



OHIO IRISH AMERICAN NEWS

May 2021 • Volume 15 • Issue 5

WolfWalkers Book of Kells, The Ravine:
Kilkenny Based Cartoon Saloon Sweeping Academy Award®,
Golden Globe, BAFTA Nominations



EDITOR'S CORNER

By John O'Brien, Jr.

@jobjr

So Much Success!

Have you seen all the press about Cartoon Saloon's work? The Kilkenny based studio has multiple Academy Award®, Golden Globe and BAFTA nominations. We feature one of their works, *WolfWatcher's The Book of Kells Ravine* on our cover this month. Their new online gallery will be a huge hit. See the story and more of their work inside, on Page 12.

Former Celtic Woman vocalist Éabha McMahon has a fantastic new CD, *Wildflower*, out now; the CD and our

Inner View with Éabha is on page 10. Black 47's Larry Kirwan's new novel, *Rockaway Blue*, is a captivating read on an Irish American families' Post 9-11 struggles with the loss of their cop son's life in the collapse of the tower, and offers an excellent insider look at the struggles and heartaches for a multiple first responder family.

We are getting excited about the return of live events, with Riverfront Irish Festival, Carbon Leaf, Dublin, Pittsburgh, and Milwaukee Irish fests in new formats to comply with safety for all, while we wrasse this covid out the door. We will have much more on that next month, with our 15th Annual Festival Focus Issue.

Last Month's feature story on Irish American actor (The West Wing) Melissa Fitzgerald was a big hit, and Part II is within as well, as we speak more about her work with *Justice for Vets*. Sports reignite, as Cleveland St. Pat's Gaelic Football and Hurling Clubs host a tournament May 8th. Club president Vince Beach will join us on our May 7th iIrish podcast to share all the details of the tourney, and the Night at the Races

which follows two weeks later, on May 22nd.

Is it time for an Irish Unity Referendum? An Irish Mexican Fusion Dish? Does a potato a day keep the doctor away? What happened to the Mass Rock? Test your knowledge: Who are the Patriots of Ireland? It's a puzzle.

Is there anything better than live Irish music on St. Patrick's Day? Will Ireland lead the way on Electric Vehicles? Is there always a Donnybrook somewhere? Will the Irish language be banned? What's coming next month? What happened on this day in Irish history? Books and Music reviews, Speak Irish lesson, opinion pieces, Memorials and Mother's Day stories, plus topics and activities for the kids are just some of the things you will find inside this month.

Outside, we have podcasts on the 7th and 21st (iTunes and OhioIANews.com) and our opted-in only eBulletin arrives in your inbox on May 3rd and 17th - BUT ONLY IF you have signed up. It is FREE, but it is opt-in only, so opt-in on OhioIANews.com or our Ohio Irish American News Facebook page.

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

John



"FOLLOW ME WHERE I GO,
WHAT I DO AND WHO I KNOW;

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Publisher & Editor John O'Brien Jr.
Design/Production Christine Hahn
Website Rich Croft

Columnists
Akron Irish Lisa O'Rourke
An Eejit Abroad Conor Makem
At Home Abroad Regina Costello
Behind the Hedge John O'Brien, Jr.
Blowin' In Susan Mangan
Cleveland Comhra Bob Carney
Cleveland Irish Francis McGarry
Columbus Irish Molly Truex
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Toledo Irish Molly McHugh

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CONTACT:
Ohio Irish American News 216.647.1144
e-mail: jobrien@OhioIANews.com
or mail to: 14615 Triskett Rd Cleve OH 44111-3123
Subscriptions: jobrien@OhioIANews.com

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About Our Cover:

WolfWalkers Book of Kells The Ravine - the Wolfwalkers Ravine shows the deep layered forest with old ruins and carved stones hidden under centuries of mossy growth.

A Potato a Day Keeps the Doctor Away?

By Dr. Fredrick Peters

Rich stews filled with dense carbohydrates and loaded with calories. When considering healthy food options, the cuisine of Ireland may not seem plausible. However, if prepared correctly, some of the traditional Irish staples can actually be quite healthy!

Potatoes are a versatile root vegetable found throughout Irish households. Potatoes are relatively cheap, easy to grow and packed with a variety of nutrients. They are an excellent source of many vitamins and minerals. However, their nutritional content can vary depending on the variety and how they are prepared (frying potatoes adds more calories and fat than baking them). It's also important to note the skin of the potatoes contains a great amount of the vitamins and minerals and peeling them can significantly reduce their nutritional content.

Potatoes are also rich in compounds like flavonoids, carotenoids and phenolic acids. These compounds act as antioxidants in the body by neutralizing potentially harmful molecules known as free radicals. When free radicals accumulate, they can increase the risk of chronic diseases like heart disease, diabetes and cancer. Studies have also found that colored potatoes like purple potatoes can have three to four times more antioxidants than white potatoes. This makes them potentially more effective at neutralizing free radicals.

