



OHIO IRISH AMERICAN NEWS

January 2021 • Volume 15 - Issue 1



Sharing a Song

Our Tradition is Alive and Well

with Cillian Vallely (Lúnasa) and Matt Mancuso (Eileen Ivers Band and Universal Roots)



EDITOR'S CORNER

By John O'Brien, Jr.

Get up, Show Up, Lift Up

It's time to get up; stay home; and use the time there to improve your future, whatever it may be. It appears we've avoided another shutdown, for another week or who knows.

The expected surge of COVID over the Thanksgiving holiday did not occur. Most credible experts attribute it to most people acting responsibly, wearing masks, keeping their distance etc. Even though 4.9 million people traveled, that's way down from the 50 million that usually do the extended Thanksgiving weekend.

Many here in the US on Visas couldn't risk going home for Christmas, in case they couldn't get back. I remember the mad Dash in March as bands here for their St. Patrick's Day tours and celebrations had to cut off and head home, smartly realizing that they may not be able to go home at all if they didn't get out before the lockdowns were mandated.

Plus, Ireland has closed its borders

again. You won't go home and isolate for two weeks if you are only going home for five days. The same is true in reverse. I have tried to help a band or three with US visa apps, wanting to come here for their annual Christmas Tours. The embassies in Ireland are closed. Closed means no processing, and therefore, no visas being approved. Even approved ones are sitting on desks idly waiting the resumption of service.

Christmas is family, tradition, certainly, and home. So if you know of someone isolated on this side of the Atlantic, Irish or not, offer them a virtual home invitation if you can. It doesn't have to be a holiday to help out the lonely, the separated or the single. We all need somebody ... Somebody like you. ■

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



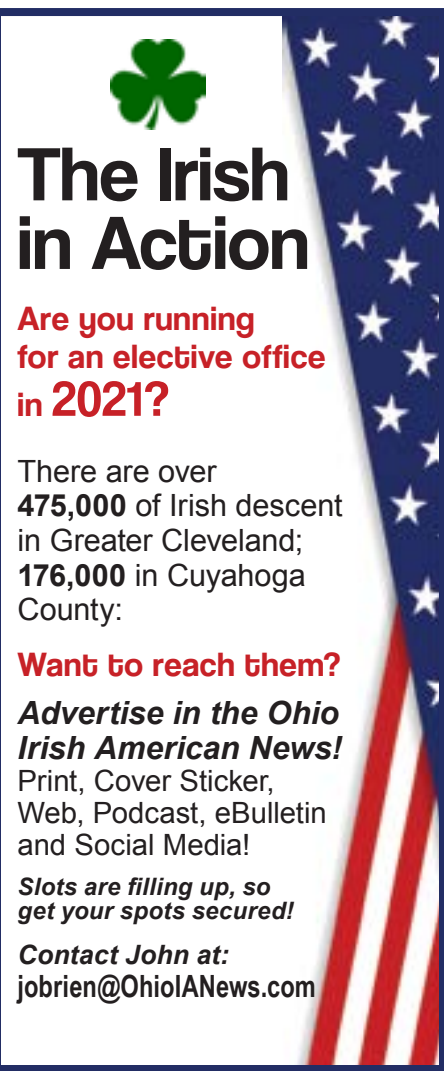
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ON THIS DAY IN IRISH HISTORY - JANUARY

- 4 January 1969** - People's Democracy civil rights march from Belfast to Derry was violently attacked by loyalists and local members of the B Special Constabulary at Burntollet Bridge, near Claudy, Co. Derry.
- 9 January 1929** - Brian Friel, Ireland's leading playwright, was born in Omagh, Co. Tyrone.
- 11 January 1729** - Edmund Burke, orator and political philosopher, was born at 12 Arran Quay, Dublin, the son of a Protestant solicitor and a Catholic mother.
- 12 January 1989** - In one of the most controversial incidents of the recent 'Troubles', The Catholic solicitor, Pat Finucane, was murdered by gunmen in his own home in North Belfast.
- 15 January 1988** - Sean McBride (83), lawyer, revolutionary and

- international jurist, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize (1977), died.
- 20 January 1902** - Birth in Dublin of Kevin Barry, first IRA Volunteer to be executed During the Anglo-Irish War.
- 23 January 1803** - Arthur Guinness, founder of the Dublin brewery, dies.
- 25 January 1627** - Robert Boyle, creator of Boyle's Law, is born in County Waterford.
- 26 January 1907** - First production of John Millington Synge's The Playboy of the Western World at the Abbey Theatre.
- 30 January 1972** - Bloody Sunday - The British Army fires at unarmed civil rights protestors in the Bogude District of Derry. Fourteen marchers die of their injuries. Another thirteen are wounded.



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January 2021 Vol. 15 • Issue 1

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OhiolANews is published monthly (12 issues a year) on the first day of each month. Subscription is by first class mail. 1 year \$36, 2 years at \$70, 3 years \$100. To subscribe go online at OhiolANews.com, or Email us at jobrien@OhiolANews.com, or call us at 216.647.1144 or mail to address below.

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Circulation: 9,500 For a list of distribution points, go to www.OhiolANews.com and click on the word "Distribution."



About Our Cover:
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We Get Letters

Dear John and the Ohio Irish American News,
I had almost forgotten about Joe Biden's Irish heritage, until he became a front runner during the last campaign. After his victory, stories began to appear about things like a first Presidential overseas trip possibly being to Ireland.
Before long, it was reported that President-elect Biden had already told British Prime Minister Boris Johnson not to toy with the Good Friday Agreement, nor to consider a hard border in Ireland. 'Wow! We have it going now!', I thought.
It was reported today that the Irish group, The Wolfe Tones, have been booked for one of the Inauguration

parties! Such open support for Irish political freedom emanating from the White House is a thing many of us had thought would never happen. President Clinton is said to have broken taboos by letting Gerry Adams into the U.S. We can hope this President-elect, will follow through.
Boris has already introduced a bill in English parliament declaring his intention to violate the agreements surrounding the GFA, which have the force of international law. This could get interesting.
Britain needs a new trade agreement with the U.S. The leverage to keep Britain from doing such damage seems to be at hand. American Irish, whether Republicans or Democrats, should be full of hopeful apprehension. We have seen hope evaporate in the past due to the so-called 'special relationship.' But why be negative. Go get'em Joe!
Patrick J. Donlin, Sr.
Warren, Ohio



MILESTONE

Congratulations to Fiona Chambers, accepted to THE Ohio State University Dental School!

We Get Letters is open to all. Send us your well-thought-out reasoning/response on any topic to: jobrien@OhiolANews.com, with your name and city.
Anonymous and/or inappropriate language letters will automatically be deleted without response.

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CLEVELAND IRISH

By Francis McGarry

Day of Kings

My eye is not on the Holidays this year. We will not be getting together this year as the world would have. After a number of funerals this year without a proper wake, the McGarry Clan is going to play it safe.

The real question for us is Mass. Although properly dispensated, my Ma is ready for Mass. She grew up a block from Margaret-Mary's and now lives a half a block from St. Jude's. My McGarry's have always lived within walking distance of the rectory.

Notre Dame has a Mass online that passes the test, but it is not Mass. Those who know her know she dresses for Mass to watch it on the computer.

The first documented Catholics in

Cleveland arrived in 1826, shortly after ground was broken for the Ohio Canal, which began in our city. It was later in 1826 that the first priest visited, Father Thomas Martin, he was a Dominican living in Perry county.

Father Stephen Badin also made a few stops. There is no historical record of another priest in the city until 1835, when Father John Dillon was sent to Cleveland by Bishop Purcell. Father Dillon said Mass at people's homes.

My brother and I were both baptized at home. Me in the dining room and Sean in the living room, I don't think that happens much these days. In 1835, that was the only option and needless to say, no online Mass by Father Dillon either.

Cleveland Catholics rented a room at Shakespeare Hall in the upper story of the Merwin building on Superior Street. Father Dillon's Mass even attracted a few Protestant fellows. He was described as a cultivated and scholarly priest with a good Homily.

There were not many Catholics at the time. As Father Dillon grew his flock, they moved to a cottage at Erie and Prospect, until they relocated to Farmer's Hall in Mechanics' Block at Prospect and Ontario. Dillon died in 1836 of a fever at 29 years old. He was buried in Erie Street Cemetery.

Catholics in Cleveland did not have a permanent priest for almost a year after his death.

Father Patrick O'Dwyer was sent from Quebec in 1837. A land contract was donated to the Roman Catholic

Society of Our Lady of the Lake for lots 218 and 219 in Cleveland. The land was a gift from some Protestant fellows.

The Deal was that a Church had to be built within four months of the land grant, and maintained. O'Dwyer hired a Catholic contractor named Golden, a member of the congregation.

The Church was built, at least the outside, in a few months. Lack of funds prevented the completion of the Church and dissent in the congregation led to the removal of Father O'Dwyer, some blamed Irish nationalism for his demise.

A CHURCH WITH NO PRIEST

Cleveland now had a Church but no priest. Member of the parish still assembled on Sundays and recited the Rosary and read the Gospel. Priest or not, the Church was completed and a proper Mass was performed on June 7th, 1840. The Church was dedicated to Our Lady of the Lake but in response to popular usage the name was changed to St. Mary's on the Flats.

It was the only Catholic Church until 1852. Members of the congregation include the names Golden, Wigmann, Feeley, Lawler, Toole, Duffy, Byrne, Fitzpatrick, Runclie, Alliwel, Detmer and McCaffrey.

Father Peter McLaughlin arrived in October of 1840, his first appointment. He spoke some German, which a fair number of the congregation also spoke. Father McLaughlin purchased four lots on the northeast corner of Superior and Erie from Thomas May for \$2,000 on January 22nd, 1845. The Cathedral lots were criticized as being out in the country.

