Nach breá leat úlla? (noch braw laht oo-la) Don't you love apples?
Is breá. Is breá liom úlla. (iss braw. Is braw lum oo-la) I do. I love apples
Ní breá. Is breá liom briosaí. (iss braw. Is braw lum bris-kee) I don't. I love cookies.

WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE

Ar mhaith leat tae? (ar wah laht tay) Would you like tea?
Ba mhaith. Ba mhaith liom tae. (buh wah. Buh wah lum tay) I would. I would like tea.

Continued on facing page

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Speak Irish

Continued from previous page

Níor mhaith. Ba mhaith liom caife. (neer wah. Buh wah lum kaf-ay) No. I would like coffee.

Ar mhaith leis an bpáiste bainne? (ar wah laht lesh ahn baw-stchuh bahn-ya) Would the child like milk?

Nár mhaith léi an briosa? (nawr wah lay-ih ahn bris-kuh) Wouldn't she like the cookie?

MORE THINGS TO LIKE

Uisce (ish-kuh) water
Siúcra (shoo-kra) sugar
Briosa (bris-kuh) a cookie
Briosaí (bris-kee) cookies
Úll (ool) apple
Úlla (oo-la) apples
Tae (tay) tea
Caife (kaf-ay) coffee
Ceapaire (kya-puh-ruh) a sandwich
Bainne (bahn-ya) milk

ACTIVITIES

Ag foghlaim (ehg foe-lum) learning
Ag léamh (ehg lay-uv) reading
Ag taisteal (ehg tash-tuhl) travelling
Ag rince (ehg ring-kuh) dancing
Is maith liom a bheith ag foghlaim (iss mah lyum uh veh ehg foe-lum) I like learning

Is maith leis na cairde a bheith ag taisteal. (iss mah lesh nuh kahr-ja uh veh ehg yash-tul) The friends like travelling.

Ní maith liom caife. (nee mah lyum kaf-ay) I don't like coffee.

Ní maith leis a bheith léamh. (nee mah lesh uh veh ehg lay-uv) He doesn't like reading.

An maith leis an gcat bainne? (ahn mah lesh un got bahn-ya) Does the cat like milk?

Nach maith leis an madra a bheith ag rith? (noch mah lesh un mah-dra uh veh ehg rih) Doesn't the dog like running?
PREFER

Is fearr liom tae. (iss far lyum tay) I prefer tea.

Is fearr léi torthaí. (iss far lay-ih tor-hee) she prefers fruit.

Ní fearr le Brian siúcra. (nee far leh bree-un shoo-kra) Brian doesn't prefer sugar.

Ní fearr liom a bheith ag rith. (nee far lyum uh veh egh rih) I don't prefer running'

Is fearr liom a bheith ag siúl. (iss far lyum uh veh ehg shool) I prefer walking.

An fearr leat tae no caife? (ahn far lyat tay no kaf-ay) Do you prefer tea or coffee?

HATE

Is fuath liom briosaí. (iss foo-uh lyum bris-kee) I hate cookies.

Sometimes there are things that you don't love or even like, to say that you hate something all you need to do is take the sentence expressing what you like and change the word maith (mah) for fuath (foo-uh)..

If someone really despises something it might be said that;

“Tá an oiread gráin aige air is atá ag an diabhal ar uisce coisreacain.”

(taw ahn air-ihd groin ehg-uh ayr iss ah-taw ehg ahn dee-val ar ish-ka kosh-ree kahn)

“He hates it as much as the devil hates holy water.” ▪

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ILLUMINATIONS

By J. Michael Finn



An Irishman Named England

Many bishops, priests and religious of Irish birth or descent are credited with beginning and growing the Catholic faith in early America. One of these was Bishop John England, a native of Ireland, who became one of the most recognized churchmen of his time.

John England was born on September 23, 1786 in Cork, Ireland, to Thomas England and Honora Lordan. John was the eldest of ten children. He completed his primary education at Cork. In 1802 he entered St. Patrick's College in Carlow, where, while he was still a student, he taught and also preached at the cathedral. By dispensation he was ordained before the prescribed age on October 11, 1808, by Bishop Francis Moylan at St. Mary's Cathedral, Cork.

While a priest in Cork, he was also appointed chaplain to the Presentation Convent, the Magdalen Asylum, and the city prison. He served as inspector of the Catholic poor schools. At St. Mary's College he was a teacher of philosophy, and then served as its president from 1812 until 1817.

During these years, he took an active role in the Veto Question (the proposal that the English monarchy could veto the appointment of Irish bishops). In the pages of the Cork Mercantile Chronicle, where he served as editor, he opposed any program that would give the British government the right to interfere in the appointment of bishops. In the elections of 1812 he fearlessly exerted his influence, maintaining that, "in vindicating the political rights of his countrymen, he was but asserting their liberty of conscience."

Next to Daniel O'Connell, his influence was the greatest in the agitation which led to Catholic Emancipation. To help this cause he founded The Religious Repertory, a Catholic magazine which he continued to edit until he left Ireland. Father England's concern regarding the condition of Irish felons transported

and imprisoned in Australia, led to the establishment of the Catholic Church in Australia.

In July 1820, Pope Pius VIII established the Diocese of Charleston, South Carolina, which was formed from the Archdiocese of Baltimore. It encompassed 140,000 square miles and consisted of three states: North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

Father England was serving as parish priest at Bandon, 16 miles from Cork. He also was the Vicar Foreign and Secretary of the Diocese, from May 1817 until he resigned in August 1820. At that time, he was notified from Rome that he had been named as the first bishop of Charleston, South Carolina. It was speculated that his appointment and exile to America may have been an effort to silence his political activities in Ireland.