Potatoes contain a special type of starch known as resistant starch. This starch is

not broken down and fully absorbed by the body. Instead, it reaches the large intestine where it becomes a source of nutrients for the beneficial bacteria in your gut. Research has linked resistant starch to many health benefits, including reducing insulin resistance, which, in turn, improves blood sugar control. The resistant starch in potatoes may also improve digestive health. When resistant starch reaches the large intestine, it becomes food for beneficial gut bacteria. These bacteria digest it and turn it into short-chain fatty acids. Resistant starch from potatoes is mostly converted into the short-chain fatty acid butyrate — the preferred food source for gut bacteria. Studies have shown that butyrate can reduce inflammation in the colon, strengthen the colon's defenses and reduce the risk of colorectal cancer. Moreover, butyrate may aid patients with inflammatory bowel disorders, such as Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis and diverticulitis.

If you follow a gluten-free diet, then you should consider adding potatoes to your diet. They are naturally gluten-free, which means they will not trigger uncomfortable symptoms. Some evidence shows that a certain potato protein, known as potato proteinase inhibitor 2 (PI2), can curb appetite. This protein appears to enhance the release of cholecystokinin (CCK), a hormone that promotes feelings of fullness.

So, the next time you are thinking about making a healthy Irish meal do not forget the potatoes, the unsung hero of Irish kitchens everywhere! ♦

Milestone & Sweet Snaps



Congratulations to Jack and Suzana Figueira Kilroy on their 10th Wedding Anniversary



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BLOWIN' IN

By Susan Mangan

@SueMangan

Beyond the Sunset

Right now, I am looking out over a darkened ocean. The sun has just set over the Gulf of Mexico. Pelicans and white egrets have returned to the wet grass along the beach pass. High above me, the Little Dipper is shining like a white flame. The day is over, and it was quite perfect.

My daughter and her friends have arrived at an age where they prefer the company of my husband and me. We laugh, drink, share food, and play card games. Mostly, we accept one

another, unconditionally.

The path that leads to this relationship is long. It is fraught with the sharpness of razor shell clams. At the end of the sunset, we love and accept one another. I am most content with our walks along the beach path. Here, I point out the birds that soar above our heads and the animals that scurry beneath our feet.

Life is filled with fascinations and mysteries. Our imperfections appear to blend seamlessly with the wetlands and the slowly fading colors of sand and surf.

As I stand barefoot in the rising tide with my daughter and her friends, I am reminded of one of my more distinguishing features, my birthmark. It is perfectly oval, quite large, and the color of chocolate. It is a curiosity that elicited stares throughout my tender years.

As a child, I would close my eyes, count to ten and will my spot to disappear. I imagined that when I opened my eyes and looked down at my leg, it would be unmarked and

ivory like the smoothest shell that sits protected amid the sand.

Interestingly, my younger cousin also had a large round strawberry mark directly in the center of his back. When we were children running through his Missouri farm, the sun shone brightly, and our birthmarks blended joyously with the flowers in the fields and the lily pads in the ponds. I felt free on the farm, playing amid the young calves and the tall stalks of corn. At the time, I did not travel to the Gulf; I spent holidays with family in the farmland of southern Missouri.

Recently, my aunt sent me a packet of photos that I had never before seen. In the image, I am a toddler in a dress the color of a blue June sky, my birthmark set proudly between the lace cuffs of my white bobby socks and the folds of my linen frock. My mother is reaching out her hand to steady me from falling or perhaps grounding me to the earth on which she herself toddled and grew.

Her smile captures a moment that is not a part of my collective memory, yet her love, unconditional and all-encompassing is palpable even from the stillness of the frame. My relationship with my mother grew with the green growth of silage pastures. She taught me to seek joy in that which is imperfect and would always caution that "beauty is as beauty does."

After my mother died, I clung to nature, looking for signs that assured me that my mother was still with me, though she no longer walked on our physical earth. Much like that little girl who believed that magic could erase my pain, I looked for that same magic to bring my mother back to me.

Many people hold tightly to the belief that a cardinal perching in a May lilac bush is actually a visitation from a deceased loved one. For others, the spirit manifests in the ephemeral wings of a dragonfly glinting iridescently over a summer pond. I have seen my mother soar high above her home in Crooked Lake on the wings of a pileated woodpecker and in the curious eyes of a little white egret.

When my mom and dad first retired to their home on the lake, they

purchased a set of binoculars and a pocket guide to the birds of North America. I love to flip through my mother's book and read the notes she scribbled in the margins. She would keep a running list of Indiana birds that she and Dad spied over the years. Indeed, her spirit rises on the wings of the birds; a bit of this magic lives safely in my heart, assuring me of her presence.

