



# OHIO IRISH AMERICAN NEWS

May 2020 • Volume 14 - Issue 5



Fiddler Extraordinaire  
*Jessie Burns*  
Leading Us Out of the  
Covid19 Darkness



# Ready, Set, Woe



## EDITOR'S CORNER

By John O'Brien, Jr.

@jobjr

OhioIANews online, and therefore are refusing a mailed copy. I assure, every expense is being watched, and your faith in us is not misplaced.

I am so angry to hear the latest implosion by the Cleveland Plain Dealer, the only daily newspaper in Greater Cleveland. I never thought "our" Cleveland Plain Dealer would drop to intentional elimination of local people reporting local issues, union people, to become ??? what - filler for the ad pages on Cleveland.com? Or, in effect, by design, extinct.

I know so many of the reporters, favorites like Michael K. McIntyre, Rachel Dissell, Roxanne Washington, John Cobra Verde Petkovic, Laura DeMarco, and on and on ... whose columns I seek out daily. I like the weekly local Scene for its angles and music scene, but it's not unbiased in any way.

Publishing a monthly news-magazine like I do, I can't offer direct timely coverage, like so many of these reporters mentioned above always did. This is a virus with no vaccine, and a 100% kill

rate. I am truly sorry that professional reporters are forced to take this greed fueled hit.

Money is short; times are hard, but we always held up, those with the media card.

I had a great chat this morning with Dan Fedoryka, of Scythian, checking in first, and then talking about the virus damage to musicians, the supporting casts, and the venues they play, including festivals, which are being cancelled.

Scythian has a new CD coming out in July; the guys are very excited with what they have heard so far; I can't wait to hear it, and feature it in the July issue.

In a divisive world, will it take a virus to finally bring us together, albeit six feet apart? Can we finally reach the point of saying, even though someone's point of view may be different, I won't let that different POV undermine the much more important, lasting meaning of friendship? Life is much bigger than that.

I can disagree with someone's opinion, even discuss it and learn from it, without resorting to snide, personal or toxic attacks, and I can simply move on. Christianity has a lot of ills, but also teaches a lot of love.

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



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### About Our Cover:



Fiddler extraordinaire Jessie Burns leading us out of the Covid19 darkness

Photo by Roddy McWha



**MARY ALICE BOLAND**  
June 03, 1929 - April 07, 2020



Mary Alice Boland (nee Hageman), age 90. Beloved wife of the late Brendan; loving mother of Alyse Butts (Jim), Brendan (Eileen), Maura Keast (Warren), Patricia

McLaughlin, Ruthie and the late Gerald; caring and devoted grandmother of 15; sister of the late Jack Hageman; aunt and great-aunt of many. The Boland family would like to thank and recognize their mom's dear friend and caregiver Ashley Pacheco. Passed away April 7, 2020. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions to the Monastery of the Poor Clares, 3501 Rocky River Dr., Cleveland, OH 44111. A Celebration of her Life will be announced at a later date.

Obituary courtesy of Chambers Funeral Homes [www.chambersfuneral.com](http://www.chambersfuneral.com)

**FRANCIS "FRANK" BUCKLEY**  
October 04, 1932 - April 10, 2020



Francis "Frank" Buckley, age 87, (native of WhiteChurch Cappagh, Co. Waterford, Ireland) devoted and beloved husband for 60 years of Ellen "Nell" (nee McCarthy), loving father of James

Buckley (Kathie) and Clare Coleman (Clinton), dear grandfather of Frank, Katharina, Erin, Diana and Sean and beloved uncle to many nieces and nephews. Son of the late James and Catherine Buckley, brother to Sean-deceased, James-deceased, Patrick, William, Maura and Eileen-deceased. Frank's family will have a Memorial Mass and celebration of his life at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions in his name to Hospice of the Western Reserve, 17876 St. Clair Ave. Cleveland, OH 44110. Obituary courtesy of Chambers Funeral Homes [www.chambersfuneral.com](http://www.chambersfuneral.com)



Andrew Shuman at the Cliffs of Moher on St Pats Week last year

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## SATURDAY

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WRUW FM 91.1 w/Christine Hahn

10am-11am: **Johnson Brothers Irish Hour** WKTL-FM 90.7

## SUNDAY

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WCSB-FM 89.3

10am-12pm: **Gerry Quinn's Irish Hours** WHK-AM 1420 w/ Colleen Corrigan Day & Eddie Fitzpatrick

11:30am-1:30pm: **Echoes of Erin**  
WCVA-AM 1230 w/John Connolly

6pm- 7pm: **Songs of Britain & Ireland**  
WCPC-FM 90.3



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# The Tree

*In that forest to and fro, I can wander, I can go. . .*

*"The Little Land" by Robert Louis Stevenson*



## BLOWIN' IN

By Susan Mangan

@SueMangan

into the land of Nod."

As children we were a hungry audience, listening to Mim's every melodious word while awaiting sweet cakes fried in butter, dripping with homemade sugar syrup. Her verses poured over our imaginations like lemonade and strawberry soda.

There are days that I flashback to this time. I recall my overactive imagination, and how the farmhouse would creak and whistle at night; especially when a summer storm was brewing, and the ancient oak and elm branches rattled against the eaves.

When I was small, I would pad through the upstairs hallway on silent bare feet and climb into the antique bed my parents shared. They rose early to make coffee and visit with Mim as she prepared breakfast for the sleeping house.

Country wisdom began with my grandmother Mim. Her grandchildren would follow at her heels as she made turtle shaped pancakes and silver-dollar sized Johnny Cakes with ears that looked like those belonging to Mickey Mouse. As Mim stirred white sugar into boiling water, she talked to us about Robert Louis Stevenson and his *Child's Garden of Verses*. In her smooth Ozark drawl Mim would recite, "From breakfast on through all the day/ at home among my friends I stay/ but every night I go abroad/ afar

After my parents rose for the day, I would awaken willingly at dawn and peer through the large farmhouse windows with my myopic eyes. I didn't need to see well to enjoy the gentle movement of the curtain sheers as they blew like white sails in the early morning air.

With utter contentment, I buried my head into goose down pillows and listened to the soft lowing of cows in the field. At that moment, my world was filled with the promise of barnyard duties, turtle pancakes, and the comfort of Mim's favorite tales.

It is curious the images that remain lasting in our adult psyches. My mother once told me how her mother, our Mim, would suffer through the endless cooking and baking that a mother of five and a farmer's wife had to endure with a book propped open on her kitchen counter. All chaos could be breaking loose, but Mim was centered by the task at hand and the presence of words.

As the years passed and grandchildren pulled at her apron strings, Mim would bake to welcome us to her home during our summer holidays. I still have my mother's recipe for "Mim's Good

Cookies." Black walnuts proved to be the secret ingredient, a flavor that does not appeal to modern tastes, but resonates with my longing for nostalgia.

You see, the black walnuts necessary to the cookies were gathered from the tree that grew on the bend that led to the old farmhouse where my mother was born and reared. As a girl, she would pick those black walnuts then sit in the shade of that tree and dream of her life beyond the farm, never knowing how pivotal her time there would be to me.

My mother always had an affinity for trees. She would never want to cut one down no matter how close it grew to a home's foundation. She enjoyed their shade and ever-changing beauty. My mother told me what an impact the novel *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* had on her formative, adolescent years. Having grown up on a farm, she could not imagine what it was like to live in an apartment and be inspired by a single tree.

For the girl in the novel, the tree symbolized freedom, and I guess in a way it meant the same for my mother. Beneath the farm's black walnut tree, she stole moments to dream and imagine

THROUGHOUT TIME, VARIOUS CULTURES AND RELIGIONS HAVE ESPOUSED THE TREE AS A SOURCE OF POWER, FERTILITY, AND INTERCONNECTEDNESS.

what her future might hold; beneath those boughs, she was unaware of the profound joys and times of sadness that would inevitably fall around her like black walnuts that litter the ground during late autumn.

Throughout time, various cultures and religions have espoused the tree as a source of power, fertility, and interconnectedness. The Tree of Life is present in the Garden of Eden. At once, it represents beauty and temptation, but also choice. The tree tempts us with shade, but also provides us with a sturdy trunk to lean upon as we reflect on our life and future choices. New buds give sway to unfurled leaves, which in turn rage with color, only to succumb to another season, one of reflection and dormancy.

The ancient Celts revered the power of trees. They referred to the Tree of Life as *Crann Bethadh*. The roots represent the Otherworld, the trunk: the mortal world, and the leaves and branches: the heavens.

It is said that Treochair, a giant from the Otherworld visited the High King of Tara. He brought with him a branch, and the seeds from this branch fell across the four corners of Ireland and rooted in its center. The five trees became sacred to the ancient ones, providing guidance, protection, and a connection to the two worlds, between earth and heaven.

As the years of my life pass, I realize how much my existence is like a tree. I

was given strong roots, an inheritance from the intelligent and steadfast women before me. My trunk is a connection between my past and current life: a sturdy base for my children to lean against and to dream. My branches lift my children toward the future, with a silent prayer that beauty touches them like a fragrant apple blossom in May.

Such beauty can be fleeting, but within these flowers lie new chapters, new hopes. The seeds that fall in the spring lie in wait, patient in the face of a relentless summer sun. When yet another winter melts into spring, tender saplings emerge delicate, yet powerful, reaching toward the future with all the wisdom of a well-rooted tree. ■

Sources Consulted: Stevenson, Robert Louis. *A Child's Garden of Verses*. Charles Scribner's Sons. New York: 1905.

Internet Sources Consulted: "Meaning of the Tree of Life," *One Tribe Apparel.com*.

Halpin, Marian. "Celtic Tree of Life; the Meaning and History of the Ancient Symbol." *Blog Post: March 19, 2020*.

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](mailto:suemangan@yahoo.com)

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## ON THIS DAY IN IRISH HISTORY - MAY

**2 May 1882** - The Kilmainham Treaty is signed by the British government under William Ewart Gladstone and the Irish Nationalist leader, Charles Stewart Parnell; it was seen as a major triumph for Irish nationalism.

**4 May 1939** - In the wake of protests from northern Catholic bishops and Taoiseach Eamon de Valera, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain announced that conscription would not extend to Northern Ireland.

**5 May 1981** - Death of Bobby Sands, the first republican prisoner to die in The Troubles hunger strike.

**15 May 1808** - Birth of Michael William Balfe, composer best remembered for his opera, *The Bohemian Girl*.

**17 May 1974** - The Dublin and Monaghan Bombings, the worst single day in the history of The Troubles (1969-98).

**24 May 1928** - William Trevor (Cox),

prolific and prize-winning short story writer and novelist, is born in Michelstown, Co. Cork. Among the best known of his over forty works are *Felicia's Journey* and *The Story of Lucy Gault*.

**25 May 1315** - Edward Bruce lands at Larne and is proclaimed King of Ireland.

**25 May 1914** - The Home Rule Bill was carried in the House of Commons for the third and final time.

**26 May 1964** - President Eamon de Valera began a state visit to the U. S. During his stay, he addressed both houses of Congress and made a private visit to the home of the widowed Jacqueline Kennedy.

**29 May 1914** - the Canadian Pacific liner *Empress of Ireland* sank on the St. Lawrence River after colliding with a Norwegian coal ship, *Collier*. 1,012 passengers and crew died.

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# Seán MacBride, Father of the MacBride Principles



## ILLUMINATIONS

By J. Michael Finn

Seán MacBride was born in Paris on January 26, 1904. His father was John MacBride, an Irish nationalist who vehemently opposed British rule in Ireland. John MacBride was a Major in the Irish Transvaal Brigade that fought in South Africa against England during the Boer War in 1899.

MacBride's mother was Maud Gonne, daughter of a British Army Colonel, a noted beauty, an actress and also a staunch Irish nationalist. She inspired some of the poetry of William Butler Yeats. Maud Gonne and John MacBride were divorced in 1905.

In Paris, Seán MacBride attended

the Jesuit School, where he became fluent in the French language. In 1916, MacBride's father took part in the Easter Rebellion and was captured by the British. Despite the fact that John MacBride played only a small part in the rebellion, he was executed with the other leaders.

It was, unfortunately, John's fondness for strong drink that kept him excluded from much of the planning process for the rebellion. His execution was belated British retaliation for his military activities in South Africa more than for his activities in 1916.

After his father's death, Seán and his mother moved to Dublin, where she was a popular speaker on nationalist and women's issues. She was arrested and jailed several times for her nationalist political activities.

One of his mother's most vivid memories was that of little Seán running after the British police wagon that carried her to prison. On two

occasions young Seán helped his mother escape from British prisons and he himself was twice arrested for his own revolutionary activities.

In 1917, at the age of thirteen, MacBride joined the Irish Republican Army. Despite his youth, he served as an officer in the IRA during the Anglo-Irish War from 1919-1921. During the bitter civil war that followed, MacBride was on the side of the Anti-Treaty forces and was arrested several times by the Irish Free State, but he always managed to escape.

In 1929, MacBride traveled to the United States, seeking support for the IRA. He became Chief of Staff of the IRA in 1936 but resigned in 1939 after objecting to a bombing campaign that was proposed for England.

His resignation was also prompted by the establishment of the Irish Constitution in 1937, which he felt satisfied republican demands. MacBride then completed his law studies at Mount St. Benedict College in Dublin, and he was admitted to the Irish bar in 1937.