Consecrated Bishop of Charleston at Cork on September 21, 1820, in the parish church of St. Finbar, he left Ireland from Belfast and arrived in Charleston on December 30, 1820. Upon his arrival, he found only two churches in the new diocese and two priests.

In 1822 Bishop England's remarkable energy and zeal led him to establish the United States Catholic Miscellany, the first Catholic newspaper published in the United States. It continued to be published until 1861. He also compiled a catechism and prepared a new edition of the Missal in English, with an explanation of the Mass.

Bishop England founded the Philosophical and Classical Seminary of Charleston, which began operating in January 1822. St. John the Baptist Seminary, which he opened in 1825, soon provided trained priests for the diocese, four of whom eventually became bishops.

On January 8, 1826, Bishop John England became the first Catholic clergyman to preach before the U.S. Congress. The overflow audience included President

John Quincy Adams. In his speech, England refuted some anti-Catholic sentiments that the President had expressed some years earlier.

He proclaimed that Catholic belief was not an enemy of democracy and stressed its compatibility with republican values. The bishop's sermon, which lasted two hours, was so well received that 21 members of Congress immediately encouraged him to publish it in book form, which he did.

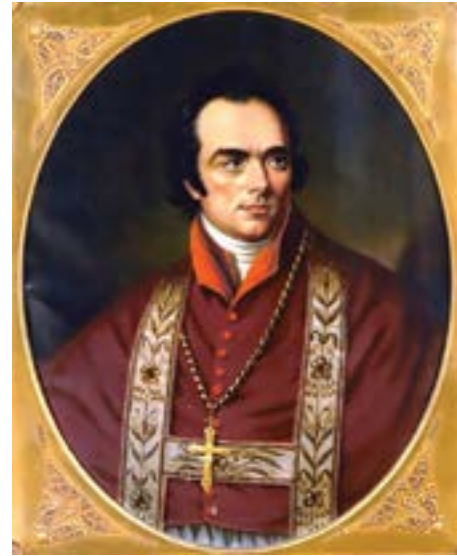
A striking phase of Bishop England's apostolic character was manifested in his spiritual care of African Americans. In 1830, he established in Charleston the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, who were to devote themselves to the sick, provide education to African American women and provide for their religious instruction. In 1834 he further promoted education and charity by the introduction of the Ursuline Sisters into the diocese.

The Bishop celebrated an early Mass in the cathedral for African Americans every Sunday and preached to them at this Mass and at a Vesper service. He was accustomed to deliver two afternoon sermons. If he was unable to deliver both, he would disappoint the rich and cultured who flocked to hear him, and preach to the poor.

In the epidemics of those days, he exhibited great devotion to the sick. His priests and the Sisters of Mercy volunteered their services in the visitations of cholera and yellow fever victims. He was known to have walked the streets of Charleston in his bare feet. Several times the excessive fatigue and exposure incurred in his visitations around the diocese caused him to become ill. More than once he was in danger of death.

Charleston was a heavily Protestant city. He often defended the Catholic minority against nativist prejudices. In 1831 and 1835, the bishop established free schools for black girls and boys. In 1835, upset by the propaganda of the American Anti-Slavery Society, a mob raided the Charleston post office and the next day turned its attention to England's school for "children of color." Alerted, England led Charleston's Irish Volunteers to protect the school.

In the interests of his impoverished diocese, England visited the chief towns and cities of the United States, crossed the ocean four times, sought aid from the Pope, and made appeals in Ireland,



England, France, Italy, wherever he could obtain money, vestments, or books.

In 1841, he visited Europe for the last time. On the long return voyage there was much sickness, and he became seriously ill due to his constant care for others. Though very weak, on his arrival in Philadelphia, he preached seventeen nights consecutively, also four nights in Baltimore. With his health broken and his strength almost exhausted, he promptly resumed his duties on his return to Charleston, where he died on April 11, 1842 at the age of 55.

At the time of his death, Bishop John England had become well known throughout the United States. His diocese, which began with two churches and two priests, had grown to fifteen churches and chapels; upwards of forty stations, and twenty-two priests. When he died the Freemans Journal in Ireland reported, "His manners were so mild, his character so pure and his charity so unbounded, that on hearing of his severe illness, public prayers were offered in the Protestant churches for his recovery!"

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.

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OFF THE SHELF

By Terry Kenneally
@TerryKenneally



GIRL: A NOVEL

By Edna O'Brien
Farrar, Straus and Giroux
ISBN- 9780374162559 2019 230 pp

In April 2014, Boko Haram kidnapped 276 schoolgirls from Chibok, a town in Nigeria. Boko Haram is a jihadist terrorist organization based in northeastern Nigeria. Boko Haram has killed tens of thousands and displaced 2.3 million from their homes. Irish author Edna O'Brien travelled to Nigeria and met some of the girls who had been taken by the group. From the experience her novel, "Girl", came about.

"Girl" is narrated in the first person by Maryam, one of the schoolgirls kidnapped by Boko Haram. It opens

with the live, "I was a girl once, but not anymore."

The book begins when masked men invade the girls secondary-school dormitory, pretending to be soldiers come to protect them from the extremist insurrection raging in the country. The intruders, however, are the insurrection, and soon the girls find themselves in the back of an open truck hurtling through the jungle.

The girls are herded into an encampment, where they are subjected to a verbal diatribe by a fundamentalist emir; forced into hard labor; repeatedly assaulted by men who use rape as a drug with which to fire themselves up for battle.