At the time, Cleveland listed fourteen other places of worship. These included 1st Presbyterian (1820) on Prospect; 2nd Presbyterian (1844) on St. Clair; Methodist Episcopal Church (1827) on Wood; Episcopalian on Clinton; Baptist Church (1844) on Ontario; Bethel Church (1833) on Superior; German Evangelical Lutheran (1843) on Erie; German Evangelical Protestant (1835) on Erie; the Anshe Chest Society (1842) in the Farmer's Block; and the Israelitish Society (1839) on Seneca. Cleveland had one umbrella manufacturer, Peter McCann, on Seneca; three breweries, which produced 177,000 gallons of beer and ale; four soap and candle factories, which produced 450,000 pounds of soap and 300,000 pounds of candles; and 9 liquor stores at the time, for those keeping score at home.

Father McLaughlin's vision was not realized by many Catholics, now numbering about 6,000 in the area, and the rift led to his request to be relieved of his position. He left in 1846. Father Maurice Howard was his replacement, and the Reverend Michael A. Byrne was his assistant, know to some as Padre.

In 1848, an additional five lots were purchased from Thomas May, adjacent to the previous lots, for \$1,250. The temporary structure built there was known as the Church of the Nativity. On Christmas 1848 the first Mass was celebrated at the site.

THE END OF ST. MARY'S ON THE FLATS

The Cathedral was completed in 1852, and it became the first Catholic school in Cleveland, and the diocese. As more parishes were formed in the city for the Irish, Germans and French, St. Mary's of the Flats did not have enough members in the congregation to maintain the parish. In the years 1879 to 1886 St. Mary's was abandoned.

On the Feast of the Epiphany, Bishop Gilmour had High Mass celebrated at St. Mary's. An opportunity was offered to all those in attendance to contribute to raising \$2,000. Cleveland Catholics raised less than \$100.

The heirs of the original Protestant fellows who granted the land filed suit to reverse the title to the lots for failure to maintain the Church. The Court of Common Pleas heard the suit in 1888 and the judge ordered the sale of the lots with proceeds split equally with the Diocese of Cleveland and the heirs. Bishop Gilmour ordered the destruction of St. Mary's in September of 1888.

My plan is for The Feast of the Epiphany. It has always been one of my favorite holiday Masses. Regardless of the quality of the Homily, I am reminded to never leave a meeting early. ■

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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TERRY FROM DERRY

By Terry Boyle

The Lies We Tell Ourselves

Recently, I've been talking to some people about the genius of the Irish playwright, John Millington Synge. Writing at the beginning of the 20th century, Synge challenged the prevailing perceptions Dubliners had of the West of Ireland.

For urban nationalists, the west was always considered to be the 'uncorrupted heart of Ireland.' Westerners embodied the best of what it means to be Irish. Of course, nothing more could be further from the truth. While it's true that the Irish language and culture was preserved by those in rural areas, it was also true that those who inhabited those areas were just as flawed as anyone else; a fact Synge reiterated in each of his dramatic works.

The need to create myths to reinforce our ideological cause is not new. Throughout human history, we have continued to make up stories that, while they hold a grain of truth, are greatly exaggerated for effect.

For example, Patrick Radden Keefe's brilliant expose of the killing of Jean McConville during the Northern Irish 'Troubles', shows how callously people reacted to McConville's children after she was murdered by the IRA as an informer. Her children were shunned, alienated, at a time when they needed the support of their community. The myth that an oppressed community shares its suffering by displaying acts of altruism is sometimes true but not always, as shown in how McConville's children were treated by their Catholic community in Belfast.

Someone who knows how to exploit the need for mythologizing is the outgoing president. Throughout his presidency, he has lied, cheated, and undermined the very ideals of American society by appearing to be an ideologue for Christian morality. His diversion tactics have repeatedly distracted the

American people from seeing his selfish, egotistical, need for popularity. He has shown his true colours during this pandemic. Instead of educating and leading his people in a time of crisis, he has demonstrated a lack of compassion for the dying and dead. He continues to lie and cheat in plain sight, and there are still people who believe his myth making.

IT'S NEVER EASY TO FACE UP TO THE TRUTH. WE LOVE OUR LIES. THEY OFFER US A WAY TO OVERLOOK OUR FAILINGS PERSONALLY AND COLLECTIVELY.

America, during his presidency, has been forced to face the reality that all of what we have believed about this country is false. The United States has long been seen as a melting pot, providing sanctuary for those mistreated and unjustly discriminated against, a place where democratic principles are supported and upheld by those in government.

What the former president has done during his ineffectual time in office is to reveal to the world how one man can manipulate, bully, and lie his way to the top without any fear of consequence. As the president of a superpower, he has blatantly demonstrated his misogyny, racism, and financial corruption.

MYTHMAKING

Yet, he still the hero of over 70 million voters. Why? Because people want to believe his myth making. It's never easy to face up to the truth. We love our lies. They offer us a way to overlook our failings personally and collectively. If we look at the practice of the outgoing president we see that by deflecting reality we choose to delude ourselves. If we continue to blind ourselves to defending the myth our chances of improving our lot is doubtful.

And, while I don't believe the former president has divided the country or made it more racist. If anything, he has simply shown that these despicable elements have always existed in the 'home of the

brave and land of the free.' Getting rid of one man in power will not change this country if this country does not face up to its own failings. We can continue to believe in the lies we tell ourselves and lose out in an opportunity to make things better.

We have a chance now to become something different, something better, something more inclusive and less divisive if we can admit to ourselves the truth of what we are not, a fair society. A change in government can only work if there's a change in attitude. I would hope, as I'm sure we all do, that the newly elected president is able to demonstrate a different kind of leadership.

Synge was not treated well by romantic Irish nationalists. They didn't appreciate his suggestion that the God-fearing men and women of the Irish west were duplicitous and less than saints. Indeed, in 1907, Dubliners took to the streets after Synge's 'The Playboy of the Western World' premiered, because they were unwilling to accept anything but the myth.

Their reaction to his truthful depiction of the west exposed how strongly they were attached to the lie. It's never easy to admit that those we admire

often fall short of our ideals, even when it's right in front of our eyes. We see that even in our own time.

When it comes to the pandemic and the crisis we're currently undergoing, there are still those who disbelieve the facts. Risking their own lives and the lives of others, they flaunt their disbelief in dangerous ways.

Sure, we'd all love to think it's all a hoax, but that would be a refusal to believe a denial of reality in the evidence that surrounds us. The conspiracy theorists are like those who fixed the chairs on the Titanic as the ship was sinking. They act as if all is well and there's nothing to worry about.

The very fact that the former president has opted out of every opportunity to give guidance and leadership on the pandemic means that we're up to our necks in water, locked in a third-class cabin, while he and his business associates are manning the lifeboats. Some lies are too costly to hold onto. If the master of deflection is focusing his attention on his presidential loss, then we know there is an iceberg ahead, with all of our names on it. ■

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AT HOME, ABROAD

By Regina Costello

East and West in The House: The White House

This New Year is greeted with new guests in The House. One from the West – Ireland; one from the East – Asian Afro Jamaican. Both Americans. I like to say that it mirrors my house. I made my home as an Irish woman with an Asian man. We are both Americans. Our different ethnicities initially formed the building blocks of our relationship and to this day, we continue to celebrate and share both traditions with our growing family. The ethnic diversity

in The House is representative of the diversity of the United States. There is real hope for better days ahead for all of us, regardless of race, color, ethnicity, religion or persuasion. Many in the Cleveland Irish community exude great pride in welcoming one of our own, President Elect Joe Biden to the most important House. The White House. *Céad míle fáilte.*

The meat and potatoes of Irish roots is the family. President Elect Biden is deeply conscious of his Irish roots and is proud of his family heritage. And while the Irish family dynamic is fluid and accepts social changes, the fundamentals remain the same and are evident in Joe Biden. The family is still the dominant influence on Irish people. The 2020 Irish attitudes and values survey found 62% considered the family and home as the main influences that form their thinking and opinions. An overwhelming 80% of respondents prized family support over friends, health or employment. This anchor remains firmly embedded in a modern Irish society of growing ethnic diversity, increasing separation and divorce numbers since 1996, and a

rise in same sex cohabiting couples since legalization of civil partnerships in 2011. Without a doubt Joe Biden's heart and path are heavily influenced by his family. He speaks often and fondly about them. As Annabelle Timsit, a Geopolitics reporter wrote in November 2020 *"To understand Joe Biden...one has to know his family history."* The great American tale began with his great-grandfather, James Finnegan, County Louth, who emigrated during The Great Famine. All of his Joe's maternal great-great grandparents were born in Ireland between 1800 and 1850. In 2016 he visited Ireland as the American Vice President. On the eve of that trip he wrote a touching letter than included the following lines:

"And it's a trip I'm so deeply grateful to be taking alongside my children and grandchildren..."

...Over the course of my life... I've been honored to have held a lot of titles. But I have always been and will always be the son of Kitty Finnegan. The grandson of Geraldine Finnegan from St. Paul's Parish in Scranton; a proud descendant of the Finnegan's of Ireland's County Louth. The great-grandson of a man named Edward Francis Blewitt, whose roots stem from Ballina, a small town in Ireland's County Mayo – sister city to my hometown in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

The depth of emotion for his Irish roots and love of family are apparent in the letter above. Let's dive deeper into his Mayo roots which I know will touch the hearts of most of our readers. Megan Smolenyak, American Genealogist provides much data about Joe's ancestral roots. Joe Biden's mother's (Finnegan) maternal family has ancestors in the Arthurs, Blewitt, Boyle, Roche, Scanlon and Stanton families. From his father's side, one finds ancestry in the Hanafee family. Immigration to American by his ancestors occurred during the middle of the 19th century primarily settling in Scranton, PA. Joe's mother was born to Ambrose Finnegan and Geraldine Blewitt. Edward Blewitt brought the family to America. This is Joe's great-great-great grandfather. Per the ship's manifest, aboard was his 18-year old son Patrick, and history suggests he had already worked as a cabin boy and lived in Chile. It seems that may have previously lived in the U.S. Patrick made Scranton his home, but employment offered him opportunities to live elsewhere throughout America and even Brazil. This

explains why Biden's great-grandfather, Edward was born in New Orleans. He worked in construction and climbing the ladder, he became the first Irish American to become Senator. He lived his Irish heritage by joining groups including the Mayo Men's Benevolent, Social Patriotic and Literary Association, the precursor to the Mayo Society of today.