After World War II, MacBride formed the Clan na Poblachta (pron: *klan naa po-blac-ta*), the political party that successfully challenged DeValera's Fianna Fáil

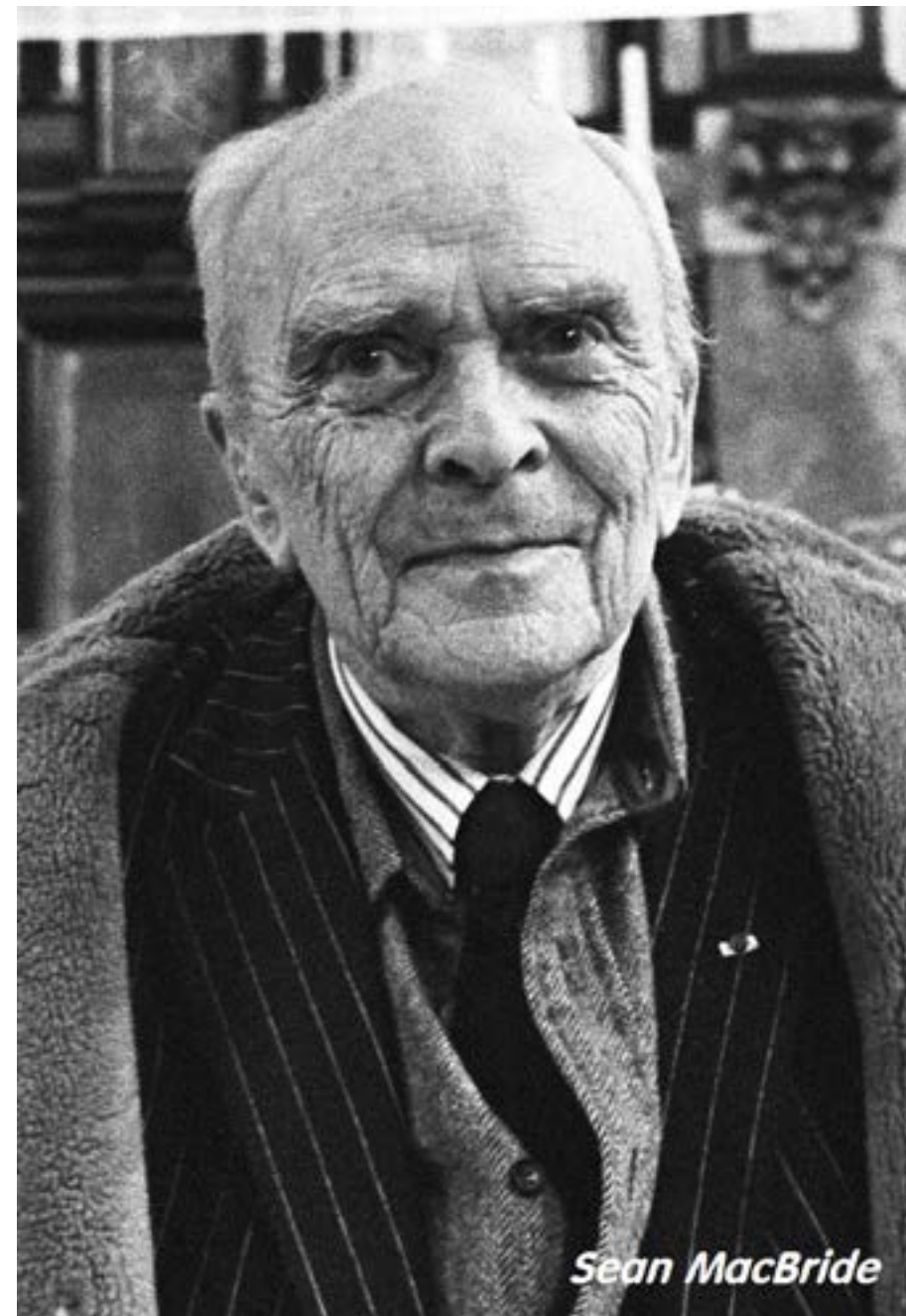
Party. He forced the formation of a coalition government in October 1947 when he won a seat in Dáil Éireann in the Dublin County constituency. MacBride was appointed as Minister of External Affairs in the new government.

MacBride supported the Republic of Ireland Act. With its passage on April 18, 1949, the twenty-six counties of Ireland became a republic, withdrew from the British Commonwealth, and reasserted its jurisdictional claims over Northern Ireland. MacBride served as Minister of External Affairs until 1951, and was reelected to the Dáil in 1951, 1954 and 1955.

At the Council of Europe in 1950, MacBride played an important role in the adoption of the *European Convention on Human Rights*, the first international recognition of individual rights. From this point in his life, MacBride turned his considerable energies toward promoting the cause of human rights around the world.

He was a founding member of Amnesty International and served as its International chairman from 1961 until 1975. MacBride was also Secretary-General of the International Commission of Jurists from 1963 to 1971.

*Continued on facing page*



Seán MacBride

clared that the use of nuclear weapons would constitute a violation of international law and human rights as well as a crime against humanity.

Seán MacBride is widely known for his formulation of the "MacBride Principles," aimed at eliminating discrimination against Catholics by employers in Northern Ireland. The nine principles were basic tenants of fair employment practices which he sought to have established in Northern Ireland.

His goal was to achieve equal employment to ensure that both Catholics and Protestants were treated the same, both in consideration of employment and in the workplace. US Irish organizations, in particular, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, picked up the campaign and diligently worked to establish support for the principles.

Many state and local governments adopted laws requiring U.S. firms doing business in the north of Ireland to agree to follow them in the daily conduct of their business. Many also enacted laws preventing the government unit from investing in companies that did not agree to establish the MacBride Principles.

The British government and many Northern Ireland companies actively opposed the principles, as did some US based businesses operating in Northern Ireland. Despite this opposition, the contribution of the

MacBride Principles legislation to the eventual establishment of the current Peace Process in the north of Ireland cannot be overlooked.

On January 15, 1988, after years of service to his country and the world, Seán MacBride died of pneumonia at his home, Roebuck House, in Dublin, at the age of 83. He is buried in Glasnevin Cemetery in a grave with his mother, and wife who died in 1976.

In July 1988, the Ancient Order of Hibernians established the Seán MacBride Humanitarian Award, "To memorialize the human rights contributions made by Nobel Peace Laureate Dr. Seán MacBride and to recognize the efforts of others who make similar contributions in the cause of peace, justice, and the economic well-being of the Irish people." ■

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

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## MacBride

*Continued from facing page*

Because of his groundbreaking work in the area of human rights, MacBride was awarded the Lenin Peace Prize (1977), the American Medal of Justice (1978) and the UNESCO Silver Medal (1980). He was recognized as a man who "mobilized the conscience of the world in the fight against injustice."

In his Nobel acceptance speech MacBride said, "... it is only too obvious that it is often those in authority who set the bad example. If those vested with authority and power and killing is it not inevitable that those who are the victims will react with similar methods?"

In 1987, MacBride launched the historic Lawyers Appeal, calling for prohibition of nuclear weapons. It was signed by 11,000 lawyers from fifty-six countries. This appeal de-

## Michael P. O'Malley Attorney at Law

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# And the Bands Play On



## COLUMBUS IRISH

By Molly Truex



We know Ohio Rocks, and we'd like to take this summer lead up issue to introduce you to two new Columbus area bands, that rock-n-reel with the best of them.

### THE PINTS

#### OhioIANews: How were The Pints formed?

Ed Tatum, Carol Metheny and Matt Dixon performed together previously, with the addition of Jeff Kanel, we formed The Pints in late 2019.

#### Have each of you always been musicians?

Each of us has played music much of our entire lives, as well as performing on stage. It was important to us that The Pints include experienced performers. That helped us to rapidly build a repertoire, innovate on the instrumentals and get out into the Columbus music scene within a month of forming the band.

Matt Dixon makes his living with music gigging with a number of Columbus musicians, as well as develop-

ing the music for the dance programs at Dennison and OSU. He also has an electronic dance project, "Mr. Molly." Matt plays drums, bodhran, marimba, cajon and more.

Carol Metheny is a talented veteran of the Columbus music scene. She continues to play fiddle in General Guinness in addition to playing in the Pints.

Ed Tatum is our lead vocalist and guitarist. Ed performed for over 20 years with Uisce Beatha, a Richmond, Virginia Celtic group. Ed's resonating voice carries the band across every style of music we play.

Jeff Kanel plays mandolin and fiddle, in addition to vocals. He also plays in Ballybeg Banter, another Columbus Irish band.

#### What has been your most memorable gig?

Our first performance was at Tara

Hall, which is always special, given the intimate and acoustically superb venue, as well as the family of musical friends the Hibernians have cultivated.

The Pints is just getting started in Columbus, unfortunately, the COVID-19 shutdown has already canceled several gigs and we expect a few more to be canceled before it is through. We are playing at the Dublin Irish Festival 2020, so we're praying the show goes on.

#### What is your best memory, non-show related?

Our best memories so far have been practicing at Ed's house. Everyone was committed to putting in the time so that The Pints would have an inspiring sound. Once a week we climb two flights of stairs to Ed's finished attic-slash-recording studio. We explored many different genres of music and go

to know each other's styles.

We also deeply appreciate the strong support and welcoming nature of the Columbus musical scene. While Carol and Jeff have been in Columbus awhile, Matt and Ed were newcomers. We were able to meet and play with many folks in the Columbus folk and Celtic scene. And, of course, that's how we got together.

#### What genre of music do you play the most?

The Pints aim for a Celtic-America niche genre. We are all Americans, growing up playing different styles of music. But there are deep interrelationships and commonalities between British Invasion rock, Blues, Bluegrass and traditional Celtic and American folk. The Pints are taking traditional Celtic pub songs and American Folk and melding them with jigs and reels.

#### What is your dream gig?

We love interacting with our audience and performing, no matter what venue. It would be exciting to play sometime on one of the larger Dublin Irish Festival stages. Right now, our focus is getting into a regular rotation of Columbus music venues and then expanding into the regional festivals.

#### Where can we find listings of your shows?

Our Facebook page is [facebook.com/thepintsband/](https://www.facebook.com/thepintsband/) with music videos and a list of upcoming events. Hopefully we can all get together this summer!



## Fialla

### FIALLA

OhioIANews: How was Fialla formed, how long have you been together?

**Jake:** Stephen and I played together until a few years ago in a sort of Irish trad / pub band mashup, along with Stephen's sister Renee (who is my wife) and our friend Byron. After that group's parting, Stephen and I went searching for someone full of talent, inspiration, and integrity to round out a trio, and found those qualities in abundance in Katie. The three of us first started tossing around musical arrangements in the summer of 2019,

and finally took the stage for a Christmas special at The Rambling House, where all the proceeds went to a local ministry for new mothers in difficult circumstances.

#### Have each of you always been musicians or just started?

All three of us were born into extremely talented families, thanks to whom we are all unfairly blessed with a kind of musical foundation built into our respective DNA. None of us have dedicated our lives or careers to music, but it's definitely something we all love to tinker with (a hilarious percentage of the instruments we play in our show are ones we have picked up just for that

specific song), and it's a big part of what we find ourselves drawn to in our free time. We are each blown away by the privilege of playing in the company of the other two, and we hope that that excitement and fondness comes through on stage.

#### What has been your most memorable gig?

**Stephen:** My most memorable gig would have to be the Shamrock Club in January. Everyone there was so supportive and genuine. We were all blown away by the kindness of the Irish community and it left us feeling so excited to continue playing. I think this gig was where we started to really believe peo-

ple enjoyed our music, which is such an honor. Playing for a similar audience at Tara Hall was also incredible. We owe a lot of our momentum to the gracious people at these venues and are excited to keep getting to know them!

#### What genre of music do you play the most?

Traditional Irish music, decorated with some fresh (but not *too* fresh) ideas. Sometimes there's some American folk and even bluegrass tossed in there as well.

#### What is your dream gig?

**Jake:** If I ever had the chance to collaborate with Matt Molloy, Paddy Moloney, and Kevin Conneff, I think

that would be the pinnacle of my musical experience.

#### What does the name "Fialla" mean?

Fialla is a mutation of an old Gaelic word for kinship, which we feel is a good heading for our trio. Even at a time when we are unable to share music together in person, that kinship remains the foundation of our friendship.

For show listings, find Fialla on [facebook.com/fiallamusic](https://www.facebook.com/fiallamusic) or just fialla. ■

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# Weathering the Storm



## DUBLIN DIARIES

By Margaret Mary Hicks

It has been awhile since I have written and I find it very hard to write now, but I think it is very important to be reflective in these moments and cherish the little things in life. Being away from my family and friends in Cleveland right now is especially hard, and making the decision to stay in Dublin through this was not an easy one.

Many hypotheticals have run across my mind and I was in doubt on if I was making the right decision given the circumstances. COVID-19 has changed how I view and value life and it will drastically alter how my next few months will go, as I am sure it will with the whole world as well.

Amid the worries of sickness and being away from family, I am also quite worried about what this means as I embark on my first ever professional career. The global economy is already being impacted greatly and I can only imagine what these effects will be going forward. I'd be lying if I said I wasn't sad or even frankly, hopeless, at times throughout this. The uncertainty and unprecedented nature of this situation can at times be suffocating, but I know that I am strong enough to make it through this.