The girls pray they will be rescued, pray to survive, and pray that they will not become pregnant. Maryam how-

ever, is one of the unlucky ones in that regard, and she is forced to marry the man who impregnated her. When she gives birth to a girl instead of a hoped-for boy, her standing in the community diminishes.

Eventually she escapes with her baby and a friend and finds her way back to her village, despite a series of challenges and horrors. Her troubles are not over, however, because it was one thing to be a former kidnapping victim and quite another to be the mother of a jihadi child. Women and girls released or who escape from Boko Haram captivity often face rejection upon returning to their families due to a culture of stigma around sexual violence.

O'Brien's book is a novel of profound and ever-renewing empathy and grace of a girl who, after brutal abuse as a slave to Nigerian jihadists, escapes, and with dogged persistence, begins to rebuild her shattered life. Give O'Brien credit for the grit that

inspired her, a woman in her eighties, to travel to Nigeria to listen to people's stories. Edna O'Brien has written more than twenty works of fiction, several of which have been reviewed



in this column over the years. Recently her name has come up as a possible Nobel Prize recipient in literature. "Girls" is an utterly unique achievement and this month's TOP SHELF read. ■

Terrence J. Kenneally is an attorney and owner of The Kenneally Law Firm in Rocky River, Ohio.

He defends insureds and insurance companies in defense litigation throughout the state of Ohio. He received his Master's in Irish Studies from John Carroll University and teaches Irish literature and history at Holy Name High School where he is also the President.

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How Three Irish Immigrant Priests Helped Me Find My Roots

by Sheila Ives

Part II

As I was reading scanned pages from the book about Father Eugene Mary O'Callaghan, I found many interesting things about my great-great uncle Father John Quinn. He was born in 1824 in Kanturk and had studied at St. Patrick's College in Maynooth, near Dublin.

In 1852 he immigrated to the United States, and in 1854 he entered St. Mary's Seminary in Cleveland, Ohio, where he was ordained in 1858. He and many other Irish born young men became priests to minister to the growing Irish population in Ohio.

He served in various parishes in Lucas, Sandusky and Huron counties. At this time these areas were under the jurisdiction of the Cleveland diocese. I had never given any thought as to why he was serving in Wakeman at the time my grandmother arrived to stay with him.

However, in reading the book, I learned that these early Catholic priests were considered "missionary priests" and as such had little say

about where they were sent to serve. Also, these priests could be arbitrarily sent to another location if they were considered troublesome to the bishop.

This is what happened to Father Quinn. He had a dispute with Bishop Richard Gilmour, and as punishment he was reassigned from his large parish in Toledo, Ohio, where he had built a school, to the small parish in Wakeman, which only had thirty families and no school. Father Quinn filed an appeal with the Vatican about this assignment, and that's where Father Eugene Mary O'Callaghan entered the picture.

Father O'Callaghan was born in 1831 in Newmarket, a small village near Kanturk, Co. Cork. He arrived in Toledo, Ohio in 1847 and worked as a day laborer on the Miami and Erie Canal. He received his education at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana

In 1856 he entered St. Mary's Seminary in Cleveland and was ordained

Continued on facing page

My Roots

Continued from facing page

in 1859. Father O'Callaghan was an imposing individual, standing six feet tall with dark hair and blue eyes. He was highly intelligent, articulate and skilled at making legal arguments. He clashed often with the bishops and wrote what were considered subversive letters using a pseudonym.

He spoke out passionately for the rights of his fellow priests and advocated for fair treatment and compensation. He represented Father Quinn in his appeal. Unfortunately for Father Quinn, his appeal with the Vatican was rejected, and the matter was referred to the Diocese of Cincinnati.

The issue was never resolved. Father Quinn suffered a stroke in 1884 and lingered until 1887, when he died at St. Vincent's Hospital in Toledo.

I wanted to know more about Father O'Callaghan, so I started reading other articles about him. One source stated that his papers and a copy of his will were kept at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. That got me thinking.

Did Father Quinn have a will? Buíochas le Dia —Thank God—he did! I will never forget how astounded I was to read the section where he listed the names of his brothers and sisters, his parents, a nephew and one of his uncles.

Finally, I had a breakthrough with this information about my grandmother's family. So, I got busy locating parish baptismal records and found that Father Quinn had had ten siblings. A few had remained in Ireland; a sister went to Liverpool, England; one brother to Australia and three brothers had immigrated to the United States.

Their parents were named Timothy Quinn and Mary Daly. With further research I discovered that my grandmother had had five brothers.

Father John Quinn had named another Irish immigrant priest, Robert A. Sidley, to be the executor of his will. Father Sidley had been born in Co. Limerick in 1827. As a young boy he came to Geauga County, Ohio, with his family.

He was ordained in 1856 after pre-



Father Robert A. Sidley

paring for the priesthood at St. Mary's Seminary in Cleveland. In reading his obituary, I learned that during the American Civil War, he would row a boat from Sandusky, Ohio, to Johnson's Island in Sandusky Bay, where there was a Confederate prison camp. (Johnson's Island was named for its owner at the time, another Irish immigrant, Leonard Beatty Johnson, from Co. Wexford, Ireland.)

Although there had been a regularly appointed chaplain, the Confederate soldiers disliked him. In Father Sidley's words, "They hated him—and all because he was a Northerner—a man furnished by the government against which they had rebelled. And so, when I went there as a Catholic priest, being neither North nor South, I was welcomed. I served Catholics and non-Catholics alike." Father Sidley served for many years as the pastor of SS Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Sandusky.

There in the parish records he kept, another family mystery was unlocked for me.