The many personal tragedies President Elect Joe Biden has suffered, resulting in lifelong scars have greatly influenced his life, creating in him a compassion, sympathetic ear and ability to comfort others in great pain, the latter which is no stranger to him. After the Sandy Hook elementary school tragedy, he made kind phone calls to parents. This year, America needs such traits in a leader - an understanding demeanor, an open heart, and an objective mindset to propel the country forward in the best interests of all American citizens. Senator Chris Coons said to Joe Trippi, (Democratic strategist) that Joe's life experiences enable him to *"heal our relationships with the world...He can restore our position of strength and leadership in the world. But he can also restore a sense of optimism about the American people and heal the incredibly deep divisions that were already there..."* We can expect him to draw inspiration from his rich Irish heritage, traditional family values, and the poetry of Seamus Heaney that he so loves, as he paves the stony road of the future. I look forward to my home abroad providing *"the shelter from the storms, from all sorts of storms."* (William J. Bennett) that it once was for all of us. ■

Regina is a Graduate from the National University of Ireland, Galway and a Post Graduate from the National University of Ireland, Dublin. She is the former Curator of the Irish American Archives at the Western Reserve Historical Society, former Executive Director of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Commission and former Executive Coordinator of the Northern Ohio Rose Centre. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Mayo Society of Greater Cleveland. She can be reached at rcostello@ameritech.net

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SPEAK IRISH

By Bob Carney

@BobCarneyGTR

Ishi

Tá súil agam, go bhfuil sibh go maith. November was Native American Awareness Month and public television had extensive programming in recognition of it. Many of the programs addressed the younger people that are reconnecting with their heritage, through traditional skills, dance and language.

As I watched, I couldn't help but notice many of the same things we've dealt with as we attempt to further our study of Irish. More importantly, it was easy to see the enthusiasm and urgency in connecting with their language.

Years ago, I happened across a book entitled "Ishi in Two Worlds" By Theodora Kroeber, written in 1961. Ishi walked out of the wilderness in California in August of 1911. He was starving, fatigued and injured when he was found in the corral of a slaughterhouse.

The local sheriff was called, and took Ishi into custody as he tried to figure out who he was and where he came from. Local Indians, as well as Spaniards and Mexicans were brought in, in an effort to communicate with him, but to no avail.

When the news story about the "last wild Indian" being rescued, reached a couple of anthropologists at The University of California, they realized the importance of finding out as much as possible about this man and his people. Professor Kroeber (the author's husband) armed with dictionaries of known native languages from the surrounding areas, spoke word after word with no recognition from Ishi, until finally uttering the Yahi word for yellow pine; Ishi lit up and banged on the pine table in front of him repeating the word over and over.

After a time, it was established that Ishi was the last survivor of a lost tribe of Yahi, whose dialect was vastly different from the other northern Yahi dialects known. Ishi's language would have never been known had he not made it to that corral. The book chronicles Ishi's life before his contact with the modern world and his life after, very interesting if you wish to know more about Ishi.

In Robin Wall Kimmerer's book, "Braiding Sweetgrass," she speaks of her quest to learn the language of her ancestors. She tells of her experience at a class that was held at a yearly tribal gathering. There was a great deal of excitement since every native speaker of the tribe would be present.

When they were called forward "to the circle of folding chairs, they moved slowly, with canes, walkers and wheelchairs; only a few entirely under their own power." Nine speakers in all.

TIPS FOR PURSUING LEARNING IRISH

Robin has taken the route that many of us have in pursuing Irish. Post it notes on items in the home, trying to incorporate words and phrases into daily conversation, she speaks with her sister once a week on the phone using as much Potawatomi as they can.

She uses simple commands with her dog: sit, come here, be quiet. Robin does however share the same lament I have made about teaching a dog who ignores you in English to be bilingual. Her teacher also encouraged her when she complained about having no one to talk to by saying, "None of us do, but someday we will."

I find it encouraging to hear about others trying to learn the language of their ancestors, facing some of the same obstacles and challenges that many of us have in our study of Irish. It is also easy to share in their joy at being able to use their language and be understood. I believe that all of us when we use these words and phrases, once so foreign to our ear, breath life into these languages that otherwise might become lost, like Ishi's.

The vocabulary and phrase list below contains many things that we've covered in the past, but I think it is

worth reviewing. These are things we can use in our English conversations with others on a daily basis, even if that other is four-legged.

Remember the example shown for yes and no is not always correct in an Irish conversation, but will suffice for our purpose.

IRISH	PRONUNCIATION	ENGLISH
Sea	(shah)	yes
Ní hea	(nee hah)	no
Go raibh maith agat	(gorra mah ah-gut)	thank you
Tá fáilte romhat	(taw falcha roe-it)	you're welcome
Le do thoil	(leh duh hahl)	please
Dia duit	(dee-uh gwit)	God to you (hello)
Dia's Muire duit	(dee-us morra gwit)	God and Mary to you
Gabh mo leithscéal	(guh mo lesh-shkale)	Excuse me
Maidin mhaith	(mo-jin wah)	good morning
Oíche mhaith	(ee-ha wah)	good night
Ceart go leor	(kyart guh lore)	right enough ok
Maith go leor	(mah guh lore)	good enough
Is maith liom é	(iss mah lum ay)	I like it
An bhfuil sé ceart go leor?	(ahn will shay kyart guh lore)	Is it ok?
Tá sé sin go maith	(taw shay shin guh mah)	It's good
Tá an ceart agat	(taw ahn kyart ah-gut)	that's right
Conas atá tú?	(kun-us ah-taw too)	How are you?
Táim go maith	(tame guh mah)	I'm good
Tá an lá go bréa	(taw ahn law guh brow)	It's a fine day
Dia linn	(dee-uh lynn)	a blessing when someone sneezes
An bhfuil Gaeilge agat?	(ahn will gway-la ga ah-gut)	Do you speak Irish?
Tá beagáinín agam	(taw bee-ahgon-ing ah gum)	I speak a little
Cén scéal agat?	(kayn shkale ah-gut)	What's up?
Maith thú!	(mah who)	good job!
An mhaith	(ahn wah)	very good
Tóg go bog é	(toeg guh bog ay)	take it easy
Suigh	(see)	sit
Síos	(shees)	down
Suigh síos	(see shees)	sit down
Madra maith	(mawdra mah)	good dog
Tar	(tawr)	come
Tar anseo	(tawr ahn-sho)	come here
Bog	(bug)	move
Bí ciúin	(bee ku-inn)	be quiet
Go mall	(guh mall)	slowly
Stad	(stahd)	stop

Slán go Fóill!

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 Wolfhound and Irish dogs organizations in and around Cleveland. Wife Mary, hounds Morrighán and Rian and terrier Doolin keep the house jumping. He can be contacted at carneyspeakirish@gmail.com

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TAKING THE FIELDS OF GLORY
By Vincent Beach

Getting Ready for 2021

The Cleveland St. Pat's - St Jarlath's Gaelic Football Club held their annual general meeting (AGM) remotely this year, on December 5th. There were only two motions this year, both carrying unanimously.

The first motion was to update the club name to Cleveland St. Pat's - St. Jarlath's Gaelic Athletic Association under the motivation to be inclusive of all Gaelic Games (rounders 2025!). The second motion was to expand the board to include a hurling players' representative.

The 2021 board was also elected: Vincent Beach (Chair), Maura English (Vice-Chair), Amelia Kaylor (Secretary), Tom Beach (Registrar), Dan Kampman (Treasurer), Annie Coyne (Public Relations Officer), Sarah Dunn (Ladies' Representative), Chris Greggila (Men's Football Representative), and

Damon Margida (Hurling Representative). After elections, discussion focused on recruitment.

The Midwest GAA will have a full schedule of games in the 2021 year. The new Midwest board has already assembled a committee to focus on the fixtures for Ladies' Football, Men's Football, and Hurling. The committee, composed of hurler and footballers - ladies and men, will be responsible for drafting both league (summertime play) and championship (MW finals) formats. The proposals would then be studied by each club and discussed in a division-wide conference call (per code) before a final schedule would be released in late February.

A blitz - multiple games and teams at one location on one weekend - style schedule was proposed last year and still carries some favor, although the dynamics of which clubs will elect to play this year may suite a home & away format better. We shall see.

Either way, early in the season, the Memorial 7's tournament will be hosted by Cleveland at the West Side Irish American Club on May 8th. The one-day tournament is for junior football, men's and ladies', to kick off the season. The tournament became a Cleveland Irish and Midwest GAA tradition through the 1980s and 90s, only to be brought back recently by the many GAA supporters and alumni of Cleveland. Good on yah! Cleveland is once



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again assembling their volunteer committee to host clubs from around the Midwest GAA, Heartland Division (Indianapolis), Central Division (Chicago), and Southeast Division (Charlotte).

We, the Cleveland Gaelic Athletic Association, will have more news in the coming months for youth, women, men, supporters, and sponsors. The GAA will have live action in 2021 in Cleveland and we welcome all to get involved. Please reach out to the club, info@clevelandgaa.com, for more information. Until then, stay safe, stay fit, and stay tuned!

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.

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.