In a recent call with my great aunt, who lives in Dublin as well, I asked her if she thought it would be best for me to return home. "What a waste that would be for you," she immediately said. "You have made it this far and all of your hard work would be for nothing. If you went home, you probably wouldn't come back." That was a tough reality to swallow and at the time I was not sure if I could endure this while living alone. However, my aunt inspired me and made me feel confident in my decision to stay here and weather through the storm.

I was surprised at how rapidly things

have changed, but I am so incredibly lucky to be in a country that takes this virus seriously and has acted swiftly and accordingly to rise to the challenge. I am afraid I cannot say the same for my home country, but I am so incredibly thankful that Governor DeWine is also taking a strict approach in Ohio, which is very similar to what I see in Ireland. It is reassuring that these measures are being taken and my family both here and in Cleveland are safer as a result.

Throughout all of this, I have tried to keep myself busy and keep working on assignments. I think this situation makes it one of the hardest times in my life to focus and concentrate and my motivation is struggling. However, my days are taken up by schoolwork, cooking, walks around the neighborhood, cleaning my flat, watching Netflix (namely, Tiger King), yoga and most importantly: wine.

While I know I will get my work done, I am finding it difficult to get in the headspace where I can feel completely focused on what I need to do without distractions. Part of this problem I believe is that I have my desk in my room, which is the only place I can put it. I don't feel very productive in my room, but I have managed to meet my deadlines so far.

I have also been able to take the time to really enjoy my cooking and try new things in the kitchen, which is refreshing. Before, I had not really appreciated cooking and viewed it only as a means to an end. Now, it is like a form of therapy and relaxation to me. I look forward to my time dedicated to cooking things that make me happy and exploring what I can do. Recently, I made a traditional Irish apple tart, which was pretty great. I also made a tomato tortellini soup which was really good and I am looking forward to making it again.

The quarantine has also allowed me to explore my lovely little town of Rathmines and the surrounding neighborhoods. While I had previously been busy commuting to class and not really taking moments to embrace my surroundings, I am now able to do that. The weather has been absolutely gorgeous lately, which makes it a whole lot more enjoyable than



Howth Cliff Walk.

the rain and cold we have had lately. I like to take different paths each day and it is a fun little challenge with myself to just get a little lost and find my way back home. While I no longer go outside past dark, I am still able to enjoy my evening walks because it gets dark much later here now.

I have also been able to thoroughly clean up my apartment now and it is nice to be able to clean for myself and no one else. It allows me to take it at my own pace and see what needs to be done. I also have been using this time to find those finishing touches in the apartment online through Etsy and Amazon. For my walls I am going for a mostly black and white feel, but my whole room has dusty pink, gray and crisp white. I am looking forward to the end result. In college, my mom and I would always love to decorate my different rooms over the years and we got such joy over being able to pick out the perfect items for the space. While she isn't here and we can't do that physically right now, I send her different pieces I am thinking

about and she also will send me recommendations as well. She currently thinks I should definitely invest in a TV and a softer chair, but I am concerned with the amount of space I have that this may not work. We will see.

Another thing I do to fill the day is watch Netflix, like I am sure everyone is doing now. I finished Tiger King, Love is Blind and The Confession Killer, all of which are varying levels of madness. On a scale, Tiger King is definitely the craziest to me and it makes such great television. Somehow, watching it makes me feel better about my own life trajectory. If you know, you know. Love is Blind was also pretty wild, but there were moments where I wanted to cry at how cute Cameron and Lauren are. I am rooting for them to this day. The Confession Killer is another wild one. It's a docuseries about Henry Lee Lucas, who is one of the most notorious serial killers ever, maybe... The story kept me invested throughout the whole series and it is a good watch that isn't as scary as the Conversations with a Killer: The Ted

Bundy Tapes docuseries. If I want something light, I have been watching Brooklyn Nine-Nine and Nailed It! which are both hilariously entertaining. Brooklyn Nine-Nine is about New York's most notorious precinct of the same name, and Andy Samberg and the rest of the cast leave me feeling positive and optimistic. Nailed It! is a baking competition where literally anyone can win. They take beginner and amateur bakers and have them compete in creating pretty elaborate cakes and bakery items. My favorite episode so far is when they have to construct a bust of President Trump. The end result is extraordinary.

Before the pandemic I found a really wonderful yoga studio where I found a supportive community. I was so excited to become a member, but with everything being cancelled I have not been keeping up with my yoga routine. However, I try to follow along with classes on YouTube and I also listen to the Yoga Girl Daily podcast on Spotify, which helps to ground me and reflect on my life as it's happening now.

I have also started drinking more wine and even getting into red wines. Previously, I considered myself a strictly moscato, prosecco or champagne girl, but I am exploring new types and have really been able to appreciate them more. Maybe this means I am becoming an adult. Given the circumstances, I also have only really drank alone since this whole thing started. Previously I only really drank socially and limited it to that, but now having a glass after a long day of work or to enjoy with dinner is nice and gives me a little respite from all the craziness.

I have also used this time to check in with friends. My friends from college and I also did a virtual happy hour/presentation party where we each gave presentations on a topic of our choice. My topic was Irish Slang for Beginners. It was fun to make and it got my mind off of assignments and everything else going on. It was the perfect opportunity to catch up with them because before this we were all so busy and on different schedules. The quarantine gave us this opportunity and for that I am grateful, despite the circumstances.

The night before the quarantine was announced, I went out for a few drinks with friends and it was such a strange



My friend Beck and me on our last night out.



Tomato Tortellini Soup.

and indescribable feeling. It felt like one of those moments where I'd look back on it and think "remember when" or "It was simpler times then." I know I am being dramatic, but at the time I didn't recognize the gravity of it and how serious this is. The last bar we went to, called The Jar on Camden Street, reminded me of a Speakeasy. As we

even moving to Dublin was the Trinity Ball. My friends and I were so excited to be able to celebrate our hard work and get dressed up for a special night, but that is no longer the case. I have plans to go next year however, because graduates are allowed to buy tickets as well.

I am definitely struggling with the idea that many of these things feel like they were stolen from me and many of my last goodbyes to friends who have headed back home were rendered to texts and quick calls. I really did not get the chance to process a lot of these last moments, but all we can do is hope that there will be a day we will all be together again for a night out at our usual haunt: The Globe. Before this, I had been sick of going there because we were there too much, but now I'd give anything to be back dancing with friends in that dark, hot, sweaty basement.

I think these circumstances we find ourselves in are impossible to fully process and understand while it is happening in real time, but we will come away stronger and more appreciative and reflective on how precious our lives are. I know I'm never going to cancel plans again after this. What gives me hope is imagining the day where things are up and running and I am able to sit and enjoy a pint at The Pav or a can on the pitch with my friends again. The sun is shining, we are all safe to be together again and we can give each other the biggest hugs imaginable. Speaking it into existence now.

Thanks all for reading and if you have any Netflix or Podcast recommendations, do let me know. Stay safe, mind yourself and others and wash your hands. ■

Slán go fóill,

Margaret Mary

*Margaret Mary is a postgraduate student studying marketing at Trinity College Dublin. She recently graduated from 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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## Midwest GAA



### TAKING THE FIELDS OF GLORY

By Vincent Beach

Sláinte chugainn ar fad! Health to us all. Like all sports and social clubs, the GAA's future is still unknown with regards to a playing season, COVID-19, and social distancing. The Midwest GAA has held a few conference calls with clubs to determine the format of the season and championship.

Although unofficial at this time (awaiting Midwest Board Approval), clubs agreed to locations and games, albeit without dates. This is an update from last month's article. Everyone is cautious, but wants to have plans in place if the authorization is given.

The hurling clubs (Akron Celtic Guards, Pittsburgh Pucas, and Rochester "Roc City Hurling") have agreed to blitzes in Akron and Roc City, expecting the Midwest finals to serve as Pittsburgh's home match. Ladies' football (Buffalo, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh) will also follow the blitz format and the Midwest will aim to align games with the Men's weekends.

Junior C Football will consist of Cincinnati, Cleveland 1, Detroit, and Pittsburgh 2. Each team will host a blitz, but each club will only travel twice (or, one club is left out of each blitz). Junior D football will include Albany, Buffalo, Cleveland 2, Grand Rapids, and Syracuse with blitzes in Buffalo, Syracuse, and Cleveland. The Pittsburgh 1 team will be scheduling games outside of the Division after winning USGAA Junior A last season.

Cleveland has sadly cancelled the Memorial 7's tournament planned for May 16<sup>th</sup> at the WSIA. Teams would have been coming in from the surrounding states. A Cleveland only fun day may be planned if the restrictions are lifted, but the outlook is doubtful. Another option the club is reviewing is rescheduling an

autumn tournament.

On the youth side, the games are still scheduled – June 27 Detroit Invitational, July 18-19 Philadelphia Liberty Bell, and the August Midwest Finals – although the Continental Youth Championships (CYC) in San Francisco has been canceled. For the CYC's (the largest GAA sporting event outside of Ireland) delays in the logistics of such an event were insurmountable.

Stay tuned to social media for regular updates or subscribe to the club newsletter. *Go dtuga Dia slán sibh.*



**Go raibh míle maith agaibh** (thanks y'all) to our readers and supporters. We need your help

and involvement, but would most like to share the fun of Irish sport and Cleveland community with you. 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 for all ages.

Follow @ClevelandGaelic on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for the 2020 activities for Men, Women, and Youth. Or, visit ClevelandGAA.com. ■

*Vincent Thomas Francis Xavier Beach is a proud Greater Clevelander 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 Uni-*



*versity 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. His other hustles are teaching Irish at PJs, coaching CYO basketball at St. Mary of Berea, coaching soccer in Olmsted TWP, and slangin' some engineering skills on local concrete and pipe projects.*

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## Henry McCarty Jr.



### CLEVELAND COMHRÁ

By Bob Carney

@BobCarneyGTR

*"It's easier to fall, than it is to rise"*

If you've ever read Irish mythology, you are probably familiar with this story line. A warrior who comes out of the wilderness and takes part in a battle between rival clans, seeking revenge against those that killed his "father", and the young hero dying a martyr's death almost welcoming his fate.

With a little imagination and forgiving his character, the story line could be attached to Henry McCarty Jr. Born November 23rd, 1860 in the Irish slums of New York's Lower Eastside to Henry and Catherine McCarty, Henry had a brother Joseph.

Henry Sr. died when the boys were very young, and not much is known about him. Catherine was a native Irish speaker who passed away a year after remarrying in 1873 in Silver City, New Mexico, where the family had moved hoping to find a respite for her tuberculosis.

The last thing Henry's new step-father wanted was two boys and put the young teens into foster homes. Henry, now fourteen, washed dishes to earn his keep. Soon after, he was caught stealing cheese from a local rancher and then was found to be in possession of stolen clothing and firearms.

### RUN HENRY RUN

Fearful of being locked up for his crimes, he ran. He wandered for a couple of years, working as a ranch hand and trying his luck as a gambler, while trying to avoid being noticed by the law. Things took a turn for the worse when he shot and killed a man who was teasing him. This destroyed any chance of finding work, and he eventually took up with a gang of rustlers known as "the boys."

After an altercation with a black-



**Billy the Kid**

smith named Frank Cahill that resulted in Cahill's death, young Henry fled to the Arizona Territory. There, he joined up with the Evan's Gang, rustling animals belonging to cattle baron John Chisum.

On one of these raids, he was separated from the others and was attacked by Apaches. He escaped with his life, but they stole his horse and left him wandering in the desert alone. He made his way to a settlement owned by the Jones family, who took him in.

### WHEN HENRY BECAME BILLY

Henry decided to try honest work again and assumed a new name, William H. Bonney. He went to work for an English rancher named John Tunstall. They soon developed a close relationship and viewed Tunstall as a "father figure."

John Tunstall was the enemy of an "Irish mafia," headed by Laurence Murphy, a native of Wexford, and John Dolan, originally from Galway. They

had come west as soldiers during the Civil War.

### THE IRISH MAFIA

Soon they controlled the sheriff, William Brady, and his deputized gang of Irish hoods. Unfortunately, Tunstall was killed by members of the Murphy-Dolan Gang in the Lincoln County Land War. They shot his favorite horse and put Tunstall's hat on the dead animal's head.

Bonney was devastated and furious. He joined the fued on the side of the regulators and wrote to the governor asking for immunity in exchange for his testimony against Tunstall's killers. A promise was made, but despite helping to convict John Dolan, Bonney was kept a prisoner.

He escaped and his coverage in the newspapers was making him a celebrity. They took to calling him, Billy the Kid because of his smooth skin and boyish looks. With this celebrity also came notoriety, and every killing and criminal act in the west was being laid upon him.

Even with the newspaper's coverage, he managed to avoid capture for a couple of years, until lawman Pat Garrett was sent to apprehend him. Garrett and Bonney were not strangers, they had met when Garrett was working as a bartender in Beaver Smith's Saloon in Fort Sumner. The two became friends and gambled together so often, they became known as "Big Casino" and "Little Casino."

### PAT GARRETT

When Garrett became the new sheriff of Lincoln County, his first task was to arrest his friend. Garrett caught up to Bonney two days before Christmas, 1880, in a cabin in Stinking Springs. After a brief stand off, and the death of one of Billy's men, Billy surrendered. He was charged and sentenced for the murder of Sheriff Brady during the Lincoln County War and was to be taken back to Lincoln County to await hanging.