In a baptismal record from 1884, written in Latin by Father Sidley, I found the maiden name of my mother's maternal great-grandmother, Margaret Johnston. When Margaret died in 1898, Father Sidley entered her death information and recorded her place of birth as Ireland. Margaret Johnston is buried in St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Sandusky, the same

cemetery where Father John Quinn is buried.

Although I still have many unanswered questions about my Irish ancestors, the journey to discover who they were and where they came from has been a meaningful one. To understand their lives, I have spent hours reading about the history of Ireland,

particularly the famine years.

I have become more knowledgeable about Irish culture and customs. Tá mé ag foghlaim Gaeilge (I'm learning Irish). As a reader of the Ohio Irish American News, I know you've seen the ad for the classes held in the convivial atmosphere of P. J. McIntyre's.

If you've been hesitating to sign up, just do it! The classes are fun, instructors Bob and Vincent make the classes interesting, and you'll meet some nice people. Cleveland has a vibrant Irish American community, and there are so many things to see and do. I have started to explore what it has to offer.

So to Father John Quinn (1824-1887), Father Eugene Mary O'Callaghan (1831-1901), and Father Robert A. Sidley (1827-1904), for ministering to the needs of poor Irish immigrants who came to northern Ohio, and for inspiring me to explore my own Irish heritage, I say with gratitude in your native Irish tongue, Go raibh míle maith agaibh (Thank you). ■

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CLEVELAND COMHRÁ

By Bob Carney
@BobCarneyGTR



Singer-Songwriter Siobhán O'Brien

Limerick native Siobhán O'Brien relocated to the Washington D.C. area in the spring of 2017. Within six months she had secured an opening slot at the famed Birchmere Music Hall and has been selected as a North East Regional Folk Alliance Folk-DJ Showcase Artist by DC radio icon, Mary Cliff.

Siobhán's solo work blends traditions of American song, including folk, blues, rock and country, as well as English, Scottish and Irish traditional music. Her latest recording, "You Can't Run Out of Love" has just been released.

I was invited to her Cleveland performance at P.J McIntyre's last October

and have become a big fan. Siobhán took time from her hectic schedule to speak to us as she prepares for the launch of her new cd, *You Can't Run Out of Love*.

OhioIANews: Did you grow up with music in the house?

Siobhán: Oh God yes! My dad had a huge record collection, a lot of crooners and good singers, he was into good singers. On my mom's side, she's a singing teacher, her dad was a conductor, composer and a music teacher. His parents had an opera company; they used to travel all around the English speaking parts of the world.

I think the talent comes from both sides really. My dad played a bit of the guitar too. He got me into Bob Dylan when I was thirteen. I was surrounded by music.

When did you decide to pursue music as a career?

I got the guitar when I was sixteen, and after learning some chords, I wrote my first song about four months after that. I never thought that I would be able to do that. I thought that was like a godly thing that these people that write songs do; I didn't think it was possible for me to do it!

I got my first gig at eighteen. I saw Tracy Chapman perform when I was in the south of France and I wrote home to my father and told him I was going to play music the rest of my life. So that was the point it happened.

There are some great songs on your new CD, "You Can't Run Out of Love." I really like "Love is the Holy Grail."

That song got an honorable mention in American Songwriter this year and is also in the running for the International Songwriting Competition in Nashville as well as, "The King's Fool," also on the CD. I'm really happy about that!

"The King's Fool" is going to be the first single and "Love is the Holy Grail" will be released second. Everyone here seem to be converging on those two, but my Irish friends seem to prefer the last two songs on the CD, "Sanctuary," co-written with Eamonn Hehir, and "Mother."

OhioIANews: They seem to be very personal.

They are, maybe that's why the people that know me prefer them. I'm really looking forward to them coming out. Hopefully it will bring me to another level of touring. I'd love to get on the road with my band. I recorded the album in Austin and the band is down there. We launched there Jan.17, and the radio play should be happening around then too. Public radio, Sirius



Siobhán O'Brien

XM, everything and anything! I'm looking forward to what comes out of it.

This is your third full length CD, isn't it?

It is. I did a lot of EP's and tapes when cassettes were still around; my first cassette was under the name "Millie Tumbweed," (laughs). I was romanced by the western movies, that was when I was nineteen or twenty.

I had another tape after that called, "What's it All About," then "Mumbo Jumbo Bla Bla Bla." They did pretty well on Irish National Radio.

The first full-length album was a cover album called "Songs I Grew Up To," featuring Paddy Moloney of The Chieftans on the pipes; that's been a very successful one. I never thought I would do an album of covers, but it happened quite by accident.

There's a producer in Co. Clare, Martin O'Malley, who has a great sense for folk music and traditional music too. It just evolved, I was putting the songs down to send to my aunt and uncle in California, who had loved me singing them when I had visited them.

When I came back to the studio, Martin started messing around with them and I was like, "Oh my God! What is going on here!?" So we decided to go forward and invited Paddy Moloney along and he was delighted. He invited me to sing with The Chieftans as a guest vocalist at the Boston Symphony Hall. That was really cool!

After that came my first all-original full length album in 2013. It sounds crazy that it took so long, but that's the way music is now; we can't always give it (recording) our full attention because we have to make a living; plus it takes a lot of money to do these kind of things. I'm the Little Red Hen, trying to do it all on my own.

Will you share your story about meeting Bob Dylan?

I saw him coming out of a hotel in Dublin, and I walked up to him and asked him to take a tape; he wouldn't. I told him I didn't want to annoy him. I said "I just want you to listen to my music, I sing!"

So he said, "So sing for me. I did a verse of an old spiritual that Joan Baez used to sing. He said, "Sing an-

other verse." I did, and he told me to walk with him.