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 University of Cincinnati and An Cheathrú Rua. With his wife, Michelle, he enjoys watching time absolutely fly by as their children, Ambrose (11), Bernadette (9), and Cedric (6), grow. His other hustles are coaching CYO basketball at St. Mary of Berea, coaching soccer in Olmsted TWP, and slingin' some engineering skills on local concrete and pipe projects.

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OFF THE SHELF
By Terry Kenneally

The Searcher
By Tana French

Viking Publisher ISBN
9780735224650 451 pp. 2020

Irish crime phenom Tana French has written her second standalone, after 2018's "The Witch Elm" novel that does not involve the Dublin Murder Squad, which featured prominently in her first six books. The setting is a small farming town in the West of Ireland.

The protagonist of the story is a former Chicago police officer, Cal Hooper, who for reasons that emerge during "The Searcher," has moved to Ireland to restart his life. The tiny fictional village of Ardnakely is the kind of place where everyone knows everyone's business and where Cal, who is a country boy at heart, is happy to play along with the locals.

The book moves slowly for almost the first 100 pages, as Cal acclimates himself to his new surroundings while working on his ramshackle house

which needs work everywhere one looks. After long nights of hearing strange noises outside his house, Cal finally makes contact with the person who's been stalking him, a thirteen-year-old named Trey from the wrong side of town.

Trey's older brother, Brandon, has gone missing and now the kid wants answers. Trey's family is a mess, with his father long gone and his mother left to raise Trey's younger siblings.

Trey is definitely in need of some parental guidance in the form of a father figure. Eventually, Trey begins to trust Cal, who somewhat reluctantly agrees to help him find his brother.

As Cal investigates, unaided and unhindered by a badge, he finds himself embroiled in local politics and a decades-old grudge of townspeople. French is well known when it comes to writing pub scenes fraught with tension.

One-night Cal is lured out by locals and plied by Irish moonshine, tricked into enjoying the local power broker's company and then when he is sufficiently loosened up, warned about minding his own business regarding the missing Brandon.

"The Searcher" is slower than some of her other books. It is unusually visual, as she displays her keen knowledge of the natural history of the West of Ireland. While not her most accessible book, it should not be missed. I rate it a TOP SHELF READ. ■

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ILLUMINATIONS

By J. Michael Finn

Jennie Wyse Power

Formidable and Under-Estimated

Jennie Wyse Power was born Jane O'Toole in Baltinglass, County Wicklow, Ireland on May 1, 1858, the daughter of Edward O'Toole and Mary Norton. Her father owned a leather and grocery business on Main Street in Baltinglass.

The family was strongly nationalist. As a youngster, Jane began using the name the name Jennie. In 1860 her father sold his business and property and moved the



Jennie Wyse Power

family to Dublin.

In 1881, at the age of 21, Jennie embarked on her first journey into the world of activism and politics when she joined

the Ladies Land League. She was a friend of Anna Parnell, founder of the League and an admirer of Anna's brother, nationalist Member of Parliament, Charles Stewart Parnell. The League's main aim was to raise funds to provide relief and shelter to evicted tenants.

Jennie O'Toole became an active member and served on the Ladies Land League executive committee. She soon found herself living back in her native Wicklow, trudging through fields in wintry weather in order to reach the farms of distressed tenant farmers.

During her time in the Ladies Land League, she met her husband, John Wyse Power, who was then editor of the *Leinster Leader* newspaper and a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood.

They married on July 5, 1883. The family moved to Dublin in 1885 after John secured a position with the national newspaper *Freeman's Journal*. They had four children.

Charles Stewart Parnell died in 1891. In that year, Jennie published *Words of the Dead Chief*, containing a selection of extracts from Parnell's speeches. After his death, Jennie and her husband became disillusioned and stayed out of politics

for some time. However, she remained an active member of the Dublin Women's Suffrage Association, fighting for the right to vote for Irish women.

Jennie opened a shop and restaurant in 1899 at 21 Henry Street in Dublin, called the Irish Farm and Produce Company. This was a restaurant and shop that sold farm produce, honey and cakes – all produced by Irish suppliers. Jennie maintained a strict "all-Irish produce" policy in her shop.

Irish was always encouraged as the preferred language. The restaurant soon became a popular meeting place for many of the cultural and political organizations with which she was involved.

CONRADH NA GAELIGE

Jennie and her husband joined Conradh na Gaelige (pron: *con-rah nah gale-ga*) (Gaelic League). She became a member of its executive in November 1900. Both John and Jennie took classes to improve their Irish and their children participated in the various cultural activities of the League.

The Gaelic League was the first major Irish organization to offer membership to both men and women. Jenny wrote of the Gaelic League, "From the begin-

ning, women sat on its Committees and Executive, and helped to carry out the programs. The study of the Irish language was for all; the social side was almost wholly in the hands of the women members, who by absorbing the Irish tradition influenced in no small degree the growing effort to wean the people from an Anglicization that had gone all too far."

DAUGHTERS OF IRELAND

In 1900, Jennie was elected one of the four Vice-Presidents of Maude Gonne's organization Inghinidhe na hÉireann (pron: *in-nyee na hare-un*) (Daughters of Ireland). This movement sought complete independence for Ireland, and the development of the Irish economy and culture. It was formed to provide women with a nationalist and activist platform.

Sinn Féin (pron: *shin-fain*) was founded in 1905. Arthur Griffith became its first leader. Jennie became an executive member of the National Council of Sinn Féin in 1906.

By 1911, she had risen to the position of Vice President, which ranked her second only to Griffith in the organization. A fellow member said of Jennie, "She was a remarkably able woman, very brainy, full of fun and a great teller of humorous stories."

CUMANN NA MBAN

In November 1913, the Irish Volunteers were established and became an armed military organization. Nationalist women soon followed suit in 1914 by organizing themselves as Cumann na mBan (pron: *cume-un na mawn*) (The Women's Association). Jennie was one of the founders and was elected as the organization's first president in 1915.

According to the memoirs of Kathleen Clarke, Tom Clarke's widow, the *Proclamation of the Irish Republic* was signed at a meeting, "... held in Mrs. Wyse Power's house in 21 Henry Street on Tuesday of Holy week 1916." During the Easter Rising, Jennie and her daughter Nancy carried food from her restaurant to the rebels in the General Post Office.

LADIES LAND LEAGUE

Jennie's home and business were destroyed when 21 Henry Street was burned during the Rising. Also destroyed in the blaze were the records of the Ladies Land League, which had been in her custody for thirty years. After the Rising, Jennie provided aid to the families of Republican prisoners and she and her daughter helped to re-organize Cumann na mBan.

The 1918 General Election saw Sinn Féin win 73 out of the 105 parliamentary

seats. Sinn Féin decided against taking its seats at Westminster. Instead Dáil Éireann was established. Republican courts were set up in opposition to the Courts of the Crown.

Jennie served as one of the judges in North Dublin. She continued to assist the nationalist cause during the War of Independence.

The Anglo-Irish Treaty was signed on December 6, 1921 and caused Jennie much soul searching. She decided to support it because she viewed it as a pathway towards achieving greater independence. Jennie was the only leading member of Cumann na mBan to support the Treaty. As a result, she felt obligated to resign from what she described as a "splendid force of women."

FIRST SEANAD

Jennie was nominated by William T. Cosgrave as a member of the First Seanad (pron: *shawn-ad*) (Senate) which met in December 1922. She was appointed as honorary Film Censor in 1922. Jennie and her husband also appeared as fictionalized characters in the 1922 James Joyce novel *Ulysses*.

Jennie's husband John died in 1926. In 1934 she sat as a Fianna Fáil senator. Jennie continued to sit in the Seanad until her retirement from public life in 1936.

Jennie Wyse Power died on January 5, 1941 at the age of 82. Her passing was mourned by both sides of the Irish political divide. The huge turn-out for her funeral was evidence of the enormous respect and fondness in which she was held by everyone. She is buried in the family plot in Glasnevin Cemetery.

A final word of praise regarding Jennie Wyse Power comes from the historian, Ann Matthews, who in her 2010 book, *Renegades: Irish Republican Women 1900-1922*, described Jennie as, "One of the most formidable and under-estimated women in nationalist history." ■

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

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AKRON IRISH

By Lisa O'Rourke

Dunne's Store Girls

Our collective "annus horribilis" has now just passed, and from this position, it would be hard for this new shiny year to surpass it in the horrible. It is certainly a year that future generations will wonder about; what did we do and how did we get on with life?

We hoarded and cooked and baked and read and watched television. We absorbed so much media that reruns became a thing again. Ideally, a rerun offers the opportunity for another, better look.

I encountered one of those better look stories on an NPR program, "The Moth." It is a program in which amateur storytellers tell a personal story in front

of a live audience. This particular episode was a repeat of a show that was recorded in Dublin a few years back. I was hooked right there.

The story began with a young girl who was working in a Dunne's Stores on Henry Street in Dublin. The year was 1984. Unions were under threat around the globe and were staunchly defended in spite of that.

This young girl, like the other trade union employees in that store and all-around Ireland, had received a statement from their leadership that they were not to handle goods originating from South Africa. The goods consisted mainly of fruit.

Apartheid was at one of its ugliest junctions, clawing to hang on to an indefensible position. Nelson Mandela was in prison on Robben Island.

Mary Manning, the Dunne's Stores clerk, is still not really sure why she did it. She had heard things about South Africa on the news, but wasn't a political person. She and the other girls were told not to handle produce from South Africa and they generally tried to follow union directives.

On this particular day, a woman stood in her checkout line with some South African grapefruit. Mary refused to handle

the fruit at her register. She was warned by management, but she chose not to change her position and the strike was born in that moment. Ten of her Dublin co-workers followed suit, nine other young ladies and one young gentleman.

One of them was twenty-four years old, one of them was only seventeen, and the others were twenty years old. They were inner city story employees.