Billy the Kid made his final escape, killing a guard, J.W. Bell, in the process. He also stopped to kill Robert Olinger with his own weapon, because Olinger made fun of him during his stay in prison. No longer viewed by the newspapers or their readers as a "Robin Hood" type of outlaw, Billy was on the run for his life with Pat Garrett after

him once more.

Three months after his escape, Garrett was questioning a rooming house owner when Billy walked in looking for dinner. Garrett shot the unarmed killer twice in the chest, with one shot piercing his heart. Henry McCarty Jr.'s short but colorful career as a gunman and outlaw was ended on July 14th, 1881. He was just 20.

After his death, many of his friends and contemporaries praised his sense of humour, his loyalty and the kindness he showed to his horses. He was said to be very intelligent but could be cunning as well.

Some saw him as a boy who loved his mother and fell victim to a life of crime due to the adults who neglected him as a child, while others considered him a cold-blooded, psychopathic killer. It remains however, that Mrs. McCarty's boy Henry became the biggest gun-slinging legend of America's West. ■

*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 dog organizations in and around Cleveland. Wife Mary, hound Morrighán and terrier Doolin keep the house jumping. He can be contacted at carneyspeakirish@gmail.com*

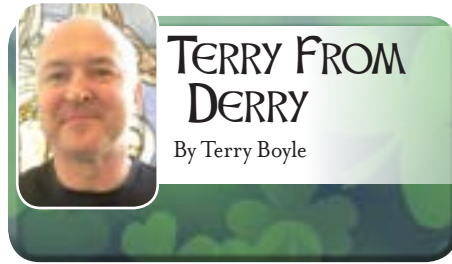
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# Kindness is Also Infectious



**TERRY FROM DERRY**

By Terry Boyle

To say that this is a trying time would be banal, if not cliched. We are all having to live our lives under constrictions and restrictions. There is not an area of our lives that has not been affected by this disease.

Normality, as we once knew it, is no longer operational. Everything is either broken, as shown in our economy, or under stress, such as the health services. We are socially isolated from those we love and our places of worship now a virtual experience. This is a new world in which we must be brave.

I know we're all bored with binge watching TV and frequenting our social media. The household tasks we had put off no longer now look appealing, distracting, and a good way to waste time. Our homes, which we used to think of as a sanctuary, can very easily feel like a prison.

Going to a store now requires us to sanitize ourselves and avoid touching anything. Our eyes, nose and mouth have become gateways to a virus that is as opportunistic as Donald Trump to demonstrate its ability to dupe us in every way possible.

I had hoped to avoid making this article about someone who may be responsible for multiple deaths, and I will try to do that. There is more about life than wasting time on someone who obviously is inept and consumed with his ego.

I would like to spend some time on those people who put their lives on the line every day. There are those people who provide us with 'essential services' that, prior to this crisis, we thought of as non-essential. Shopkeepers, supermarket employees, and a host of service providers put themselves at risk daily so that we can get what we need. Among those who are at the front line are, of course, our health providers,

nurses, doctors and cleaners.

It's easy for us to become bystanders at a time when we need to get involved in helping. I titled this article 'kindness is infectious' for a reason. We all know that times of suffering can bring out the worst in people.

There are any number of examples of those who will think selfishly about their needs and wants but there are also those who are willing to step outside of the safety of their own comfort zones and help. How can we do this, google your options, speak to your pastor, and convert your good intentions into actions.

For us, we had been volunteering at a local hospital before this crisis occurred. When the rate of infection began to gain momentum, the hospital could no longer put volunteers at risk. However, as medical supplies, particularly face masks, began to run low the hospital needed people to rally to their aid. Volunteers could now offer their help.

Since we cannot sew, our contribution lies with cutting material and elastic material, which is taken to those who can stitch it together. I use this example not as a way of showing how good we are but to encourage you to think of ways to help out.

Acts of kindness are infectious. Remember when we were bombarded with the phrase 'pay it forward'? Today is a good time to resurrect this saying.

We can make a difference in people's lives simply by doing a simple task, such as cutting material. It's not brain surgery. There's nothing very technical about it. It requires scissors and attention to detail. There are any number of simple acts of kindness that we can do that will improve the lives of those who are afflicted directly or indirectly by a disease that has cost the lives of many thousands.

Let's not forget humour. In such a depressing time, I've been heartened by the many ways that people have sought to make us laugh. There have been videos, photos, and all sorts of levity that demonstrates the resilience of the human spirit.

I would like to add to this need for

lightheartedness by offering a little self-effacing poetry (I use poetry in the broadest sense of the word). I've taken to writing my thoughts in this way, as my approach to journaling the experience. I hope that someday, God

willing, that I can look back on this and laugh. ■

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## ORA PRO NOBIS

The daily visit with the angel of anxiety  
Did not go well,

It seems, I'm not as strong as I thought,  
Predictions, prophecies of plague and disease,  
His usual arsenal of woes, almost wiped me out,  
If those visions complete carnage did not kill me,  
My imagination certainly would,  
Is that cough, the rattle of death?  
Yesterday, I was asymptomatic,  
Fit and healthy but a walking virus spreader,  
The mask I'm wearing is for your benefit,  
Not mine,

Guilt, yes, guilty as charged,  
I paid a shopper to cross the aisles  
Put himself in danger so that I can eat,  
While he worries about crossing into the next life,

This is progress, isn't it, I asked my spiritual friend,  
I find this non-directive approach maddening,  
No, I'm no longer in denial,  
The media has taken care of that,  
24/7, guessing games of potential harm  
Are a true mind (add expletive)!  
Sure, I'm still angry, Ebola, Avian flu,  
SARS, Bill (add expletive) Gates, all were clearly ignored,

Bargaining?  
Enough candles for a menorah,  
Novenas to delight the famous and not so famous,  
Prayer flags that would bring down the celestial Buddha,  
Be assured, my flight into Ecumenism is wholeheartedly  
Sincere,

Yes, I know, too much religion will make me depressed,  
God, wrapped up in some straitjacket of doctrine, is enough  
To do it,  
No, I cannot simply accept your taunts as real,  
I don't care if you have inside track,  
Or, the latest news on new mutations,  
What I've learned from you is regret,  
Things I've not said, life not fully lived,  
Friendships not valued, and how did I ever  
Underestimate how good it feels to be loved.



**WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING...**

By Maury Collins

@MauryCollins

An Illinois man left the snow-filled streets of Chicago for a vacation in Florida. His wife was on a business trip and was planning to meet him there the next day. When he reached his hotel, he decided to send his wife a quick email.

Unfortunately, when typing her address, he missed one letter, and his note was directed instead to an elderly preacher's wife whose husband had passed away only the day before. When the grieving widow checked her email, she took one look at the monitor, let out a piercing scream, and fell to the floor in a dead faint.

At the sound, her family rushed into the room and saw this note on the screen: Dearest Wife, just got checked in. Everything prepared for your arrival tomorrow. P.S. Sure is hot down here.

Two men, Jim and John, were walking their dogs when they passed by a restaurant. "Let's go in and get something to eat," Jim suggested.

"We can't" responded John, "don't you see the sign says NO PETS ALLOWED."

"Aah that sign," said Jim "don't worry about it," and taking out a pair of sunglasses, he walked up to the door. As he tried walking into the restaurant he got stopped at the door, "sorry no pets allowed." Can't you see" said Jim "I am blind, this is my seeing eye dog."

But it's a Doberman Pincher, who uses a Doberman pincher as a seeing eye dog?" the man asked

"Oh," Jim responded, "you must have not heard, this is the latest type of seeing eye dog, they do a very good job." Seeing that it worked, John tried walking in with his Chihuahua. Even before he could open his mouth, the doorman said, "don't tell me that a Chihuahua is the latest type of seeing eye dog."

Thinking quickly John responded in an angry voice, "You mean they gave me a Chihuahua?"

Bill, Jim, and Scott were at a convention together and were sharing a large suite on the top of a 75-story skyscraper. After a long day of meetings they were shocked to hear that the elevators in their hotel were broken and they would have to climb 75 flights of stairs to get to their room.

Bill said to Jim and Scott, let's break the monotony of this unpleasant task by concentrating on something interesting. I'll tell jokes for 25 flights, and Jim can sing songs for 25 flights, and Scott can tell sad stories the rest of the way.

At the 26th floor Bill stopped telling jokes and Jim began to sing. At the 51st floor Jim stopped singing and Scott began to tell sad stories. "I will tell my saddest story first," he said. "I left the room key in the car!"

A good friend of mine, after seven years of medical school and training, has been caught by the "#metoo" movement and has been fired for one indiscretion. He slept with one of his patients and can no longer work in the profession. What a waste of time, effort, training, and money.

Even worse is the fact that he's still paying on his school loans. This just goes to show how one little mistake can ruin your life. Thoughts for him and his family. He really is a great person and a brilliant veterinarian.

Paddy was forced to take a day off from work to appear for a minor traffic summons. He grew increasingly restless as he waited hour after endless hour for his case to be heard. When his name was called late in the afternoon, he stood before the judge, only to hear that court would be adjourned for the day and he would have to return the next day.

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

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

An elderly gentleman went to the local drug store and asked the pharmacist for the little blue "Viagra" pill. The pharmacist asked, "How many?" The

man replied, "Just a few, maybe a half dozen. I cut each one into four pieces. The pharmacist said, "That's too small a dose. That won't get you through intimacy."

The old fellow said, "Oh, I'm past eighty years old and I don't even think about intimacy much anymore. I just want it to stick out far enough so I don't pee on my new golf shoes."

Kevin and Mary met in college and fell in love. Mary took Kevin home to meet her family, who owned a farm. The family gathered in the front room and father-in-law to be, Mike Cassidy began to hold court on the day's work at the farm.

While tea and cakes and sandwiches were brought in, Mike said to Kevin "I've shoveled fourteen and a half tons of manure this afternoon - have another

sandwich!" No thanks muttered Kevin. "This morning I shoveled over fifteen tons of manure, have a custard cream." "No thanks," was the weak reply. A short time later Mike Cassidy went out of the room and the young suitor said: "Your father's a lovely man, but he keeps talking about manure all the time. It's putting me off my grub. Can't you get him to say fertilizer?" "Listen," said Mary, "it's taken us years to get him to say manure!"

*Maury Collins is a Charter Member and past president of the John P. Kelly Division AOH. Contact him at [maurycollins61@gmail.com](mailto:maurycollins61@gmail.com) or [maurysirishnewstoledo.weebly.com](http://maurysirishnewstoledo.weebly.com)*

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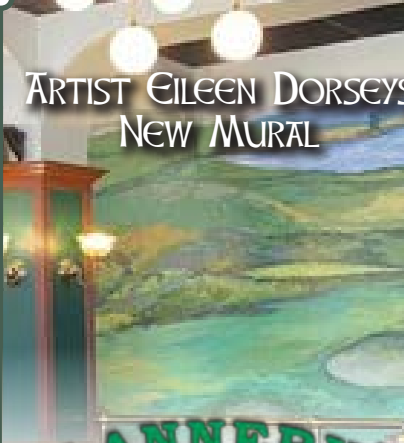
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# 'Hollis Whitaker' by CB Shanahan



I have known CB Shanahan for most of our lives. Rooted in Irish history, culture and storytelling in word and song, CB is a gifted journalist, storyteller and writer, and a member of Mensa. I wasn't at all surprised at how good Hollis Whitaker is. I read it in 2 days. Then I gathered all I had for this review.

**OhioIANews: Good Morning CB; How are things on the East Coast; are you staying safe and sane?**

**CB:** I'm in New Hampshire, which at the moment is faring better than just over the border in Massachusetts. I believe it's because we're not as densely populated, but it doesn't make going to the grocery store any less harrowing. And I feel for my neighbors to the south. The whole crisis has made me realize how many things I touch in a single day... or any given minute for that matter. We've just visited a local distiller that is brewing hand sanitizer and we bought a gallon. No hyperbole, an actual gallon. We figured it would be nice to have some on hand if anyone we know got into trouble and couldn't find any. So, we're staying as safe as we can, but the sanity question might have to wait for hindsight.

**How did the fictional story of Hollis Whitaker form in your mind?**

Hollis Whittaker is a story that changed as I was writing it. In fact, originally Hollis was an adult, until I realized how much scarier things would be if the government were trying to kill a child - someone so much more helpless than an adult.

The concept came to me exactly as the novel begins, with a woman being chased in the 1940s and discarding a magical stick in the woods, only to have someone today find it. That's all it was in the beginning.

After that I just made it up as I wrote. In fact, I didn't have an ending until I reached it and then there were a multitude of possibilities.

**Did you achieve what you set out to do?**

I wanted to avoid the typical action hero, the sturdy and reliable alpha male with the wit and brawn to save the day. Readers nowadays don't want the same old cliché, nor do I want to write it. That's why the protagonists are a woman and two children.

With the MeToo movement pointing out the problems inherent in the world's mainly patriarchal societies, I tried to pepper in just a little bit of what I imagine women have to endure. I'm not going to pretend to understand what it's like being a woman, but I do think it's time for men to admit we need to change and that women deserve better out of us.

Did I make that a huge portion of the book? No. But I didn't want it to sound preachy and I think if these sorts of things are brought into art, like books, plays, TV shows and movies, society will move in that direction.