I was singing him bits of old folk songs as we walked. I think he was amused, he brought me along to the gig, at some point I must have sung "The Fox." He said, "Maybe you'll sing that with me." He was really really nice to me, that was 1993 in Dublin.

Will your tour bring you back to Cleveland?

I would love to, but it's hard to book in cities where people are unfamiliar with you. Even when you send out CD's, most people won't even look at them unless you're highly recommended. I hope from the radio and PR campaign that I can come to the attention of some of those types of people.

I'm trying to get out of the bar scene, but it's a Catch 22, because I need to make money, but that's what we all do. I hope next year I can elevate, that's not to make little of the bars; I'm trying to move to the next level.

That's what "The King's Fool" is

all about. I literally left everything I loved to do this; it's a burning desire I just can't get away from. Every disappointment I say, "Oh I just can't do this," but it's a curse. But that song came from those frustrations and it turned into something great, so I'm delighted.

You can listen to Siobhán O'Brien on Amazon Music, Spotify, Facebook, or YouTube, or visit her website: www.siobhanobrien.com, to purchase a CD of your own. ■

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, hound Morrighan and terrier Doolin keep the house jumping. He can be contacted at carneyspeakirish@gmail.com

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For more information, contact CeiliClubCleveland@gmail.com

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145 Montrose West Avenue Copley, Oh 44321 (234) 466-0060 1funpub.com Medina Performing Arts Center 23rd - LUNASA, 3:30 pm (Doors 2:30 pm). Tickets: KBBproductions.net 851 Weymouth Rd, Medina, OH 44256.

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7th - Sumrada 9:00pm, 14th - Abbey Rodeo 8:00pm, 21st - Country Redford 9:00pm, 28th - Disco Inferno 9:00pm, 29th - Caliber 9:00pm. 7861 Reynolds

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

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Logan's Irish Pub - 3rd Wednesday of the month, 414 S. Main St., Findlay, 7:30 pm

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

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

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SHAMROCK CLUB EVENTS

2 - General Meeting; 2 - Soup Cook Off; 8 - Clann na nGael Banquet; 9 - Blood Drive; 14 - Quiz Night; 15 - Irish Triathlon; 16 - General Meeting; 22 - Dogwood Road; 28 - Fish Fry.

Happy Hour every Friday from 5-7pm! 60 W. Castle Rd. Columbus 43207 614-491-4449 shamrockclubofcolumbus.com

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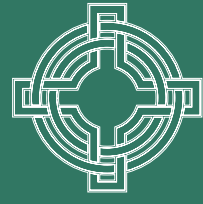
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AN EEJIT ABROAD

By CB Makem



Discovering Dracula and Playing with Fire

Last year I signed off on a “to be continued” column, leaving readers on the edge of the precipice, so to speak. The topic was a three-month adventure in Romania, which the other half and I had just begun.

I had yet to even be served my first breakfast when I ran out of Ohio Irish American News space, so you can imagine how many letters I’ve received from everyone concerned about what happened next. I’ll give you a hint, it’s smaller than a breadbox, but less than one.

Close to a year later, I’ll set the stage for the second act with my promise to you that I will never again leave anyone hanging on a topic that has so little to offer in the way of interest.

Libby and I had just set ourselves down in a quaint restaurant in a town called Sibiu in the region of Transylvania. It was a beautiful area and our nerves were still aflutter from the very real concern that we weren’t going to be allowed into the country the night before.

When last I left you, the waiter was bringing black tea, which I would later find out is only ordered in Romania when someone is feeling ill. There was also breakfast on its way and let me just say on that topic that the Romanians are quite fond of meat. Not that I don’t love it as well, but they could take over the world if they could figure a way to transfer their collective arterial plaque to the leaders of other countries.

Now, to put you at ease—and maybe I could have fit this into the column a year ago—the breakfast was uneventful. Sorry for the wait on that one. Now we’ll move on.

SEBES

We found ourselves in a town called Se-

beş. It has a population of about 24,000, so visualize a town about the size of Ennis, Co. Clare, with the caveat that the similarities end there.

For example, where Ennis boasts many reputable mobile phone shops, not one of them also doubles as a car rental business. Ho-ho! That’s one for Sebeş. Also, the residents of Sebeş are quite adept at keeping their bus schedules a well-guarded secret. Ennis plasters the information all over the place for any nosy vagabond to misuse as he or she sees fit. Chalk up another one for the little Transylvanian town that could.

And finally, Ennis is bogged down with low-income, late night trouble-makers, known in some circles as musicians. When I asked our host in Sebeş where to find some quality live music, she replied, “Er... there might be a wedding or something.” (This actually happened.)

Nonetheless, we were determined to immerse ourselves in the local culture, so with that in mind, this same woman and her husband brought us out for a traditional Romanian celebration a couple weeks later. Lots of fun, we were promised.

The first thing I’m going to do is admit that yes, it was more fun than I could have imagined. Secondly though, I’ll say that there isn’t an insurance company that would ever allow a town or city to host this sort of thing here in the States, or at least I hope not.

You see, this nighttime event centered around wrapping bits of cloth onto a thin wire, setting the fabric alight and whirling the fireball around in wild abandon. If this sounds dangerous as a solo affair, imagine a field of hundreds of participants—including children of all ages—engaged in the ac-



Once a year, Romanians head out into fields to whirl around balls of fire.

tivity at the same time, with 50-gallon barrels and bonfires blazing hither and thither. I will add that the event was hosted by the fire department and there were firemen and firewomen aplenty to keep things as sane as you can imagine something like this could be.