Most of them still lived with their parents. They did not see themselves as changing the world. Nor did they realize how long, lonely and difficult the strike would be at times.

APARTHEID

At first pass, it seems very confusing, how could a place be further in terms of geography and culture than Ireland and South Africa? How could Irish shop clerks understand enough to be motivated to take such a hard line? The Irish have certainly suffered due to prejudice and a system that seemed to be rigged against them.

One anecdote that they shared was that they were educated about apartheid when they met a South African man who had been living in exile in Dublin for years. He came to the picket line one day early in the protest, to support the girls and they admitted to him that they did not know much about apartheid.

He explained the segregation and prejudice by comparing it to a pint of Guinness; the little bit of white on top was over all the dark at the bottom. Then, a few months into the strike, they were asked by Bishop Desmond Tutu to meet with him in London.

They went of course, and their resolve was hardened for good; they were not budging on the strike. At the time, they were living on a quarter of the wages that they had previously earned, and were getting little support.

WHEN FEAR MAKES PEOPLE UNKIND

It was far from support in some cases. The girls described times where they encountered strong criticism and name calling in Dublin. They described it as fear making people unkind.

Watching some old newsreel footage, the girls' youth and innocence are heart-breaking. There is something so uncomplicated in their passion; they were not politicians, but young hearts that could see simple truth.

They were asked by the anti-apartheid movement to come to South Africa to see for themselves what life was like there.

They had no money, but raised the funds in one night canvassing the pubs in Dublin.

The trip was harrowing at the end of it. After being detained and intimidated, they were returned home without leaving the South African airport. They had attracted media attention now though and before returning home, they were asked to participate in a press conference in London.

THE TURNING POINT

This was the turning point. Ten young Irish girls and one young man were a threat to the government of South Africa. Momentum began to build against the apartheid government globally. Ireland was the first Western country to ban South African goods.

Eventually, when Nelson Mandela was released from prison, he went to Ireland and wanted to meet the Dunne's Stores girls. He gave them his medal of freedom and told them how much it meant that people from the outside world cared about injustices going on in his country. The strikers eventually got to visit South Africa as guests at Nelson Mandela's funeral.

One of the big takeaways from this year is that we have watched how our actions and decisions affect each other in real time. It is the "butterfly effect" on speed.

2020 was a year about racism and disease, but also about how we chose to react to those problems. The purity of vision that the young can bring to the world is still evident in the voices of girls like Malala and Greta Thunberg. Like the Dunne's Stores girls, they have a passion that is born from an internal moral compass. This is a time to listen to that moral compass and consider how we are going to respond to that voice from our hearts. ■

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 likes spending time with her dog, cats and fish. Lisa can be contacted at olisa07@icloud.com.

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MADIGAN MUSES

By Marilyn Madigan

When Irish Eyes Are Smiling

*When Irish eyes are smiling,
Sure, 'tis like the morn in Spring.
In the lilt of Irish laughter,
You can hear the angels sing.
When Irish hearts are happy,
All the world seems bright and gay.
What when Irish eyes are smiling,
Sure, they steal your heart away.*

As we begin the New Year, this song has new meaning to me. During this time of COVID-19 precautions, we wear masks, we communicate so much with our eyes.

The first verse is, "There is a tear in your eye and I'm wondering why." We

know why.

Our tears represent all those we have lost, and those who have suffered during this pandemic. The tears are also for the change in our normal routines and how we want to return to some type of normalcy. But let's get back to When Irish Eyes Smiling.

There is hope in this new year with the vaccine. As we sing the chorus, "When Irish eyes are smiling, sure 'tis like a morn in spring." We look forward to the springtime, so that we can finish with "When Irish hearts are happy, all the world seems bright and gay."

Hopefully our world can have a new normal. Our masks will be able to come off and our smiles can be seen again. As we sing "For your smile is a part of the love in your heart," it shows the love and concern for our fellow human beings.

With the new year and new leadership in our country, our smiles will make our world bright. Our laughter and smiles can be shared with all of our loved ones and friends.

Hoping in 2021 that our eyes will be smiling, we will be laughing and can see each other's smiles again. ■

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WKTL-FM 90.7

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7am-9am: *Sweeney Astray*
WCBS-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*
WCWA-AM 1230 w/John Connolly

6pm- 7pm: *Songs of Britain & Ireland*
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COOKING UP A HOOLEY

By Katie Gagne

Holy Moly Donut Hole

Do It Yourself Bar

Beat the winter doldrums on winter weekend mornings by grabbing the family or friends and indulging in something different and sure to bring about lots of smiles. Who wouldn't love a Donut Hole Bar?

Imagine all the things you can add to these little bites of sweetness to raise the yumminess to an unreal level. You can be as creative as you want. No baking or cooking involved.

Oh, and as a disclaimer – this is unapologetically full of calories, full of sugar, and full of fun.

HOLY MOLY DONUT HOLE DO IT YOURSELF BAR

Ingredients

Donut Holes: Stop by your favorite donut shop or grocery store and grab whatever and how ever many donut holes that look enticing. I use glazed, cinnamon, powdered sugar, apple cider cake, chocolate cake, and blueberry cake donuts, as well as jelly-filled ones.

Toppings

Pretty much, whatever you can think

of to dip, cover, and sprinkle these little donuts with works great.

Tasty Things to Try

Marshmallow Crème, Melted White Chocolate, Chocolate Fudge, Melted Cream Cheese, Strawberry Topping, Salted Caramel Sauce, Maple Syrup, Bacon, Orange Zest, Mini Chocolate Chips, Coconut Flakes, Cocoa Powder, Espresso Powder, Cinnamon Chips, Crushed Peppermint Candy, Crushed Oreos, Marshmallows, Sprinkles and Jimmies, Capt'n Crunch, Lucky Charms, Fruit Loops, and Cocoa Krispies.

Enjoy with a warm cup of coffee, tea, or hot cocoa. ■

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

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WISE CRATICS

By Maury Collins

@MauryCollins

The bidding was proceeding furiously and strong when the Head Auctioneer suddenly announced, 'A gentleman in this room has lost a wallet containing ten thousand pounds. If returned, he will pay a reward of two thousand pounds. There was a moment's silence in the auction house and from the back of the room came a shout, 'Two thousand five hundred.'

Three retirees, each with a hearing loss, were playing golf one fine March day. One remarked to the other, 'Windy, isn't it?' 'No,' the second man replied, 'it's Thursday.' The third man chimed in, 'So am I. Let's have a beer.'

The hospital's consulting dietician was giving a lecture to several community nurses from the Southampton area of Hampshire. 'The rubbish we put into our stomachs and consume should have killed most of us sitting here, years ago. Red meat is terrible. Fizzy drinks attack your stomach lining. Chinese food is loaded with msg.

Vegetables can be disastrous because of fertilizers and pesticides and none of us realizes the long-term damage being done by the rotten bacteria in our drinking water. However, there is one food that is incredibly dangerous and we all have, or will, eat it at some time in our lives. Now, is anyone here able to tell me what food it is that causes the most grief and suffering for years after eating it?'
A 65-year-old nursing sister sitting in the front row stood up and said, 'Wedding cake.'

'I'm in a terrible fix,' moaned Raymond. 'I'm in love with two girls and I don't know which to marry.'

'No problem,' said Sean to the Englishman. 'I know you're not a Catholic, but I think the church could help you. Call in tomorrow morning, kneel down and try a sincere prayer to God - that should do the trick.'

Next morning Sean arrived to find Raymond with a beaming smile. 'It worked; It's a miracle,' Raymond enthused. 'I walked in, knelt down and there it was written in red across the altar cloth: AVE MARIA!'

Muldoon lived alone in the Irish countryside with only a pet dog for company. One day the dog died, and Muldoon went to the parish priest and asked, Father, me dog is dead. Could ya' be saying?' A mass for the poor creature?'
Fr. Patrick replied, 'I'm afraid not; we cannot have services for an animal in the church. But there are some Baptists down the lane, and there's no tellin' what they believe. Maybe they'll do something for the creature.' Muldoon said, 'I'll go right away Father. Do ya' think \$5,000 is enough to donate to them for the service?'

Fr. Patrick exclaimed, 'Sweet Mary and Joseph. Why didn't ya tell me the dog was Catholic?'

In an Irish courtroom, 12 men sat on the jury. After the trial, the Judge asked for their verdict.

'We find the man who stole the horse "Not Guilty";' said the foreman of the jury.

Two Irishmen were out shooting ducks. One took aim and hit a bird, which tumbled out of the sky to land at his feet. 'Ah, you should have saved the bullet,' said the other. The fall would have killed him, anyway.'

One March evening, the boss of a big company needed to call one of his employees about an urgent problem with one of the main computers, dialed the employee's home phone number and was greeted with a child's whisper. 'Hello.'

'Is your daddy home?' he asked.
'Yes,' whispered the small voice.
'May I talk with him?'
The child whispered, 'No.'
Surprised, and wanting to talk with an adult, the boss asked, 'Is your Mommy there?'
'Yes.'
'May I talk with her?'
Again, the small voice whispered, 'No.'

Hoping there was somebody with whom he could leave a message, the boss asked, 'Is anybody else there?'

TEN INDICATIONS OF A NEW YEAR HANGOVER

1. You get it into your head that chirping birds are the Devil's pets.
2. Trying to gain control of the situation, you continue to tell your room to "Stay still."
3. Looking at yourself in the mirror induces the same reaction as drinking a glass of fresh paint.
4. The bathroom reminds you of the fairground cry, "Step right up and give it whirl!"
5. You'd rather chew tacks than be exposed to sunlight.
6. You set aside an entire afternoon to spend some quality time with your toilet.
7. You replace the traditional praying on your knees with the more feasible praying in a fetal position.
8. Your catch phrase is, "Never again."
9. You could purchase a new fridge on the proceeds from recycling the bottles around your bed.
10. Your new response to "Good morning," is, "Be quiet!"