If men don't feel like it's being forced on them, I think a lot of them will appreciate the rationale. So I didn't want to hammer anyone over the head with it, just to treat it as an issue that should be considered.

And past that, my aim was to write a good story. My father used to complain about pop singers, that they were trying to show off. The National Anthem was a big one for him. "Stop singing so many notes. The song isn't about you," he'd say to the television. "It's about the sentiment." Some authors nowadays seem to be taking the same tact as the pop singers, trying to find an interesting way to tell a story, whether that be first person or some other crazy method for telling it. Hollis is third person, plain and simple. I feel it's a good story, and that is what I feel should be paramount in a book.

**Tell me about the research part of the writing.**

I enlisted the help of the Native Languages of the Americas, a nonprofit organization, and in particular their director and co-founder, Laura Redish, in writing the book. She steered me away from a smaller tribe in New Mexico I had originally wanted to include and suggested I focus instead on the Navajo, who she explained, tend to be more open to outsiders writing about them. I can't thank her enough for helping me there as the absolute last thing I would have wanted was to offend Native Americans.

She also helped with some translations, especially with the medallion's name, the Nílch'i Bee Hane'e.

From the beginning, I also wanted to include my love for science, especially astronomy. The vastness of this great universe humbles me, and I don't understand how anyone can't be blown away just contemplating it. After all, we're the only beings we know of who can appreciate it... and we're the only ones who can tell a story about it.

**Any surprises, favorite stories or memoirs in the writing and since?**

I can't describe how happy I was to have my first couple of reviews. The first gave it five stars and I was over the moon, and then the second came in at five stars again and it gave me hope that the first hadn't just been a fluke.

It's nerve-shattering to have something like a book—that you've spent years writing—go out to people for their thoughts on it. I mean reviews are pretty well just opinions and everyone has their own taste, so it's not like someone can really be wrong in a review.

If a reviewer doesn't like it, what can you do? They didn't like it. And it's that thought that keeps me up at night. Even though I like chocolate cake, doesn't mean everyone does.

I haven't started another book yet. Part of the problem is that it took me two years to write Hollis and it's tough to settle on the next idea that's worth that kind of time. I have a lot of concepts, but I'd like to work on each one just as much as the next. And one question keeps nagging at me: a sequel? I certainly left the possibility open at the end of Hollis. I suppose if there's enough interest, I'd love to write the next one.

**Hollis Whitaker is one of my favorite books of the year. Like the year, it is surprising, with a fair bit of tension to the journey and much uncertainty on who, if anyone, will survive. Add the virus of some government agent's disdain for life as we know it, and it is the perfect, timely escape. Hollis Whittaker is a five-star fun book, highly recommended for the excellent writing, drama and education too.**

## ABOUT THE BOOK

It changed the course of WWII. In 1945, it was stolen. Now a ten-year-old boy has found it, and the government will kill him to get it.

When ten-year-old Hollis Whittaker picks up a strange medallion he stumbled upon at the edge of a stream, he suddenly begins exhibiting signs of brilliance, even discovering the solar system's Planet X and astounding the astronomical community.

The awkward, overweight fifth grader with heart problems is an instant media sensation, but all is not well. The genius-making medallion bonds to only one person for life and the U.S. government has been searching for it since World War II, which means they're prepared to kill Hollis to acquire it so they can exploit the medallion's immense power.

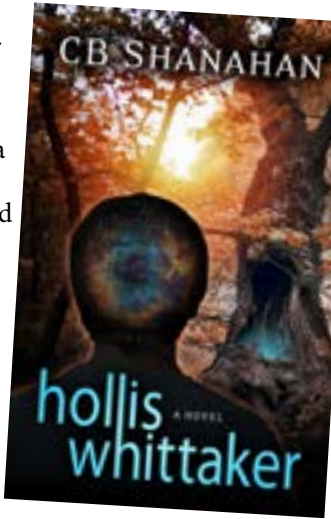
After a thwarted hit job by two military agents, Hollis treks cross-country with the aid of his best friend Kirby and a Navajo woman, Cha'Risa, whose family possessed the medallion—the Nílch'i—more than seventy years ago. They are hoping Cha'Risa's aged grandfather will be able to help them. Unfortunately, the whole country believes she has kidnapped the boys, and the agents who are trying to kill Hollis have the system on their side. ■

CB Shanahan's *Hollis Whittaker* is appropriate for readers aged 12-112!

Where can you get it, and more: The book will be available for sale June 5 at: <http://encirclepub.com/product/holliswhittaker/> (Or search <http://www.amazon.com> for Hollis Whittaker)

For more on CB Shanahan: [@cb\\_shananan](http://www.cbshanan.com) on Twitter

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# Siopadóireacht



Tá súil agam go bhfuil sibh go maith (I hope you're all well). It's been a strange and trying spring, one we're sure to remember. Memories can be triggered by a multitude of things, food, music or anything involving the senses. A misty rain first thing in the morning

can transport me across the ocean, even if only for a fleeting moment. Objects can hold special meaning to us for this very reason. My own bookshelf has a bowl filled with stones, acorns, buckeyes and sea shells, treasures collected on walks with my grandchildren.

I returned home from one walk with my pockets bulging with acorns, as my one grand-daughter learned

how trees are born. Bringing home a souvenir from a trip can help us revisit a place in our memories later on.

Last month, we covered some basic phrases that could be helpful when visiting a pub in Ireland. (You can also try some of the phrases when visiting PJ's). Some of that vocabulary can be used with this month's as we visit the shops of Ireland.■

"Fear ag glanadh cré

*"A man scraping clay*

De ghimseán spáide

*From the tread of a spade*

Sa gciúnas séimh

*In the mild calm*

I mbrothall lae:

*Of a warm day:*

Binn an fhuaim

*Sweet the sound*

San Earrach thiar"

*Of spring in the West"*

Slíocht as an "An t-Earrach Thiar"  
Máirtín Ó Direáin

From "Spring in the West"  
Máirtín Ó Direáin

Siopadóireacht (shuhp-a-dor-acht) shopping

A cheannach (ah kuh-nohk) to buy

Siopa (shuhp-ah) shop

Cá mhéad atá air? (kah vayd a-taw ayr) How much is it?

Cá mhead sin? (kah vayd shin) How much is it?

Cad é an luach atá air? (ka-jay in loo-ach ah-taw ayr) What price is it?

Margadh maith (mara-goo mah) A good bargain

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

Ar mhaith leat rud éigin a cheannach? (ar vah laht rud a-ginn a kuh-nohk)  
Would you like to buy something?

Ba mhaith liom rud éigin a cheannach. (ba vah lum rud a-ginn a ku-nohk)  
I would like to buy something.

Rud éigin a cheannach, an ea? (rud a-ginn a kuh-nohk, an ay)  
To buy something, is it?

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

Taispeáin ceann eile dom. (tashpan kyunn ella dom) Show me another one.

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

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

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

Cád é a cheannaigh tú? (kajay a khyanee too) What did you buy?

# French on the Outside, Irish on the Inside



My niece Sydney and I are crazy about crepes! We love them all – sweet and savory. So it's been on my "One Day List" (things I plan to get to . . . one day). With a little extra time on my hands at home, I decided to try and make these amazing delights. I searched dozens of recipes and watched quite a few videos and came up with a version that seems simple and authentic. What is great about crepes is the limitless fillings you can use. So, I thought of a few with a little Irish flair.

## HOMEMADE FRENCH CREPES

### Ingredients:

3 tablespoons Unsalted Butter, plus 4 more to use in the pan  
1 cup AP Flour  
1 tablespoon Granulated White Sugar  
1/8 teaspoon Salt  
¾ cup Whole Milk  
½ cup Water – room temperature  
2 large Eggs  
1 ½ teaspoons Vanilla  
Melt 3 tablespoons of Unsalted Butter in saucepan or in microwave

Let butter cool for 10 minutes  
Combine all ingredients in blender and mix for 30-45 seconds. It will look like a thick velvety cream.

Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour and as long as overnight.

Using an 8inch skillet – heat on medium and melt ½ teaspoon of butter – coat bottom of skillet.

Pour 3-4 tablespoons of batter into skillet and swirl around to coat the entire area in the skillet. It should be a thin coating.

Let cook until edges are slightly golden and spatula slides under easily. Flip and let cook for 1-2 additional minutes. Place on plate to keep warm and



repeat the process, making sure to re-butter the pan between each crepe. Crepes taste great warm or room temperature. Unused crepes can be wrapped and refrigerated for up to 3 days. These really are much easier than I thought. I threw out the first one but after the next few, I really got the hang of it. I will definitely be making these often.

Now for the fun part – the fillings. These are only limited by your imagination.

To fill the crepes, place fillings in the center of each individual crepe and fold the side into the middle overlapping. Leave the ends open. Top with your favorite sauce.

I made a sweet one – Chocolate Chip Banana with a Baileys Chocolate Whipped Cream and a Dark Chocolate Drizzle and a savory one – Caramelized Jameson Mushrooms with Brie Cheese and a Kerrygold Swiss Cheese Sauce.

### Baileys Chocolate Whipped Cream

1 cup Heavy Whipping Cream  
2 tablespoons Powdered Sugar  
2 tablespoons Dark Cocoa Powder  
2 tablespoons Baileys

Whip cream with a hand or stand mixer until almost set – medium stiff peaks. Add sugar and cocoa and whip until blended.

Add Baileys and whip until stiff peaks form

### Whisky Caramelized Mushrooms

2 cups sliced Button Mushrooms  
2 tablespoons Unsalted Butter  
1 tablespoon Garlic Salt  
1 teaspoon Black Pepper  
1/3 cup Jameson Whisky



Saute the mushrooms, garlic salt, pepper, and butter in a pan until soft and starting to brown. Add the whisky and cook until reduced – about 5 minutes. Drain any extra juices.

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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### Swiss Cheese Sauce

1 cup Whole Milk  
1 cup shredded Kerrygold Swiss Cheese  
Cook milk in saucepan over medium heat until simmering. Add in cheese and whisk until blended. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Katie Gagne teaches English at Trinity High School in Garfield Heights. She is also the owner of her in-home bakery

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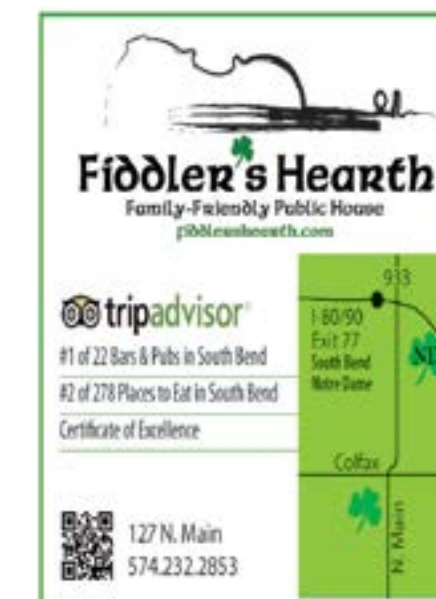
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# Pump, Pump, Pull Away



## CLEVELAND IRISH

By Francis McGarry

Historians of Irish American history have the ability to research and discuss topics, such as the health and medical care of an immigrant group that have survived the famine, then completed the voyage across the Atlantic in insalubrious ships, and then predominately settled in neighborhoods that were overpopulated and grotty. Some of these historians consciously or unconsciously embed their scholarship with cultural stereotypes and expatiated generalizations.

The Downpatrick Recorder noted in

the Spring of 1849 that, "We observe, with regret, that much of the wealth and comfort of this hitherto prosperous county (Down) is being transported to the shores of America, and other parts of the Globe. Within the last few weeks, upwards of two thousand individuals have left the districts of this county, for emigration to America, and these, we can safely affirm, did not leave the country with empty purses."

It is this component of the Irish Diaspora that is underrepresented in the historical record, regardless of its proportional relationship to the majority. That is the paradigm of William Gleason and his 1896 essay on the Irish in Cleveland:

Charles C. Rogers accumulated a fortune as an ale brewer, his establishment being located at the corner of Seneca and Canal streets. While a member of the City Council from the old first

ward, he was mainly instrumental in providing the central market and erecting the market house. It was his pet and hobby till he died. Through Charley Rogers' foresight our city has been enriched hundreds of thousands of dollars. The plentiful and at all times full market fund has been a convenient source to draw upon for emergencies and depleted funds.

The Gibbons family have all turned out to be substantial businessmen. James established the Fulton market; Col. John W., ex-director of police and now secretary of the Springsteen Medicine Co., and Anthony W., secretary and treasurer of the Union Elevator Co., have been prominent among our merchants.

The first brass foundry in this section of the country was established by the Farnan family. The third generation of the family are still conducting a lucrative business in the same line at the old stand on Center Street.

Patrick Farley was a mail contractor and land owner, who acquired a good name and left a competency to his family. He was the father of ex-Mayor John H. Farley.

John and William Given were well known contractors and builders. William is yet with us, blithe and young in action, full of energy and good nature, and still ready to build a block at fair figures.

Capt. Michael C. Frawley sailed the oceans and the lakes for nearly fifty years, and had a fine reputation as a skillful navigator. He left an ample fortune as a result of his prudence and energy. Captains George P. McKay, Edward Mooney, Edward Kelley, Patrick Boylan and John McNeff have well-earned reputations as safe and competent sailors.