It was during these festivities, friends, that I realized that I had to know more about these people, and it was a topic that Libby and I were both more than happy to research. Every once in a while, we’d up and leave our temporary abode in Sebeş and take a week or two to travel somewhere new in Transylvania.

TRANSYLVANIA

I’ll dispense with everyone’s first Transylvanian thought at the get-go: where was Dracula from? Irish author Bram Stoker based his most famous of characters on Vlad the Impaler, the fifteenth century Romanian tyrant known for impaling people on stakes. Vlad was

born in a village called Sighişoara, and yes, it’s still standing, along with the town’s original fortified walls, its thirteenth century clock tower and the house in which he was born.

Libby and I had no option but to check out his home when we were in town. A tourist trap indeed, it was worth the \$1.25 entrance fee. We even saw the man waiting in the coffin to scare us strolling around town later that day and he seemed a nice chap.

The entire village of Sighişoara is so well preserved, it boggles the mind, thus, I suppose, its designation as a World Heritage Site. The network of narrow cobbled streets hosts two- and three-story pastel colored shops and homes, most from the fifteenth century and earlier.

Now I’ve seen and done a lot of things, but walking past the old Sighişoara graveyard on our way back to our hotel on the evening of Friday

Continued on facing page

Photo by CB Makem



WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING; BE VERY AFRAID

By Maury Collins



Two kids went into their parents’ bathroom and noticed the scale in the corner. “Whatever you do,” said one youngster to the other, “don’t step on it!” “Why not?” asked the sibling. “Because every time Mom does, she lets out an awful loud scream!”

Mother: Why are you crying?

Mark: Dad hit his hand with a hammer.

Mother: I’m surprised you’re not laughing.

Mark: I did.

A three-year-old had been told several times to get ready for bed. The last time his mom told him, she was very insistent. His response was, “Yes, sir!”

Correcting him, she said, “You would say, ‘yes, sir,’ to a man. I am a lady, and you would say ‘yes, ma’am,’ to a lady.” To quiz him on this lesson, she then asked him, “What would you say to Daddy?”

“Yes, sir!” came the reply. “Then what would you say to Mama?” “Yes, ma’am!” he proudly answered. “Good job! Now, what would you say to

Grandma?” He lit up and said, “Can I have a cookie?”

A police officer was escorting a prisoner to jail when the officer’s hat blew off down the sidewalk. “Would you like me to get that for you?” asked the prisoner. “You must think I’m an idiot!” said the officer. “You just wait here, and I’ll get it.”

The woman pulled her car over to the side of the road when she heard the police car’s siren. “How long have you been driving without a taillight?” demanded the officer.

“Oh, no!” screamed the woman. She jumped out and ran to the back of the car.

“Just calm down,” said the officer. “It isn’t that serious.”

“But wait ‘til my husband finds out!” “Where is he?” “He’s in the trailer that was hitched to the car!”

Alex: Weren’t you afraid when the robber pulled a knife on you? Will: No. I knew he wasn’t a professional. The knife still had peanut butter on it.

Dracula

Continued from facing page

the thirteenth, and hearing an owl coo, is up there with the eeriest. But that’s exactly what happened.

Surrounding the old village are the newer sections of Sighişoara, a bustling city of banks, shops, restaurants and homes. It’s where most of the people who aren’t tourists go about their daily lives. Be prepared for busloads of tourists in the nicer months.

As you can well imagine, it’s one of the country’s most visited sites. If you’re looking for advice on where to stay, I couldn’t find a reason to steer you away from the hotel we used, within walking distance of the old village: Casa Cu Cerdac, where the owner will be happy

to give you a tour of the old village onboard his tuk-tuk (that’s one of those open-air motorcycle cabs you see in places like Vietnam. ■

Conor Makem spent 22 years traveling and honing petty gripes as an Irish musician, and enjoyed a further 13 years of people not returning his calls as a journalist. He is fluent in English, American and old Kerry farmer. More of his photos are on Instagram under cb.makem.

Visit cbmakem.com or email contact@cbmakem.com.

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A man wrote a letter to the IRS: “I have been unable to sleep knowing that I have cheated on my income tax. I understated my taxable income and have enclosed a check for two hundred dollars. If I still can’t sleep, I will send the rest.”

A rookie police officer was assigned to ride in a cruiser with an experienced partner. A call came over the radio telling them to break up a group of people loitering. The officers drove to the street and observed a small crowd standing on a corner. The rookie rolled down his window and said, “People, move off this corner!” No one moved, so he yelled, “Get off this corner now!” Intimidated, the group of people began to leave, looking puzzled. Proud of his first official act, the young policeman turned to his partner and asked, “Okay, how did I do?” “Not too bad,” replied the veteran, “especially since this is a bus stop.”

One morning a woman said to her husband, “I bet you don’t know what day this is?”

“Of course I do,” he indignantly answered, going out the door on his way to the office.

At 11:00, the doorbell rang, and when the woman answered it, she was handed a box containing a dozen long-stemmed red roses. At 1:00, a foil-wrapped box of her favorite chocolates arrived. Later in the afternoon, a boutique delivered a designer dress.

The woman couldn’t wait for her husband to come home. “First the flowers, then the candy, and then the dress!” she exclaimed when he walked in the door. “I’ve never had a more wonderful Groundhog Day in my whole life!”

A man arrived at the emergency room with both of his ears badly burned. “How did this happen?” the doctor asked. “I was ironing my shirt when the phone rang, and I answered the iron by mistake,” explained the man. “Well, what about the other ear?” the doctor inquired. “Oh—that happened when I called for the ambulance.”

In the doctor’s office, two patients are talking. “You know,” says the first, “I had an appendectomy last month, and the doctor left a sponge in me by

mistake.”