'Yes,' whispered the child, 'a policeman.'

Wondering what a cop would be doing at his employee's home, the boss asked, 'May I speak with the policeman?'

'No, he's busy,' whispered the child.
'Busy doing what?'
'Talking to Daddy and Mommy and the Fireman,' came the whispered answer.

Growing concerned and even worried as he heard what sounded like a Helicopter through the earpiece on the phone, the boss asked, 'What is that noise?'

'A hello-copper' answered the whispering voice.

'What is going on there?' asked the boss, now truly alarmed.

In an awed-whisper, the child answered, 'The search team just landed the hello-copper.'

Alarmed, concerned, and even more then just a little frustrated the boss asked, 'What are they searching for?' Still whispering, the young voice replied along with a muffled giggle: 'ME.'

Dear Lord, So far this year I've done well. I haven't gossiped; I haven't lost my temper; I haven't been greedy; grumpy; nasty; selfish; or overindulgent. I am very thankful for that. But in a few minutes, Lord, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on I'm probably going to need a lot more help. Amen

A Senator was once asked about his attitude toward whisky, 'If you mean the demon drink that poisons the mind, pollutes the body, desecrates family life, and inflames sinners, then I'm against it.

But if you mean the elixir of a New Year toast, the shield against winter chill, the taxable potion that puts needed funds into public coffers to comfort little crippled children, then I'm for it. This is my position, and I will not compromise.' ■

Maury Collins is a Charter Member and past president of the John P. Kelly Division AOH and a proud first generation Irish American. Contact him at maurycollins61@gmail.com

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Thoughts About History of the Toledo Irish

I came across a book titled, "The Irish in Toledo – History and Memory" by Seamus Metress and Molly Schiever. My sister (Sister Peg) gave me the book on St. Patrick's Day 2005. What a wonderful gift.

I re-read Mary Ann Buckley's chapter; "From Erin to America." This was Mary Ann's story of leaving Ireland to work in London first and then on to America. Toledo was her choice because her brother, Pat McNulty, lived here.

Mary Ann met my cousin, Maurice Buckley, and started dating. Maurice wasn't sure about staying in America. He decided to go back to Ireland. After a short while, he decided to return to Toledo.

They started dating again. Mary Ann made a trip back to Ireland for a visit. While there she met Maurice' family. They were married in 1954 and have raised six sons and



Mayor Mike Collins

one daughter.

My thoughts went back to Maurice Buckley's arrival in Toledo. Our house was full of excitement. Johnny Grady, my father's friend, added a bedroom to the huge home we had on West Woodruff so Maurice (Moss to us) could live with us.

My Grandmother was a Buckley and my Father sponsored Maurice. I had the ability as a child to sit quietly and listen to my Father and his friends, most of them also born in Ireland, tell their stories. After listening for a while, my Father would tell me to go play.

In my adult years, I became a friend, as well as cousin, of Maurice Buckley. He told me stories of life in Ireland and facts about my Irish relatives. He told me stories about two of my uncles, Uncle Jack and Uncle Bill, fighting on opposite sides during the Irish civil war.

He mentioned that one of my other uncles, Uncle Pat, was wanted by the British and on the run during the Irish uprising; he escaped to Canada. He entered The USA illegally, got caught, was sent back to Ireland and eventually came back legally.

He also talked about how the Collins family almost lost the homestead, Mullintoura. The farm was put up for auction. Maurice's father, my grand-

mother's brother, bid one pence. No neighbor would bid against him or allow anyone else to bid. The farm was put in my grandmother's name and the family remained there.

One of my favorite Maurice Buckley stories is the one about him applying for a job at the old Chevy plant (now Toledo Power Train). There was only one position open, a glazer. Maurice assured the man that he had experience as a glazer back in Ireland. He got the job and went home to look up glazer in his dictionary.

Another chapter was, "Memories of Growing up Among Toledo's Irish," by Kate and Mike Cassidy. What memories! Mike mentioned Tommy Mackin, who was a good friend of his father's. The back room at Coyle's Funeral Home (either the one on Broadway or the one on Collingwood) was like a stage for Tommy Mackin and my uncle, Pat Collins.

Pat with his pipe, and Tommy would be seated next to each other, matching story for story and laugh for laugh. Suggestions that they quiet down in respect for the dead person were met with Irish logic: "the dead person was better off and in a better place. And the noise doesn't bother him or her a bit. I still hear comments like; "do you remember the seven-minute rosaries led by your father?"

Mike Cassidy and John Mackin both wrote of the Irish Benevolent Club, bringing back memories. If you were out of work or had hospital bills

or just down on your luck, the Irish Benevolent Club would find a way of helping. The benefit dances were held at the Catholic Club. I must admit, I was one of those rowdy kids running across the dance floor. What a wonderful group that was.

And who could forget the good times at Biddy Mulligans? Every weekend would find the place filled beyond capacity. There was a festival like attitude as the Irish music, the jokes and the stories went on and on.

Ted McHugh, who was a great friend of John Connolly and co-host on the Echo's of Ireland radio show for over thirty years, met his wife Sue at Biddy Mulligans. Ted's daughter, Molly McHugh, is now co-host with John. I asked John about helping me write a column on Biddy Mulligan's. He told me that there are many stories, many of which can't be repeated!

There is a need for a follow up book. There are stories of Dan McCarthy getting the Toledo AOH going and Ann Dollman not only leading the growth of the Toledo LAOH, but also moving up through the various state level offices to become the Ohio state LAOH president.

There are stories of Tom McCabe making the Toledo Hibernian St. Patrick's Day celebration better and larger each year and then establishing the Glass City Feis, and making it grow each year. There is my story about being at a St. Patrick's Day celebration committee meeting to volunteer.

Matt Cassidy was telling how there was only six paid members of the Lucas County AOH Division. He made the statement; "I don't know how it could worse." Sister Ann McManus chimed in with, "Make Maury Collins the president."

This began the teamwork of Matt Cassidy and me, which resulted in having over seventy paid members two years later. Other stories included D Michael Collins and John McHugh, two first generation Irish Americans serving as mayors of Toledo; the tragic death of Mayor Mike Collins; so many stories not told too.

Maybe I'll write that follow up book. I made this appeal years ago on the Hibernians of Toledo Newsletter. There are stories that you could tell. Send them to me or call me and



Maurice & Mary Ann Bickley

tell me; I'll put the story here in the OhioIANews for the enjoyment of all.

Please pass the heritage on to your children and their children. Join one of the Irish groups: The Ancient Order of Hibernians, The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, or the Toledo Irish American Club. These are all fine organizations that honor our heritage and pass it along to the next generation. Please get involved; you will have fun and learn more about the Toledo Irish.

A long time ago, one of my granddaughters asked me if she was Irish, because she thought that she was American. I told her that she was an American with an Irish heritage. I told her that her great grandmother and her great grandfather left their home when they were just eighteen years old, knowing that they would never see or talk to their mommy or daddy again.

What a sacrifice. Despite the hardships and the sacrifices, the Irish found joy in music and dance; we honor their memory; their sacrifices must never be forgotten. Tell me your stories, and never stop having hope for the future.

Maury, you should change this – the Toledo Irish story is alive. It is more than just the past. Getting to know the Toledo Irish also is more than just the past. Feature some of today's leadership, up and comers, events and young people making a difference, and their accomplish-

ments, before readers think there is no present, despite your last line of never stop having hope. It feels like you are making contradictory comments, and don't really have hope yourself. ■

Maury Collins is a Charter Member and past president of the John P. Kelly Division AOH and a proud first-generation Irish American. Contact him at maurycollins61@gmail.com

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BLOWIN' IN

By Susan Mangan

@SueMangan

The Day After

"There is a single rose out in the garden, a faded bundle of cream and magenta . . . I have always loved the first day of the year. A day ringing with promise."

The Kitchen Diaries by Nigel Slater

Throughout the years, I have come to relish the day after Christmas. In the days leading to Christmas, moments are defined by expectation and frenetic preparation, both secular and spiritual. For Catholics, we have a mere four Sundays to right our wrongs and assuage any misgivings from the entire year.

As secular revelers, the holiday frenzy now begins sometime after Halloween when radio strains of jolly elves and

homesick lamentations blend, oddly, seamlessly with late November leaves. Proud turkeys primp parallel to decomposing jack o' lanterns, while twinkling lights of red and green light the darkening sky. Is it any wonder that in this world of instant and complete gratification, we are somehow left empty despite the ever-present bounty?

Resultingly, the day after the expected day has become my tonic. Peace settles over me as I realize that nothing ever truly lives up to expectations.

How ironic is it that resolve springs from the crushing of expectation? That liberation lies in imperfection? Peace settles in a quiet heart.

O. Henry writes of this situational irony in his classic story, "The Gift of the Magi." The tale begins in a small New York City apartment. A young couple looks forward to Christmas with hopes that can never come true. They each wish to give one another a sparkling gift that speaks of their heartfelt devotion; a gift that lies beyond their financial means. As the story progresses, the young lovers sell that which they most value to gift the other with an item that becomes meaningless in the face of their sacrifice.

Though "The Gift of the Magi" was penned over one hundred years ago, the moral is timeless and quite simple: do not be taken in by expectation or artifice. Your greatest gift is one that carries you from day to day, one that secures your connection to others - the steady, unselfish beat of your heart.

In days long past, Christmas celebrations began on Christmas Day and would continue until January 6th, the Feast of the Epiphany, the day when the Magi arrived at the stable of Jesus' birth. Advent was a time of waiting, fasting, preparing for the Infant Christ. According to the Christian calendar, December 25th marked Jesus' birth and the twelve days following Christmas were days filled with celebration and ritual, both secular and religious.

BOXING DAY

December 26th is the Feast of St.