The West Side McMahons, John P., ex-assistant chief of the fire department, now a harness

manufacturer, and his brother, Constable "Christie," are old Cleveland boys who sprung from good Irish stock. They are reckoned among our active and well-liked citizens.

"Old Father Conlan" and "Young Father Conlan" were the loved pastors of St. Patrick's Church on the West Side for many years. Their good works and memory remain fresh and green among the people of their parish.

James and Robert Cahill were competent railroad engineers.

Professors Fitzgerald and Wakefield were well known classical scholars and able school masters. Messrs. Curry, Foley and James Hannan taught the "three R's" also geography and spelling, in the little one room schoolhouse on the commons in the rear of St. John's Cathedral. What an ample playground we had!

Superior Street practically ended at Erie Street; beyond that it was only a lane. Except the woods, vacant ground extended from the rear of George May's home, southeast corner of Superior and Erie streets, north to Oregon street, south to Chestnut Street, east to Buffalo. We played football in those days, not carrying the ball under the arm; not the imported English, rough and tumble fighting, bone breaking, slugging, gouging, killing game of the colleges today; but the manly, lively, fast running, kicking game.

We also played "cricket," "shinney," "pump, pump, pull away," "snap the whip," "one and two old cat," and "sock ball," the latter evolving into the great American game of baseball. Our hunting grounds were on "Snipe island," located on the territory now bounded by Muirson, Chestnut and St. Clair streets and Case avenue; on "University heights," now the South side, on "Stone's pasture," now the lumber district, and on the old river bed.

*Continued on facing page*

# Our Changing World



## MADIGAN MUSES

By Marilyn Madigan

### THE YEAR OF THE NURSE

I was looking forward to writing this May column. The World Health Organization had designated 2020 as the Year of the Nurse. The first week

of May is always celebrated as Nurse's week. I was looking forward to special celebrations as the Year of the Nurse would also be recognized.

Never did I expect that members of the nursing profession would be on the front lines of a deadly pandemic. I was proud to be a nurse, but now I admire all in the profession in a special way.

Many are working out of their specialties, which is stressful, but now they are also placing their lives at risk. Nurses are not only at the bedside providing care but are now surrogate family to

their patients during this frightening experience. Nurses are not alone and our surrounded by wonderful teams of doctors, respiratory therapist, technicians and aids. Everyone working in a hospital setting are unsung heroes.

### FALLEN POLICE OFFICERS

May is also the month in which we honor Fallen Police Officers. These commemorations have been cancelled this year. Our Police, Fire and EMTs are also on the front lines of this pandemic. They have been on the frontlines of many of our National tragedies. They truly are the Finest and the Bravest of Americans.

We also celebrate Memorial Day in May. This year there probably will not be our usual remembrance. There will be many Memorials to come. Many of us have lost friends or family members to illnesses and this virus. We were not able to come together and mourn with their family members. Another unsung hero is our Funeral Directors dealing with families during this challenging time.

I am very proud to be living in Ohio. Our Ohio leadership took a stand early in fighting this pandemic. We may not have been happy when our St. Patrick's Day Celebrations were canceled; this was the correct thing to do. I believe that St. Patrick was looking out for us.

We have seen how large gatherings help spread this virus. We have helped slow the spread. We have listened to our Governor De Wine, Lt Gov. Husted and Dr. Acton. They present the facts honestly and involve us in joining the fight. They recognize those in the community that are also frontlines, such as those working in our grocery stores. Stay Home Save Lives; let's flatten that curve and help each other.

### MOTHERS

In May, we also honor our mothers and our Heavenly Mother, Mary. Our Blessed Mother is helping us in this challenging time. Although our Churches are closed, we can still pray the Rosary and participate in the Mass. Our Priest need our prayers as their

### Cleveland Irish Continued from facing page

There was fine duck shooting in the latter place.

Coasting down the hillsides of Superior, St. Clair, Water, South Water, Champlain, Michigan, Seneca, Columbus and Detroit streets was glorious winter sport. We had jolly times and excellent teachers in the days of the little wooden schoolhouse.

Squire Duffy was one of the first justices of the peace. He was a conspicuous figure, being about six feet four inches tall, slimly built, had a long, stately stride and was quite dignified in his appearance. He invariably wore a "stovepipe" hat and a flowing Daniel O'Connell cloak and cape. He had a happy faculty for settling all petty family and neighborhood quarrels. The long squire was reputed to be quite well off.

Doctors Strong, Bailey, Story, Keegan and Thomas Hannan were numbered among the most skillful physicians and surgeons. They went through two cholera epidemics and smallpox sieges, and largely aided in allaying the ravages of those terrible ailments. Fever and ague were the prevailing troubles among the early settlers, the city abounding in marshes and swamps.

The old doctors had implicit faith in whisky and quinine as a "shake preventor." Under the circumstances, quite a number of the sick did not object to the "shaking." The main regret they had was that the "shakes" came on only every other day, and that the proportions of quinine were too large.

Aunt Irene taught us how to play pump, pump, pull away. Some kids today might compare it to sharks and minnows. She learned us well despite not being one of those fancy college-educated doctors like Keegan and Hannan. Aunt Irene did share their same faith in whiskey. That was the time when universal health care was available at the local Irish tavern as long as did not have an empty purse. ■

*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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ministry now has many challenges. They cannot physically be with us or those dying to administer the sacraments. We are experiencing a similar experience to our ancestors did during the Penal Times. Our ancestors were not allowed to celebrate the Mass and found a way to celebrate at Mass Rocks.

We are blessed that although we cannot come together as a community in our Churches, Masses are celebrated on TV, Facebook, Zoom etc. I know we all look forward to celebrating again with our Parish Families.

My faith, family and friends are helping me during this challenging time. I look forward to seeing my family and friends when it is safe. God Bless you, God Bless America and God Bless the World. ■

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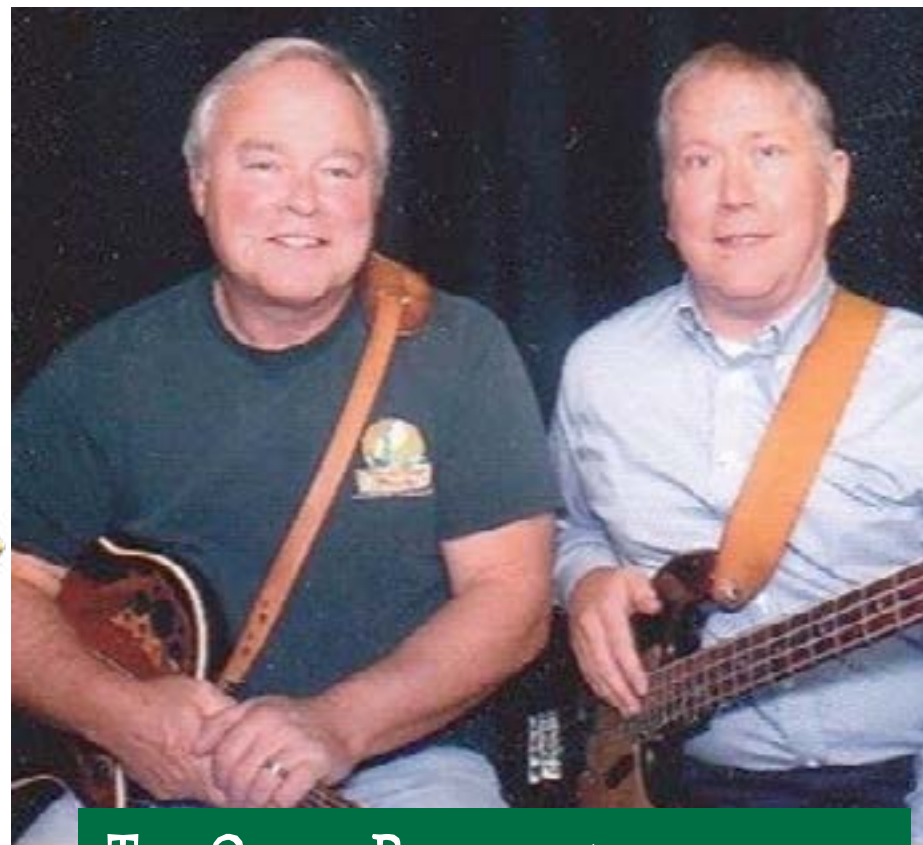
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22 - No Strangers Here. PUB: 7:30 - 10:30. IACES 22770 Lake Shore Blvd. Euclid, 44123. 216.731.4003 [eastsideirish.org](http://eastsideirish.org)

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### MEDINA / MONTROSE

#### SULLY'S

1- Andrew McManus 2- Smug Saints 8- Island Doctor 9- Donal O'Shaughnessy 15- Mossy Moran 16- The New Barleycorn 22- Nathan Henry 23- Music Men (Music Trivia) 29- The Other Brothers 30- Brother Crowe. 117 West Liberty Medina, 44256 [sullysmedina.com](http://sullysmedina.com).

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### MENTOR

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1st - Phil 'n the Blanks 8:30pm, 2nd - Almost Famous 9:00pm, 8th - Big in Japan 9:00pm, 15th - Boaterhead 9:00pm, 16th - Abbey Rodeo 8:00pm, 22nd - Collage 9:00pm, 29th - Patio Party w/ Vince Menti 6:00pm. 7861 Reynolds Rd Mentor [1funpub.com](http://1funpub.com) (440) 942-6611.

### OLMSTED TWP

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10th - Mother's Day Mass & breakfast. John O'Brien Sr. 216-375-2890,

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**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.

## ONGOING TRADITIONAL IRISH SOCIAL DANCING WITH THE CLEVELAND CEILI CLUB

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For more information,  
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# #OHIOIANEWS



# Blessed are the Meek



**TERRY FROM DERRY**

By Terry Boyle

In the U.S alone, thousands of people have died over the past two months. Over a million people, worldwide, have succumb to the coronavirus disease. This is no brave new world but a dystopian nightmare we are living in. Presently, there is no vaccine in sight and our health systems are under enormous stress. Information on the virus changes from day-to-day. Divisions in our government are the only things that are consistently transparent in the world of politics. There are, of course, the usual politicians willing the gamble the lives of their people in order to be re-elected, which is contrasted by those who are actively fighting to ensure the welfare of their citizens. Normality, as we once knew it, is alas becoming a distant memory.

Social order, so far, has been maintained. But, what happens when employment continues to rise? People will not be able afford to pay rent or their mortgages. Circumstances could become even more critical when there's a food shortage. We saw how

people reacted when they thought that there wouldn't be enough of essential goods. People started to hoard out of fear of potential shortages. Toilet paper, hand sanitizer, rubbing alcohol, all disappeared from the shelves. As the number of deaths has continued to soar, and, predictions of worse to come, our minds

become solely concentrated on survival at any cost. It's at a time such as this we need clear and decisive leadership. However, on a national level, the leadership shelf has been cleaned out.

Confusion about this disease, dogs us at every turn, as the ministry of dis-information (the White House) continues to bombard us with fake news and unrealistic hopes of a quick end to our struggles. When someone's ego replaces real leadership it's not a good sign for any of us. We have watched and listened to a president lie through his teeth while attacking the press for calling him out on his nonsense. The pandemonium of one man's antics has hijacked the real issue in this pandemic, the sick and dying, not the election.

China, Italy and Spain, initially, were among the worst hit. We heard

stories of death tolls that seem incredulous. Never, in our generation, have we witnessed the destruction of so many lives by such a virulent disease; a virus that is no respecter of class, creed, or race. Covid-19 has become the great equalizer. However, unlike the virus, we have seen how our society defers to those

WHEN SOMEONE'S  
EGO REPLACES REAL  
LEADERSHIP IT'S NOT  
A GOOD SIGN FOR  
ANY OF US.

who have and less so to those who have not. People without health insurance, or who are dependent on their jobs, cannot afford to look after their health as they should. They put themselves and us at risk when they are forced to work. The pittance offered in the stimulus package is never going to keep our workers safe from harm.

And, while we see people struggle to keep afloat, there are the celebrities posting pictures of themselves self-isolating in their luxury resorts, or expensive mansions. The economic gaps exposed by this pandemic should have us reeling. When we see how peoples' health, their very lives, being measured by what they can afford, then it should make us think about the sort of society we have created. I was amazed at one Republican politician who complained that the stimulus package would make people lazy. His comment reminded me of a similar comment made by an English politician (who had never been to Ireland) about Irish people during the famine. Starving people, he claimed, should only be helped if they worked for their aid. Those who were too sick to work, simply died.

Times of crisis expose the best and worst of human nature. It's easy to point the finger at those we see hoarding food or clearing the shelves. For the most part, they are frightened and scared. It's easy to judge them as selfish. Their need for self-protection seems so obvious, whereas when a politician, who has the inside track about

the pandemic, moves stocks to a more lucrative place in the stock market we are less disturbed by those actions. When it comes to selfishness it's too easy to see the poor struggling to keep alive in the worst light, and it is used to distract us from those in power who are willing to put our lives in danger in order to fatten their wallets.

This is a time for us to be skeptical, especially of those in power. If the leadership has not shown that they have our best interests at heart and are merely lining their own pockets, it's time to oust them. Anger is best shown in political action. We have what we voted for, so let's not make that mistake again or we'll dig ourselves a bigger hole than we're in.

We're going to see that the worst hit by this virus are the poor. Those who cannot afford to self-isolate put their lives at risk out of economic necessity. They have no safety net to fall back on. When it comes applauding what they do, we might think about why they do it. Those who serve our food, delivery our groceries, put themselves in harm's way, do so because they have no other option.