I like to think that my mother walks beside me. I see her in the tilt of my daughter's smile and in the pale color of my eyes. Her strength resides in my son's arms when he gives me a much-needed hug. I sense her gentleness shining from my youngest son's eyes when he and his grandfather laugh through a tale told for the hundredth time.

On my mother's last day, she spoke of yoga, magic teas, and Ozark blackberries. These were her very last words to me, images really. Even as her body began to fold into itself beneath a lifetime of labor, toil, and love, her spirit remained sturdy. A cement silo that could withstand great wind and a lighthouse that drew us to safe shores. When her parchment thin lids closed over her blue eyes, my mother knew that she loved well and fierce.

At times, I am not sure that I will ever possess the strength of her spirit, but without doubt, I am graced with a bit of magic; especially, when the royal tern pauses in his sunset search for food and looks at me with earnest understanding, or when the snowy egret hops alongside me on my morning beach walk.

If I close my eyes and count to ten, I know that when I open them, my tears will have receded like the tide, and that the birds of dawn will continue to sing with the clarity of my mother's voice. Joy always rises above pain. ♦

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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TOLEDO IRISH

By Molly McHugh

Is there anything better than live Irish music...on St. Patrick's Day... after a year of lockdown? For anyone reading this article, I will venture to guess the resounding answer is, NO!

On March 17th here in Toledo, we were finally graced with live Irish Music again at the Maumee Bay Brewing Company, by none other than Toledo's own, "The Men from the Bog"! The band plays rollicking, toe-tapping pub songs that energize their always large crowd of listeners. The performance was brilliant, as they would say in Ireland.

The Men from the Bog are an Irish folk band who mostly cover classic hits from the Dubliners and the Clancy Brothers & Tommy Makem, among others. After the live session, I sat down with band member Robert McMahon to learn more about the them. It just so happens that Robert and I went to grade school together, but Men from the Bog were certainly not around at that time!

While talking with Robert, I found two pieces of information interesting: 1) how the band came to be and 2) how the band got its name. We will start with how the band came to be first.

"We were created out of necessity about five years ago," says Robert. "The band that the Ancient Order of Hibernians booked for the St Patrick's Day Festival had to pull out, so they needed music."

AN IRISH FESTIVAL WITH NO MUSIC

How could you have an Irish festival with no Irish music! Band members

Is There Anything Better Than Live Irish Music... on St. Patrick's Day?

Matt Cassidy (bassist), Jim Burns (guitarist) and Robert McMahon (whistle) were already Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) members, and they had played with Eric Hite (accordionist) and Betsy Grafiing (banjo) at other events around Toledo for many years. Robert and Eric had also previously teamed up playing Irish music as a duet. At that point, "We figured, since we were all Irish and musicians, we should be able to give it a go. Luckily, Matt had the music for quite a few standard songs, and we were able to get started then."

When I heard Robert speak of "giving it a go," I felt a sense of warmth and familiarity; it immediately brought me back to my days of living and going to school in Ireland. If there was ever a time where I may have been apprehensive about something, whether it be going to a school function, meeting up with unknown classmates, or even deciding if I should walk to class, knowing it may start to pour rain, my uncle, who I was living with, would always encourage me by saying, "Ah sure look, Mol, give it a go!"

That's all it took - four short words - "Give it a go," stated with Irish perspective and reassurance; I knew everything would work out just fine. Evidently Men from the Bog felt the same way!

So how did the band settle on the name? Well, the first name they considered was "Bogmen," but Robert thought "that didn't sound quite right." The next variation was "Men from the Bog," and that stuck. I wonder, however, how Banjo Betsy feels about that name? I will have to ask her some day!

Interestingly, bogs in Ireland have been around for a very long time, and



Men From The Bog

they are a type of wetland that accumulates peat, which has been used to fuel fires to heat homes for nearly a thousand years. It was not uncommon for the men of the family in Ireland to regularly go out to the bog to cut the peat for the fires. While these Men from the Bog may not be cutting peat, they know how to ignite a spark.

When I asked about the set-list for that night in particular, Robert said, "We try to play the sort of music that most Irish fans of all ages will know and enjoy. He has only been asked for

one to be sung in Irish, and "everyone is thankful for that."

I am thankful that Men from the Bog decided to "give it a go" five years ago, and were able to light up the stage with music that everyone can sing along to, and enjoy.

Check out Men from the Bog online or email Robert at aohjohnpkellydivision@gmail.com. ♦

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AT HOME, ABROAD

By Regina Costello

“Go Gather by the Humming Sea”

Water is a recurring theme in Irish poetry, literature, and life. Beyond its' origin in and necessity for survival, there are a multitude of reasons for its recurrence in the Irish saga. Our beloved country is surrounded by this beautiful natural resource, where it greets the fortress of tall, jagged cliffs that forever protect our green fields. It greets our far away home with a thunderous welcome of crashing waves, wild weather and an ever-changing magnificent seascape.