“A sponge!” exclaims the other. “Do you feel much pain?”

“No pain at all,” says the first, “but I do get thirstier than I used to!”

The students in a second-grade class were asking their teacher about her newly pierced ears. “Does the hole go all the way through?” “Yes.” “Did it hurt?” “Just a little.” “Did they use a needle?” “No, they used a special gun.” Silence followed, and then one solemn voice quietly asked, “How far away did they stand?”

A man returns from an overseas trip feeling very ill. He goes to see his doctor and is immediately rushed to the hospital to undergo a barrage of tests.

The man wakes up after the tests in a private room at the hospital. The phone by his bed rings.

“Hello. This is your doctor. We have received the results from your tests.

We’ve found you have an extremely contagious virus.” “Oh, no!” cried the man. “What are you going to do?”

“Well,” said the doctor, “we’re going to put you on a diet of pizzas, pancakes, and pita bread.”

“And that will cure me?” asked the man.

The doctor replied, “Well, no, but it’s the only food we can slide under the door.” ■

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Congratulations to Marys Lane, celebrating their 10th Anniversary Rockin' & Reeling Irish America, and Ireland too! Here is a little look back!




By Dottie Wenger

KIDS CRAIC

Fantastic February

The holiday season may have ended, but if you're visiting the Emerald Isle, there are plenty of noteworthy dates in February:

February 1st is the Feast Day of St. Brigid of Kildare

The Irish note this day as the beginning of spring, as it falls halfway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. Brigid was an early Christian nun and a founder of many convents. Although Brigid is one of Ireland's patron saints, her special day is observed as far away from Ireland as Australia and New Zealand. This design is called a St. Brigid's Cross. It's often made with straw, and is thought to keep evil, fire and hunger from the home in which it is displayed.



February 14th is Valentine's Day

This is celebrated much the same way in Ireland as it is here in the United States. But there are some Valentine highlights specific to Ireland. In Dublin, for example, tourists can visit the shrine to St. Valentine at the Carmelite Whitefriar Street Church, where the saint was laid to rest. They can also take a stroll down a Dublin street called Love Lane, where romantic quotes are written on the wall. And in the Tannaghmore Gardens in County Armagh, there is the famous "Kissing Gate." Legend states that couples who kiss over the gate will get married within a year! It's also a popular spot for wedding photos.



Kissing Gate

Leapin' Leprechauns!

2020 is a Leap Year, and Leap Day is recognized on February 29th. A leap year occurs every four years, when there are 366 days in the calendar year instead of 365. This has to do with the earth and the sun: it takes Earth 365 days to make a complete orbit around the Sun. We call this a solar year. The solar year should line up with our calendar, but since it's not exactly lined up, we have leap year to make things neat and tidy.

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**Dottie taught kindergarten and second grade for a total of thirty-two years, and she now handles marketing and promotions for Yorktown Service Plaza in Parma Heights. In her spare time, Dottie is a baker extraordinaire, and also enjoys participating in 5K events in order to offset collateral damage from this hobby.*

Fun Facts About Leap Year:

Sometimes babies born on Leap Day are called Leaplings (and on years when February 29th is not on the calendar, they can choose to celebrate on February 28th or on March 1st... how cool is THAT?)

The U.S. Presidential Elections and the Summer Olympics happen during Leap Years.

An Irish custom is for women to propose to their men on Leap Day.

Go take a leap! Have a contest with your friends or family to see who can jump the farthest. How about a jump rope competition?



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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

By Linda Fulton Burke



ACROSS

- 3 _____ na Gael was founded in New York. 1867
6 _____ na mBan was founded. 1914
11 _____ Stewart Parnell became MP for Meath. 1875
12 The Gaelic _____ Association was founded. 1884
14 The Cabinet accepted the _____ Treaty. Parnell and others were released from Kilmainham Jail. 1882
15 The Franchise Act added many Irish rural _____. 1884
16 An economic crisis followed three years of bad _____ and agricultural depression. 1879
19 Ireland got its first _____ party, in Belfast. 1892
20 Queen _____ visited Ireland. 1898
21 _____ and others held prolonged sittings in the House of Commons. 1877
24 The Pigott _____ were exposed. 1889
28 James Stephens was arrested and then rescued from Richmond _____. 1865
29 The Sinn Féin name was adopted for the 1907 union between the Sinn Féin League and the National _____. 1908
31 _____' Second Land Act conceded the 'three Fs' - fair rent, free sale and fixity of tenure. 1881
34 Parnell visited _____. 1880
38 _____ Griffith founded the Cumman na nGaedheal. 1900
40 The _____ Incident (or 'Mutiny') took place when British army officers announced they

would rather resign than oppose the pro-British Ulster Volunteer Force. 1914

43 The _____ Volunteers carried out gun-running at Larne, Bangor, and Donaghadee. 1914

44 Gladstone's conversion to home _____ was announced. and defeated 1885 1886

45 _____ married Katherine O'Shea as soon as her divorce had gone through. He died three months later. 1891

46 There were over one hundred casualties after demonstrations in London against the imprisonment of William O'Brien. This was known as _____ Sunday. 1887