When the black plague happened in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century it took the disease ten years to go from China to Europe. It has taken this disease a matter of days to reach Europe. The black plague took approximately 25 million lives and, much like this present pandemic, it exposed the inequalities of social healthcare. Years after the black plague, society had to change their approach to healthcare. If you want a workforce to go back to work, you need to look after your workers' health. It's as simple as that. If you make it impossible for them to afford healthcare, then society as a whole suffers. It took the black plague to change society's approach to healthcare. We can only hope that this pandemic will lead to a restructuring of our healthcare to meet the needs of all and not the few. ■

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## Ohio Scottish Games & Celtic Festival Expands

The Ohio Scottish Games & Celtic Festival will take place on June 26-27 at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds in Berea, OH. The festival will open Friday evening at 5p.m. and run until 10p.m. Saturday's festival hours have been extended to 8a.m. to 10 p.m.

On Friday, a special discounted ticket of \$10.00 includes the entertainment pavilion, featuring *Heron Valley, Arise & Go and Father, Son & Friends*; retail and food vendors; Ohio's Strongest Celt Competition; Call of the Clans Torch Lighting Ceremony; access to the music workshop/session building; harp workshop; professional Bagpipe competition; axe throwing by Class Axe; archery, and access to the Ceilidh, featuring the New Barleycorn. The ticket price for the music and food at the Ceilidh is an additional \$10.00.

Saturday gates will open at 8a.m. for the Highland Games, featuring traditional highland athletic events such as the Caber Toss. New in 2020 is the haggis throw and keg toss, as well as the Ohio Stones of Strength Competition, which is open to all who'd like to enter. The Kilted Mile will take place at 10a.m., featuring men's and woman's divisions as well as an under 13 years old 100-yard-dash event. Food & retail vendors, axe throwing

and archery will be open all day, as will the children's games, clan tents and British cars & motorcycle exhibit. The entertainment pavilion will open mid-day.

There will be piping, drumming, highland dance, pipe band, fiddle and harp competitions. The workshop/open session include bagpipe, snare drumming, tenor/bass drumming, highland dance and Drum Major. Open workshops in harp start at 9a.m.; fiddle starts at 10a.m., with an open session starting at 3p.m. As always, the massed pipes & drums featuring all competing pipe bands will be performing in the Grandstand area.

There is a \$5 Saturday evening ticket for those who arrive after 5p.m.. While the competitions will have ended, the entertainment pavilion, retail, food vendors and access to open sessions are all available.

All proceeds to benefit the Ohio Scottish Arts School which will take place June 28-July 3 at Baldwin Wallace University. [www.ohioscottishartschool.com](http://www.ohioscottishartschool.com) For info & schedules: [www.ohioscottishgames.com](http://www.ohioscottishgames.com) ■

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# Isolation Island Style



**AKRON IRISH**

By Lisa O' Rourke

So many experts are talking about grief in this moment. I guess so, I see it. One of the tenants of grief is that passing through it always reveals hidden strengths in the human spirit.

I see people out walking, shopping local, kids playing in their yards, neighbors checking on neighbors, people who are really living in their communities. In that respect, we are doing many of the things that we promise ourselves that we will do and don't quite get to.

That immediacy and intimacy of place is one of the things that a tourist takes away from a visit to Ireland. It can and does exist in many places though. It really does take a village.

As a global village, we are driving less. As a friend of mine said, he got three weeks to the gallon. The consequences of slowing down our transportation have been mind boggling to watch, as smog lifts from some of the most populated US cities.

In many ways, this feels like the world telling us to slow down. Travel brought this disease so quickly and only stopping slowed it down. We all love going places, but there is no doubt that our movement in the world will be more purposeful in the future.

We have been forced to maximize technology in place of movement and it works sometimes. The explosion of Zoom meetings will have people question whether they need to go to



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May the luck of the Irish be with you!

And just like that, everything changed. We no longer need clocks, calendars or pants with waistbands. Our new best friends are the fridge, the TV and the long-neglected pet, who is probably as terrified to see our constant approach as the fridge.

This isn't just happening for one group of people for whom we have empathy, it is happening to us all. Many are suffering physically and financially, and it seems like words just aren't enough to articulate everything that we are going through. Stress is the bubbling undercurrent of everything we do, but there will be an end and there is hope.



Delivering ballots back to the mainland.

Chicago for a meeting. I am not a huge fan of meetings, but there is something nice and more personal in a way, to see people in their homes with their cats walking on their keyboards, what their curtains look like, their pictures.

A friend of mine said that she is enjoying this slower pace, it reminds her of the fifties. This time is begging us to slow down and appreciate what is important.

## AUTHENTICITY AND CONNECTIONS

The take-away from this moment might be a return to authenticity. We are making things ourselves, from PPE masks to bread. We are cooking our

own dinners and playing board games, even Millennials are playing board games, albeit online, and loving it.

What shines through it all are the genuine connections between real people. Many artists and performers are sharing their talents online. The performances that I think work are the ones that involve genuine connections.

One group that is playing regularly online make a point to recognize friends as they log on and have a bit of craic with them. It is almost as good as being there. Real people all around are our heroes now. We don't have time for celebrity.

We care about real people; doctors, nurses, grocers, neighbors and first responders. Even the Queen gets it. It is heartwarming to see the people in big cities like New York and Chicago cheering for health care providers every night. It feels so much more balanced that the people who actually do much of the heavy lifting of making in our society are getting the acknowledgement that they deserve.

## BLASKET ISLANDS

Had this pandemic not happened, I intended to write this article about the Basket Islands. I was out one evening, yes out- imagine that, and someone mentioned that the people of the Basket Islands were a literate group, that they

Continued on facing page

## Isolation

Continued from facing page

produced more works of literature per capita than anywhere else.

It was an intriguing comment but not a verified fact. But you know why it seems logical if you know the islands. They were and still are isolated, not completely mind you, but just enough to feel it.

One of our family trips to an island started with suntan lotion and ended with motion-sickness bags. It makes a person think before you venture out. You can get a lot done when you stay in one place.

So many people go to Ireland to get that sense of things moving a little slower. While it may have that appearance from the outside, much of that changed in the last few decades. It is a wildly different place than it was twenty years ago, and exponentially so.

A few years back, I talked to a man who was one of the oldest people in the country. When asked what was different, he said that people did not work together the way that they used to.

I saw some of that change myself. My first summer on the farm in Ireland was hard work, but in some ways, idyllic. We spent time that summer

going from farm to farm, helping with the hay, working a day there, eating and drinking with those families. There would be groups of neighbors working together by the dozen.

Then mechanization became more affordable and no one asked for help anymore. This crisis has united communities again. Watching online, I have seen groups spring up, volunteering to shop or run errands for the elderly or confined. They are making and delivering meals in the hundreds to people in need in my husband's hometown of Castlerea. They have come together as a community.

I love the book "About a Boy" by Nick Hornby. One of the themes of the book is and I quote, "No man is an island." Instead of attributing the line to John Donne, the main character dismisses the sentiment and credits JonBon Jovi, and claiming himself to be a very happy tropical island, Ibita.

He spends the rest of the book proving himself wrong and that statement's truth. No one knows how we are going to feel after all this is over, but this experience is proof that JonBon Jovi was right. It is pointless to pretend otherwise; no man is an island. ■

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 dog, cats and fish. Lisa can be contacted at [olisa07@icloud.com](mailto:olisa07@icloud.com)

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## Coming Next Month: June 2020

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|---|--|
| 6th – D-Day   | 14th – Flag Day                          |
| 7th – Shamrock Club Gen Mtg                         | 18th – West Side IA Club General Meeting |
| 8th – IACES General Meeting                         | 20th – Hooley @Kamms                     |
| 12th – 25th Annual St. Malachi Open Golf Tournament | 21st – Father's Day                      |
| 13th – Shamrock Club Irish Music Festival           | 27th – Ohio Scottish Games & Festival    |
|   | 28th – Shamrock Club Blood Drive         |

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# The Dream and the Legacy of Toledo's Barney Quilter



James "Barney" Quilter

James "Barney" Quilter was a Democrat second in command in the Ohio House of Representatives for twenty years, until his retirement in 1994, and a man even political opponents couldn't help but like. He was 86 years of age when he passed away on August 15, 2005.

Mr. Quilter was born in 1919 to James and Helen Marie Quilter and grew up in East Toledo. He graduated from Central Catholic High School and attended DeSales College. He was a boxer as a young man but hopes of turning professional were dashed when he entered the Army to serve in the 167<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Battalion in Europe during World War II.

In 1944 he married Mary Carmella Sarno, to whom he was devoted for fifty-two years, until she died in 1996. Mrs. Quilter had Alzheimer's, which motivated her husband to advocate for those stricken by the disease in a moving House floor speech in 1986.

## DABBLING IN POLITICS

He dabbled in Democratic Party

politics, running unsuccessfully for Toledo City Council in 1957 and 1965. He worked in public relations at the Toledo Health and Retirees Center formed by the United Auto Workers. He was one of the founders of Clearwater Inc.

Clearwater was the original organization promoting government intervention to clean up rivers and streams in Northwest Ohio. The Toledo Health and Retirees Center also operated pharmacies throughout the area offering union members discounted prescriptions.



While working for the Toledo Health and Retiree Center, Mr. Quilter was discovered by Frank King, then-president of the Ohio Senate. Mr. King pushed UAW workers to urge Mr. Quilter to run for state representative. Mr. Quilter reluctantly agreed, saying he would serve only one two-year term. Mr. Quilter's political career ended up lasting from 1967 to 1994.

He ascended to power by aligning himself with the late Vern Riffe, Jr., one of the state's most powerful political figures in recent memory. Along with another Toledo state representative, the late Art Wilkowksi, the three Democrats staged a coup against then-Ohio House Speaker A.G. Lancione in 1974 that left Mr. Riffe as Speaker and Mr. Quilter as Speaker Pro Tempore. Mr. Riffe and Mr. Quilter formed a powerful political team that benefited the Toledo area for two decades.

Among his many accomplishments is Maumee Bay State Park, the idea that he conceived and a project that took twenty years to complete. Quilter Lodge, located on the park site, bears his name. Also named in his honor is Camp Quilter in Green Springs, Ohio, a work-earn-learn camp sponsored by the Ohio Civilian Conservation Corps under the Ohio



Maumee Bay State Park

Department of Natural Resources.

## THE LEGACY OF QUILTER

Quilter's legacy includes the development of the Medical University of Ohio; University of Toledo; Seagate Center; Millard Avenue Overpass and the widening of Front Street to the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority docks; the University of Toledo's law library; and the transformation of the former Portside Festival Marketplace into COSI, a hands-on science museum; public education and Alzheimer's research. His investigative efforts exposed fraud and abuse in the Sandusky Old Soldiers and Sailors Home and brought major reform during the 1970s.

Perhaps Mr. Quilter's most visible accomplishment was the establishment of Maumee Bay State Park along Lake Erie in Oregon and Jerusalem Township. Maumee Bay State Park offers 1,336 acres of not only the finest of recreational

facilities in the Midwest, but also a unique natural environment created by the convergence of the land and Lake Erie.

The lodge, cottages and golf course are nestled among the scenic meadows, wet woods and lush marshes teeming with wildlife. The balance of recreational facilities with the natural world gives visitors a diverse experience in a coastal environment. Maumee Bay Lodge & Conference Center offers 120 rooms and eight meeting/conference rooms that accommodate up to 800 people.

Maumee Bay's unique 18-hole "Scottish Links" style golf course has low, rolling mounds, bent grass fairways, greens and tees, numerous sand bunkers and ponds. A golf pro-shop is in operation with a PGA certified professional on staff.

## MAUMEE STATE PARK OFFERS OUTDOOR PARADISE

A 32-slip marina on Lake Erie has dockage available by reservation. A 57-acre inland lake in the park is suitable for sailing, canoeing and other non-motorized boat use. A life jacket loaner board is located at the inland lake. 24 overnight slips with electric and water

252 electric camping sites with shower houses (heated), flush toilets, electricity and playground equipment are available. The campsites are open and spacious and border natural meadows and ponds which are open to fishing for campers only. Five miles of asphalt "bicycle/pedestrian" trails provide access to most of the day-use areas. Bike rental, a basketball court and horseshoe pits are available. Registered campers can borrow games and sporting equipment from the camp office.

Lake Erie, known as the "walleye capital of the world," offers some of the best fishing opportunities in the Midwest. Great catches of walleye, channel catfish, freshwater drum, smallmouth bass and yellow perch delight the fisherman. The man-made inland lake near the lodge offers good pan fishing opportunities with two wheelchair accessible fishing piers and the small pond, located near parking area #7, is designated as a kid-



Barney Quilter at Maumee Bay.

friendly family fishing area.

## STATE OF THE ART NATURE CENTER

Trautman Nature Center, located just a few hundred yards from Maumee Bay Lodge, is equipped with inter-active displays, a programming auditorium, research laboratory and viewing windows. It is a state-of-the-art nature center staffed by a year-round naturalist. Learn about the park's history as the site of numerous significant Native American events, and why the Maumee Bay area was once known as the Great Black Swamp. A boardwalk trail is adjacent to the nature center.