Stephen. In Ireland, this day was filled with great fun as groups of villagers, young or old, would travel from house to house dressed in costumes of sort. They would recite the familiar rhyme: "The wren, the wren, the king of all birds. On St. Stephen's Day was caught in the furze . . . Up with the kettle, down with the pan, give us a penny to bury the wren."

Oftentimes, the troop would sing or play traditional instruments like the flute or bodhran to ensure an extra penny or two. The traveling groups were known as Wrenboys.

In England, December 26th is known as Boxing Day, a day to recuperate after the feast of Christmas. Historically, servants were given that day off to spend time with their own families after their Christmas duties for the manor house in which they worked were complete. The master of the house would give the servants a box filled with small gifts, thus Boxing Day was coined.

Long after dark on Christmas, the toil of preparing and executing my family's 21st century Christmas festivities comes to a quiet close. I look forward to this moment of rest. It is my tradition to eat that long awaited piece of pumpkin pie and to sip a midnight coffee. December 26th is a day to take long walks in nature with my dog and to sit in peaceful admiration of the lights on the Christmas tree.

The days leading to New Year's Eve are again filled with expectation. Before our

newfound tradition of social distancing, young adults and revelers would plan outfits and parties. I wonder how many tears have been shed on this night for reasons both great and small.

A few days before New Year's Eve, I was searching through the garage on an unimportant mission. Tired of the clutter, I began to throw out old boxes, only to make room for the new. It was then that I almost disposed of a small, tattered box. Mold had begun to set in, and I was afraid a few errant Christmas mice as well.

Inside the box was a forgotten collection of my mother's ornaments. A tired infant Snoopy with broken reindeer antlers looked up at me from this nest of newspaper clippings. My mother bought this the year I was born.

The years were marked within this box. Decades hidden within molded tissue. I held souvenirs from my mother and dad's trip to New Orleans. The ornament marking their 50th wedding anniversary on Mackinac Island.

There was a wooden skier from the Von Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe, Vermont. Hidden at the bottom was a Victorian cone made from antique lace holding a small, yellowed scroll of paper.

As I unrolled the fragile parchment, tears sprang to my eyes and memories appeared, unbidden. I had written a note to my mother. Much like the young couple in "The Gift of the Magi," I did not have money to spare, I could only give of my heart:

"Poetic weavings of verse escape me now. They could never convey my love and thanks for you. All I can fill this lace cone with is an endless supply of heartfelt love. Merry Christmas Mom."

The first of January is a day for renewal. Dream well, work hard, but remember that our greatest lessons often manifest from times of great failure or disappointment. Above all, celebrate small, unexpected gifts. They tend to deliver moments of magnificent joy. ■

Internet Source Consulted: The Irish Times. "Why is St. Stephen's Day called Boxing Day?"

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

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CLEVELAND COMHRA

By Bob Carney

@BobCarneyGTR

My Top Ten of 2020

Reading has always been an important part of my life. It is a habit that was developed early on, encouraged by my parents, family and teachers. A way that offered the chance to explore and travel through time.

With the help of various authors, I went to Alaska, experienced the French revolution, America's push west and more, without leaving the safety of my childhood home. Close friends and family know the joke(?) Mary tells of me not being allowed in bookstores or music stores without adult supervision. Usually, I have a number of books on different topics that I switch back and forth to in the evening. This past March, local musician, Brent Hopper, introduced me to Derek Warfield and we had a chance to share a pint and conversation before a show at PJ McIntyre's. On the topic of literature, we found we were very similar in what we read.

Derek too, reads a few books at a time, switching from topic to topic. It was on his recommendation that I read one of the books on my list, "Deadliest Enemy." When things return to what will pass for normal, I hope to sit down again with Derek for an interview to share with you.

My sister thought putting a list together for our readers might be a good idea. When she visits, she likes to see what's new on my bookshelves and has books for me she's read and thinks I would find of interest.

I didn't think it would be difficult to limit the list to ten books, but after reviewing what I've read over the last twelve months, I knew I would need to set some guidelines. I decided not to include any of the political books that did not offer a path forward.

I rarely read fiction anymore, but this summer I ran across a copy of Jack

London's "Call of the Wild and Other Stories" and read that again, fifty plus years after the first time. It's still good!

Some of the books on climate and conservation, while very important to me, don't always make you hopeful for our future. I wanted the list to include books that informed me, but also made me want to pick them up.

My preliminary list had titles crossed out, added back, crossed out again and finally added back as I tried to narrow it to ten. Two of the books that were on and off multiple times are Neil deGrasse Tyson's "Accessory to War" and Michio Kaku's "Physics of the Future," both excellent.

Some books were chosen because they led to further reading on a specific topic. In no particular order here are my top ten for 2020.

"Landmarks" by Robert Macfarlane 2015

A Christmas gift from my friend Micki, it covers many of my interests, language, environmental issues and a love of nature. It is a collection more than a dictionary of words in the languages and dialects of the British Isles, including Ireland, that are descriptive for landscape and nature.

He shares works of his favorite authors and essays as examples. It made me anxious to once again hike in the West of Ireland.

"Deadliest Enemy: Our War Against Killer Germs" by Michael T. Osterholm and Mark Olshaker 2017

Osterholm is an epidemiologist who started his career with the unknown, at the time, HIV/AIDS epidemic. Along with explanations of transmittable viruses and diseases, such as SARS, MERS, toxic shock syndrome, ebola and others, he discusses the shortcomings in dealing with public health emergencies. In a hypothetical scenario caused by bioterrorism, he predicts all of the things we have encountered with Covid 19; shutdowns, economic hardships, and an overtaxed medical system. The book lays out a plan for dealing with these threats and stresses how unprepared we are.

"The Hidden Life of Trees" by Peter Wohlleben 2015

A forest manager in Germany, Wohlleben's enthusiasm for his life's work makes you see trees differently than you might ever expect. He explains the life,

death and community of the forest in a way that is usually reserved for animal life rather than plant life, but shows how one cannot survive without the other. Nonhuman consciousness is relatively new to the scientific world, but was for many ancient peoples including the Celts and Native Americans, embraced.

"Kingbird Highway the Biggest Year in the Life of an Extreme Birder" by Kenn Kaufman reprint 2006

I became aware of Ken Kaufman last year, when I read his book "A Season on the Wind," about spring migration. It focuses on what is one of the top birding spots in the world, Lake Erie's shoreline, in the northwest corner of our state.

Kingbird Highway is the story of his year of birding in the early seventies. At the age of sixteen, he dropped out of school and embarked on a trip to see as many species of birds that he could in the United States.

Not being anything more than an extremely casual birder myself, I didn't know if the book would be of any interest to me. I found that I couldn't put it down. I was captivated by the adventure, the travel by hitchhiking, sleeping where ever he could, the freedom of the road and the people he encountered. Great book, as is "Season on the Wind."

"We Are the Change We Seek The Speeches of Barack Obama" ed. by E.J.Dionne Jr. And Joy-Ann Reid 2017

Reading speeches by American presidents, policy makers and our founding fathers has always gone hand in hand with my study of American history. The greatest asset a leader has is ability to express himself to get his agenda clear and accepted.

"A Promised Land" by Barack Obama 2020

His personal account of his beginnings and time in the Whitehouse, he shares triumphs, concessions and defeat with equal introspection, as he invites us into the Oval Office.

"Ten Lessons For a Post-Pandemic World" by Fareed Zakaria 2020

Zakaria is the host of CNN's "Fareed Zakaria GPS" and a columnist for the Washington Post. With the perspective of a scholar of history, literature, international affairs and political philosophy, he makes his arguments for change in our approach to dealing with global issues easily understood.

"Owls of the Eastern Ice" by Jona-

than C. Slaght 2020

The Blakiston's fish owl is the largest owl on earth, and lives in one of the most extreme habitats on the planet. Slaght, over a period of years, returned to Primorye Province in the far east of Russia, bordering the Sea of Japan, to study these giant birds of prey and the environment that supports them. The book is less scientific study and more travel adventure as he relates encounters with some of the people that make this place their home along with other creatures, like the Amur tiger and bears.

"The Invention of Nature" by Andrea Wulf 2015

This is a biography of the most famous scientist most Americans have never heard of Alexander Von Humboldt. Homboldt's exploration of South America and the approach he had in his work has laid the ground work for everyone that followed in his footsteps, including Darwin, who expanded on Homboldt's theories in his "Origin of Species." This is not a dry science book, but an adventure that reads more like a novel.

"Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer 2013

My favorite book of the year! I read this book back in August, but have returned to it so often it has become rather dog-eared. The book is a collection of essays that stand on their own about language, history, nature and motherhood.

Kimmerer is a scientist, a professor, and a native American; at times I was reminded of the writings of John O'Donohue, as she explains the relationship that her ancestors had with the earth. As we deal with climate change and all that it is inflicting, perhaps a change in our mindset is all that will help us. I cannot recommend this book enough. ■

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

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By Dottie Wenger
@DottieWenger

KIDS CRAIC

Traditions & Superstitions!

The Irish have several superstitions and traditions related to ringing in a new year. They include:



Many people in Ireland thoroughly clean their homes, put fresh sheets on their beds, and stock up on groceries as December comes to a close, in hopes that doing so will give them a fresh and prosperous start to the new year. In fact, New Year's Day is sometimes called the Day of the Buttered Bread. An old tradition suggested that putting buttered bread outside the front door of a home would mean plenty of food in the year to come.



And speaking of bread .. Another Irish superstition involves banging on the doors and walls of the house with bread, perhaps soda bread or Guinness brown bread. This symbolizes chasing bad luck out of the house and inviting good spirits in for the new year.



For single folks wishing for a mate, superstition suggests placing a sprig of holly, ivy or mistletoe under their pillow on New Year's Eve. It's said that in doing so, they will dream of their future partner.



Perhaps the most famous of all traditions is setting a place at the dinner table on New Year's for loved ones lost the previous year.