48 Isaac Butt's motion on home rule was _____ in the House of Commons. 1874

49 A _____ campaign in Britain led to Thomas Clarke and others being jailed. 1884

DOWN

1 The word boycotting was coined after Captain Charles C _____ was ostracized during the land war. 1880

2 The _____ League was founded. 1893

4 In September, the Dublin _____ began. It continued until February 1914.

5 The Ulster Volunteer Force, Irish _____ Army and Irish Volunteers were founded. 1913

7 A 'land _____' began that would continue for three years. 1879

8 The _____ Unionist Council was formed. 1905

9 Isaac Butt launched the _____ Rule movement. 1870

10 The Second Home Rule Bill passed the _____ s but was defeated in the Lords. 1893

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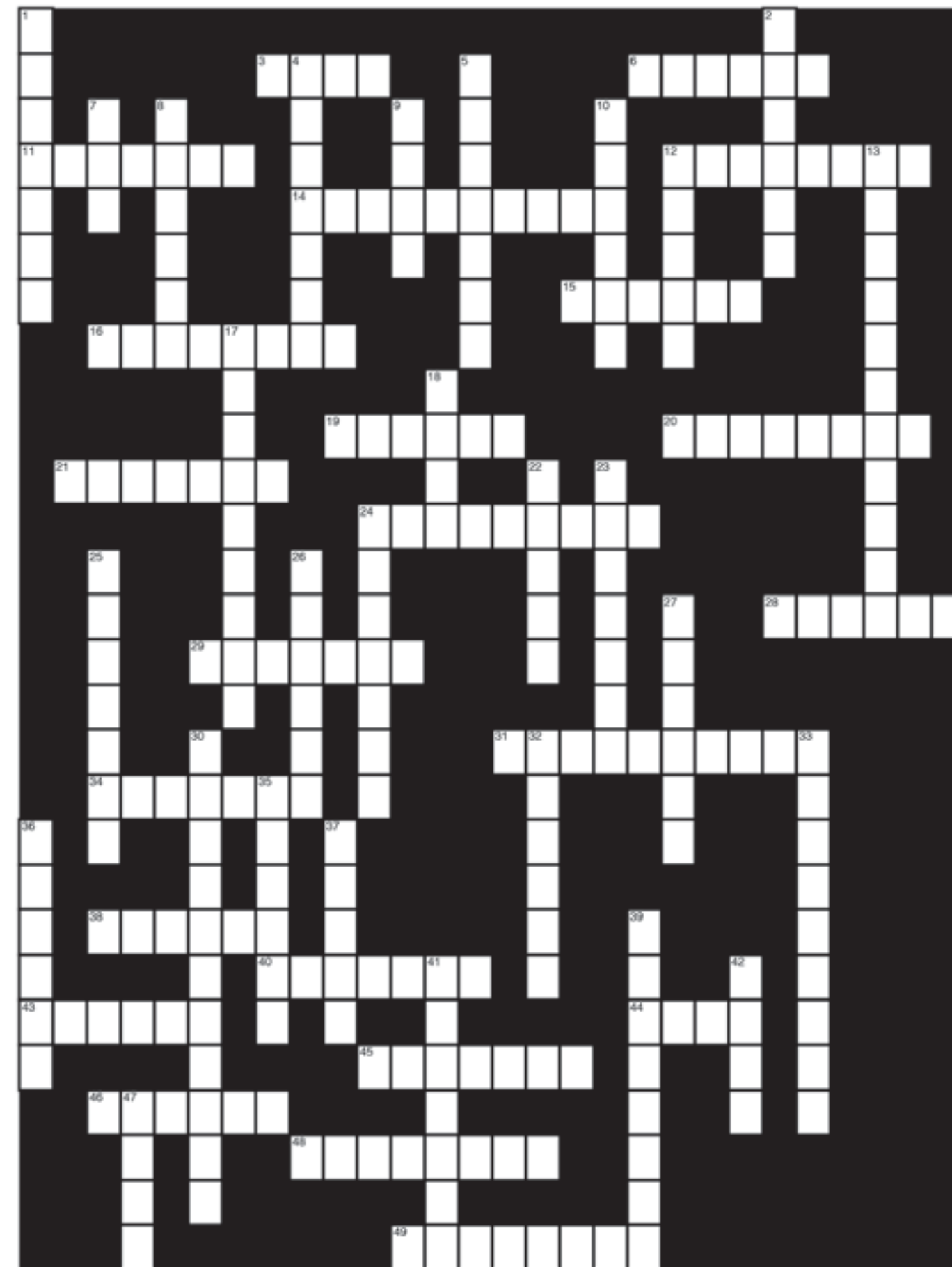
- 12 The _____ Theatre was founded. 1904
13 Lord Frederick Cavendish and Thomas Henry Burke were murdered at Phoenix Park by the _____ 1882
17 Fenians attempting a rescue caused an _____ that killed twelve people living near the prison. 1867
18 A _____ Relief Act extended outdoor relief. 1862
22 The _____ volunteers brought in weapons at Howth and Kilcoole. 1914
23 John _____ became the leader of the Parnellites. 1891
24 _____ attempted to seize Chester Castle and rose up in Kerry, Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Tipperary and Clare. 1867
25 The Irish Party held the balance in two UK _____ elections. 1910
26 The Fenians raided _____. 1866 1871
27 The _____ Rising took place in Dublin in April. Its leaders were executed. 1916
30 The Irish Republican _____ withdrew support for home rule. 1876
32 The Home Rule _____ was founded. 1873
33 The Irish _____ Republican party was formed with James Connolly as its secretary. 1896
35 The _____ of Ireland was disendowed. 1869
36 The Land _____ was declared illegal. 1881
37 The _____ home rule bill passed the Commons twice and was twice rejected by the Lords. 1913
39 The Wyndham Land _____ Act worked out a new scheme for tenant land purchase. 1903
41 The third home rule bill passed, but was suspended after Britain declared war on _____ on the 4th of August. 1914
42 An Act of Parliament removed the House of Lords' absolute _____ over new legislation. 1911
47 The Irish National _____ League was founded. 1879



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