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Picnic areas with tables and grills can be found adjacent to the beach areas. The park features two sand beaches on the Lake Erie shore and along the park's inland lake. A concession area and changing booths are provided. A large lakeside amphitheater lies

between the two beaches. Swimming is permitted in designated areas.

Maumee Bay State Park is home to several miles of trails that will take you through swamp and marsh wetlands, open meadows, ponds and beaches. The nature center's interpretive boardwalk trail is wheelchair accessible. Enjoy great views of Lake Erie while you hike or bike. A multipurpose trail is open to hiking and cross-country skiing.

When you visit the Maumee Bay State Park after the Coronavirus restrictions, reflect on the fact that the whole park was the vision and the dream of Barney Quilter and it exists because of his efforts. ■

*Maury Collins is a Charter Member and past president of the John P. Kelly Division AOH. Contact him at [maurycollins61@gmail.com](mailto:maurycollins61@gmail.com) Web <https://maurysirishnewstoledo.weebly.com>.*

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### OFF THE SHELF

By Terry Kenneally

@TerryKenneally

### This is Happiness

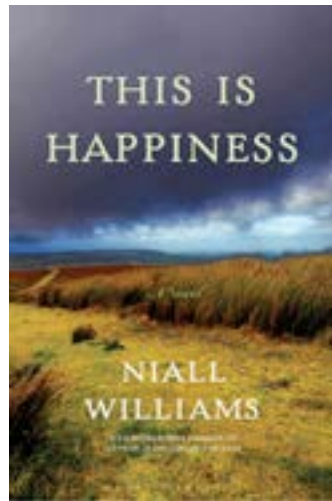
By Niall Williams

ISBN: HB 978-1-63557-4203 380

Noe (Noel) is a seventy-eight year old man looking back roughly sixty years to the Spring of 1958, when he dropped out of the seminary after his mother's death, and full of fear and unprocessed grief, went to live with his grandparents, Ganga and Doady, in Faha, a village back in time in County Clare.

The backstory of the book is the electrification of rural Ireland in the 1950s. Yes, it is hard to believe in the year 2020, but electricity was only brought to rural Ireland around that time.

Noe ends up sharing a room at his grandparents with a man named Christy, who is laying cable in the



village. Christy befriends Noe and acts as a mentor for him. Christy's real reason for coming to Faha is a woman named Annie Mooney. Half a century before he left her standing at the altar in a church in Kerry. Noe tries to unite Christy in some fashion with Annie.

A tour of the town, which is full of pleasure; a travelling encyclopedia salesman; often comic descriptions of social intricacies of church and pub culture; and the chemist shop where Annie Mooney works, with its once flood-swollen and now lifted- in-place linoleum. Noe also deals with his own awkward attempts at connecting to the female sex, which is not easy for him.

Williams is a master of Irish storytelling, crafting sentences that temp the reader to double back and read again - a truly peerless wordsmith. The author is master at conveying the intricacies of Irish culture both in char-

acter, history and tradition. One of William's previous books, *History of Rain* was Man Booker Prize Long-listed. *This is Happiness* is an enchanting novel that this column rates as a TOP SHELF read. ■

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## Pater Noster

By Terry Boyle

*To be secluded, isolated from those we love,*

*Called to face our true humanity,*

*To witness who we really are,*

*We, who are humbled by something so small,*

*So deadly, so minute,*

*Are forced to reckon with our fragility,*

*Alone, we must look into the abyss,*

*Watch as the edge of darkness*

*Draw closer, as night spreads its canopy over us,*

*In solitude, we seek to find faith,*

*Desperately, looking beyond the bodily idol*

*Of flesh,*

*That we dare not touch, breathe upon, for fear*

*Of the invisible worm that eats at our pride,*

*Death hangs onto us, claims us as his own,*

*With each droplet of decay, he divides us one-by-one,*

*While politicians count us off as currency*

*Current or spent,*

*Numbers rise as we fall, still....*

*Faith calls out to us from beyond the grave,*

*Amid the clamour of knife, fork and gun,*

*Survival and anarchy,*

*The soul stirs, stretching upwards,*

*Unfurls from its slumber towards the unseen hand,*

*Pushes our hearts towards a godly breath,*

*Untainted, uncorrupted by vanity and greed,*

*Alone, we find our comfort in prayer,*

*The source of life, master of death, cradles us,*

*With God, there is no social distancing,*

*We are not alone as we number ourselves*

*Among the choosing people of faith.*



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**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**  
By Linda Fulton Burke  
@LindaBurke47

- ACROSS**
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Grey Soil, by Patrick Kavanagh
  - 3 Going Home to \_\_\_\_\_, by Paul Durcan
  - 10 The \_\_\_\_\_ of Dooney, by W. B. Yeats
  - 11 The Deserted \_\_\_\_\_, by Oliver Goldsmith
  - 15 Digging, by Seamus \_\_\_\_\_
  - 18 \_\_\_\_\_ McDonagh, by Francis Ledwidge
  - 19 The \_\_\_\_\_ of Derrycain, by Austin Clarke
  - 20 A \_\_\_\_\_ Song, by Padraic Colum
  - 21 \_\_\_\_\_ to Byzantium, by W. B. Yeats
  - 23 June, by \_\_\_\_\_ Ledwidge

- 25 The \_\_\_\_\_ Animals' Desertion, by W. B. Yeats
- 26 Spraying the \_\_\_\_\_, by Patrick Kavanagh
- 29 An Old \_\_\_\_\_ of the Roads, by Padraic Colum
- 32 \_\_\_\_\_, by Seamus Heaney
- 36 \_\_\_\_\_, by Seamus Heaney
- 37 The \_\_\_\_\_, by Padraic Pearse
- 38 \_\_\_\_\_ of an Irishwoman, by Michael Hartnett
- 39 The Splendour of \_\_\_\_\_, by Joseph Mary Plunkett
- 41 Woodman, \_\_\_\_\_ Deeley
- 42 \_\_\_\_\_ Schoolchildren, by W. B. Yeats
- 43 The \_\_\_\_\_, by Padraic Pearse
- 45 On \_\_\_\_\_ Road, by Patrick Kavanagh
- 48 Father and \_\_\_\_\_, by F.R. Higgins
- 49 \_\_\_\_\_ Helicon, by Seamus Heaney
- 52 The Great \_\_\_\_\_, by Patrick Kavanagh
- 53 A Drover, Padraic \_\_\_\_\_

- 54 \_\_\_\_\_ by the Sally Gardens, by W. B. Yeats
- 56 The Lake I \_\_\_\_\_ of Innisfree, by W. B. Yeats
- 60 The Planter's \_\_\_\_\_, by Austin Clarke
- 62 Broken \_\_\_\_\_, by W. B. Yeats
- 63 \_\_\_\_\_, by Patrick Kavanagh
- 65 Advent, by Patrick \_\_\_\_\_
- 66 'Tis the last \_\_\_\_\_ of summer, by Thom as Moore

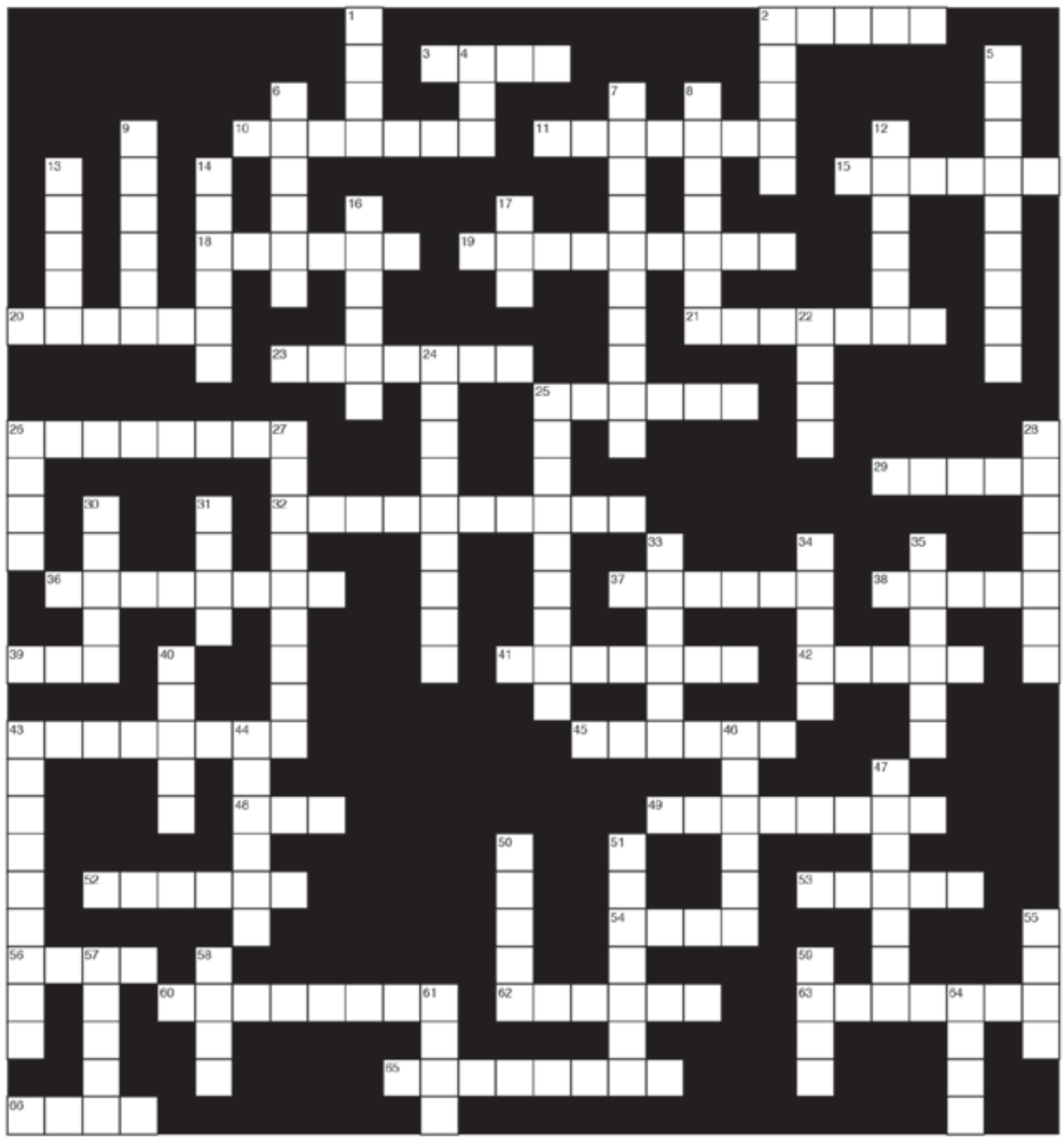
**DOWN**

- 1 A Disused \_\_\_\_\_ in Co Wexford, by Derek Mahon
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ and Lambs, by Katharine Tynan
- 4 The Host of the \_\_\_\_\_, by W. B. Yeats
- 5 All \_\_\_\_\_ Legendary Obstacles, by John Montague
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ r in February, by Thomas Kinsella
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_-Picking, by Seamus Heaney
- 8 The \_\_\_\_\_, by William Allingham
- 9 Station \_\_\_\_\_, by Seamus Heaney
- 12 He Wishes for the Cloths of \_\_\_\_\_ by W. B. Yeats
- 13 \_\_\_\_\_ Ben Bulbin, by W. B. Yeats
- 14 In Memory of my \_\_\_\_\_, by Patrick Kavanagh
- 16 The \_\_\_\_\_ of Reading Gaol, by Oscar Wilde
- 17 When You are \_\_\_\_\_, by W.B. Yeats

- 22 For Rita With \_\_\_\_\_, by Pat Ingoldsby
- 24 A \_\_\_\_\_ Childhood, by Patrick Kavanagh
- 25 \_\_\_\_\_ Day, Paul Durcan
- 26 A \_\_\_\_\_ of Plain is Your Only Man, by Flann O'Brien
- 27 \_\_\_\_\_, 1913, by W. B. Yeats
- 28 \_\_\_\_\_ September, by Thomas Kinsella
- 30 I See His \_\_\_\_\_ upon the Rose, by Joseph Mary Plunkett
- 31 The \_\_\_\_\_ by Padraic Pearse
- 33 The Second \_\_\_\_\_ by W. B. Yeats
- 34 Mid-Term \_\_\_\_\_, by Seamus Heaney
- 35 Clearances, by Seamus \_\_\_\_\_
- 40 The Wild \_\_\_\_\_ at Coole, by W. B. Yeats
- 43 The Song of \_\_\_\_\_ Aengus, by W. B. Yeats
- 44 \_\_\_\_\_, 1916, by W. B. Yeats
- 46 An Irish \_\_\_\_\_ Foresees his Death, by W. B. Yeats
- 47 To My \_\_\_\_\_ Daughter Betty, by Tom Kettle
- 50 The Stolen \_\_\_\_\_, by W. B. Yeats
- 51 Valparaiso, by \_\_\_\_\_ de Brun
- 55 The \_\_\_\_\_ Heifer, by Austin Clarke
- 57 Snow, by \_\_\_\_\_ MacNeice
- 58 Canal Bank \_\_\_\_\_, by Patrick Kavanagh
- 59 \_\_\_\_\_, by Patrick Kavanagh
- 61 Inniskeen \_\_\_\_\_, July Evening, by Patrick Kavanagh
- 64 Leda and the \_\_\_\_\_, by W. B. Yeats

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