Kitchen Craic Snowman!



Build a healthy, yummy "snowman" by using the following:

- Three Babybel cheese rounds
- Raisins
- Small pretzel sticks

Kids can add personality to their snowmen by adding accessories - a hat or a scarf made from Fruit Roll-ups, for example. The possibilities are endless.

Literature Corner:



There Was a Cold Lady Who Swallowed Some Snow!

Written by Lucille Colandro and illustrated by Jared Lee

This story is a twist on the familiar tale of the old lady who swallowed a fly. The book is fun for both the reader and the listener, with its funny illustrations and rhyming text.

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Gab in Gaelic

Want to wish someone a Happy New Year in Gaelic?

Here is how:

Athbhliain gaoi mhaise dhuit!

(pron. Ah-vlee-on fwee wash-ah gwitch).

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



The Colours of Ireland Monthly Coloring Contest

Age Divisions: Ages 7, 8, 9 • Ages 10, 11 & 12

Prizes: Each Age Group winner will receive a Gift Card to Kamm's Corner Ice Cream, or the OhioIANews Advertiser of their choice!

Official Rules and Regs: One entry per child
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Participant must color page without assistance.
Participant may use crayons, markers, or paint.

Use your imagination!
Coloring page is also printable from:
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Submitting Your Entry:

Color the picture on this page, or download and color it. Entry and entry info (Name, age, city and Parents Name and Phone Number) must be dropped off to PJ McIntyre's or the OhioIANews or scanned and emailed to jobrien@ohioianews.com Or mailed to: 14615 Triskett Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44111-3123 by the 15th of the following Month (December 15th, for the November Contest).

Participants name and contact information will not be displayed during judging, but first name and age will be noted after judging for public view.

Winners will be showcased in the OhioIANews.



- 12 O _____, Co Galway
- 13 L _____, Co. Donegal
- 14 G _____, Co Sligo
- 15 C _____, Co Galway
- 17 B _____, Co. Donegal
- 18 B _____, Co Sligo
- 21 L _____, Co Galway
- 24 B _____, Co. Donegal
- 25 B _____, Co Mayo
- 28 A _____, Co Sligo
- 30 M _____, Co Sligo
- 31 R _____, Co Galway

ACROSS

- 1 D _____, Co. Donegal
- 3 L _____, Co Mayo
- 5 T _____, Co Galway
- 10 B _____, Co Mayo
- 11 M _____, Co. Donegal

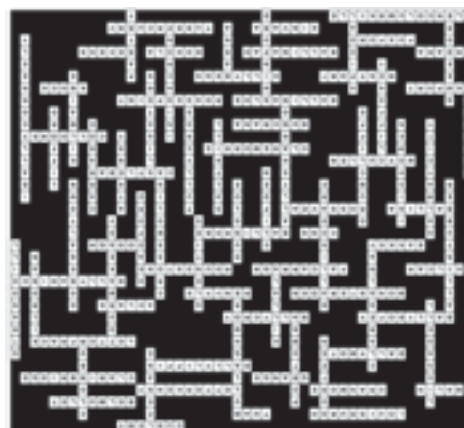
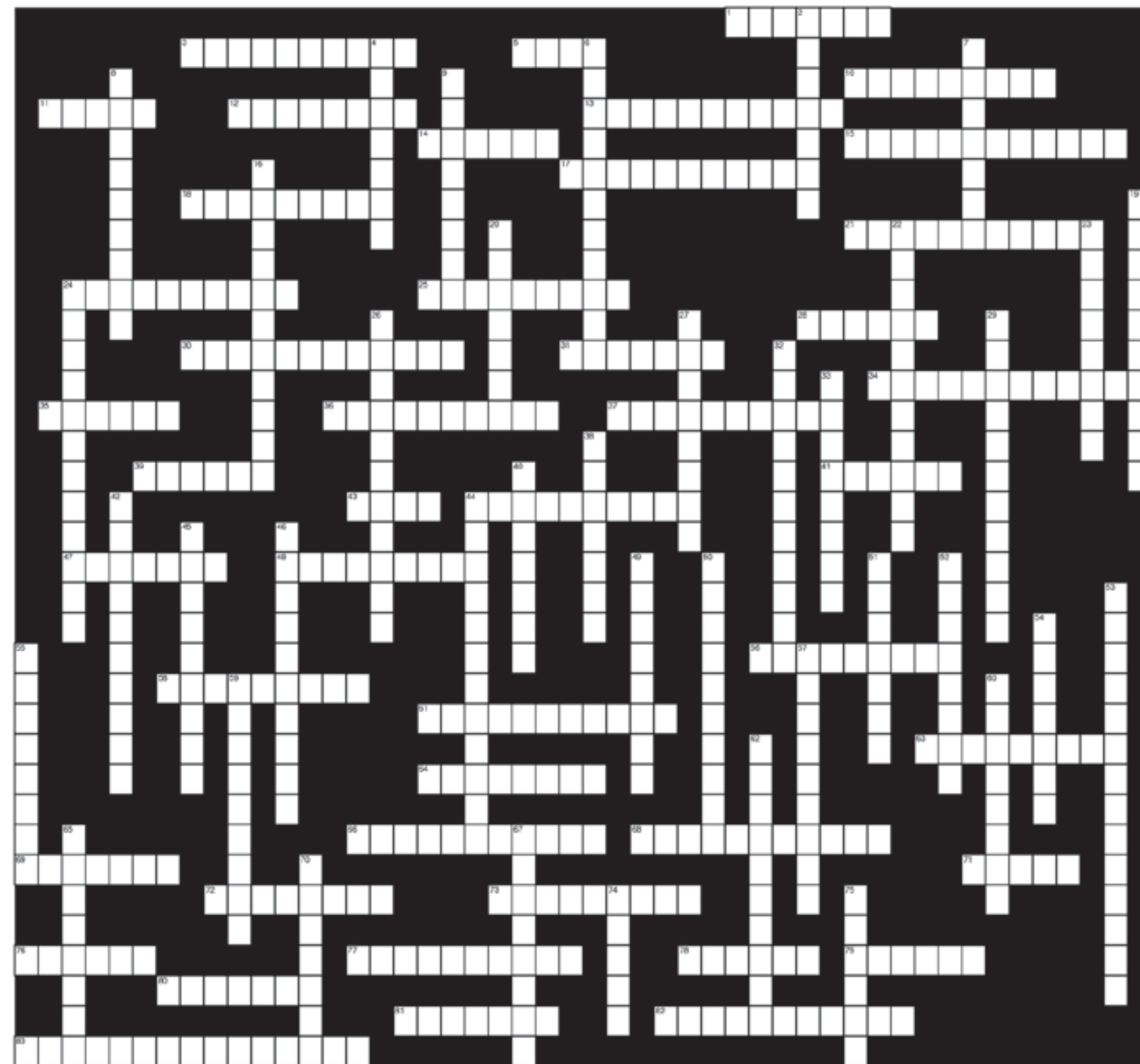
- 34 B _____, Co Galway
- 35 K _____, Co. Donegal
- 36 F _____, Co. Donegal
- 37 R _____, Co Galway
- 39 E _____, Co Sligo
- 41 D _____, Co Mayo
- 43 C _____, Co Mayo
- 44 B _____, Co Mayo
- 47 B _____, Co Mayo
- 48 R _____, Co Galway
- 56 C _____, Co Mayo
- 58 M _____, Co Galway
- 61 C _____, Co Mayo
- 63 C _____, Co Sligo
- 64 B _____, Co. Donegal
- 66 B _____, Co Galway
- 68 R _____, Co Sligo
- 69 N _____, Co Mayo
- 71 K _____, Co Mayo
- 72 W _____, Co Mayo
- 73 K _____, Co. Donegal
- 76 A _____, Co. Donegal
- 77 B _____, Co Sligo
- 78 B _____, Co Mayo
- 79 R _____, Co Galway
- 80 F _____, Co Mayo
- 81 K _____, Co Galway
- 82 T _____, Co Sligo
- 83 G _____, Co. Donegal

DOWN

- 2 L _____, Co Galway
- 4 G _____, Co Sligo
- 6 M _____, Co Sligo
- 7 C _____, Co Galway
- 8 L _____, Co Sligo
- 9 P _____, Co Galway
- 16 C _____, Co Galway
- 19 S _____, Co Sligo
- 20 K _____, Co Mayo
- 22 T _____, Co Mayo
- 23 K _____, Co Galway
- 24 B _____, Co Mayo
- 26 _____, Co Sligo
- 27 G _____, Co. Donegal
- 29 D _____, Co. Donegal
- 32 C _____, Co Mayo
- 33 H _____, Co Galway
- 38 D _____, Co. Donegal
- 40 C _____, Co Galway
- 42 G _____, Co Galway
- 44 B _____, Co. Donegal
- 45 I _____, Co. Donegal
- 46 D _____, Co Sligo
- 49 S _____, Co Galway
- 50 T _____, Co Galway
- 51 A _____, Co Galway
- 52 C _____, Co Galway
- 53 B _____, Co Galway
- 54 L _____, Co. Donegal
- 55 B _____, Co. Donegal
- 57 S _____, Co Sligo
- 59 C _____, Co Sligo
- 60 K _____, Co Mayo
- 62 I _____, Co Sligo
- 65 G _____, Co. Donegal
- 67 S _____, Co Mayo
- 70 S _____, Co Galway
- 74 B _____, Co Galway
- 75 P _____, Co Mayo

Towns in Northwest Ireland

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12th - ilrish Podcast 23 Drops at 5.p.m.	22nd - Ebulletin Arrives at 3:10 p.m.
Chinese New Year	24th - March St. Patrick's Day Issue hits the streets
14th - Valentine's Day	25th - Purim begins at sundown
	26th - ilrish Podcast 24 Drops at 5.p.m.

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