The water's bountiful gifts of plaice, cod

and mackerel have provided sustenance for many a family over the centuries and continue to be gratefully consumed; it is a reminder of the Holy Water from Baptism, the celebration and welcoming of new souls to the world; an appreciation of this natural resource by Irish monks 1,500 years ago, who upon learning about distillation decided to apply the process to distill whiskey instead of perfume.

Interestingly, the beverage in the Irish language is *Uisce Beatha*, which translates into English as *water of life*. It has seeped into many aspects of our lives; water is part and parcel of who we are.

My love affair with water incorporates all the above and more. It is on my mind particularly so today, as I am scheduled to receive a much-anticipated Pfizer Covid 19 Vaccine. A key ingredient of this vaccine is – yes, water.

I am forever grateful to the monumental work and talent of researchers and scientists around the world who worked collaboratively and solely to make this a reality, in a ridiculously short amount of time. I find myself in an emotional turmoil as this calendar entry greets my day with reflection. Thoughts of the tumultuous past year that witnessed a deadly virus that shockingly stole life from 2.8

million people worldwide, leaving a painful void and irreplaceable loss in too many families. My thoughts are of the survivors among us that may have a rocky road ahead, as the long-term effects of this determined microbe continue to unfold, also come to mind.

Good old Irish Catholic guilt is knocking on my door today, bringing with it uncomfortable questions and a disturbing mindset: “How do you get to be so lucky? How did you manage to escape this? Why do you deserve this vaccination while millions of others around the globe living in compromised conditions are still waiting for the rollout?”

I try to hush this futile noise by replacing it with a more fruitful one of my immense gratitude for good luck, appreciation of living in the best country in the world in my comfortable home abroad, and that I too am contributing to this battle by getting vaccinated. In doing so collectively, the global collaboration of the work that created this vaccine will not be in vain. On a related note, those of you hesitant to join this collaborative should check out the TEDx Hippos, *measles & smallpox, oh my!* with Cleveland Michelle Medina, M.D., who gives a definitive argument for the necessity of vaccines for the human race.

Thoughts of family, friends, and things Irish that live beyond the ragged shores of booming waves on the west coast and the *humming sea* elsewhere across the Emerald Isle, are also in my head, as they have been sorely missed in the past twelve months. The recent dream that maybe one day I may be able to cross that Atlantic Ocean bound for Shannon Airport to visit a much-loved family, with my two

garrulous kids and an indecisive husband debating whether his first drink upon arrival will be a Smithwicks or a Bulmer's, is happily to turning into a soon to be reality.

I expect the next adventure to Ireland to be most joyful, perhaps tearfully so, with spells of somber and poignant moments. I look forward to some quiet time to appreciate my life, think about my parents and family, the brutal times in Irish history at the hands of both mother nature and politics, and consider the survival of the country, our people and heritage as a testament to the human spirit of mankind.

The same can be said in a global fashion about 2020. We witnessed a year of turmoil both man and nature made. One can somewhat understand the natural disasters that occurred last year, from Covid 19 to the 400+ events of hurricanes, floods and wildfires resulting in loss of life.

However, one cannot excuse the continuing fabricated disasters of the wrath of man to his fellow man, in the form of discrimination and more, that also take away life. Words and actions that are deliberately aimed at berating and hurting others for nonsensical reasons can never be understood and should never be accepted. If only a vaccine was at hand to obliterate the ill for once and for all. The antidote can only be found by reaching deep into that human spirit of mankind.

Ireland, my home and your home, is the foundation of who we are and how we think. While we are far from it, Ireland lives in our hearts and minds. Our philosophy, culture, sorrows and joys are beautifully documented in the wide array of award-winning Irish prose and poetry

Continued on facing page



MADIGAN MUSES

By Marilyn Madigan

May, the Month of Memorials

During the month of May, we honor our mothers and two major memorials: Police Memorial Day on May 15th and Memorial Day on the last Monday of the month. I believe it is fitting that these events are remembered during the same month.

It is our Mothers that teach us about love and service to others. We thank

our mothers for helping us become the individuals we are in service to our communities and our country. In thinking of Mother's Day and the Memorials we hold in May, the poem *Mother* by Padraic Pearse comes to mind. An excerpt:

“I do not grudge them: Lord, I do not grudge
My two strong sons that I have seen go out
To break their strength and die, they and a few,
In bloody protest for a glorious thing,
They shall be spoken of among their people,
The generations shall remember them,
And call them blessed;
But I will speak their names to my own heart
In the long nights;
The little names that were familiar once
Round my dead hearth.
Lord, thou art hard on mothers:
We suffer in their coming and their going;

Go Gather Continued from previous page

that we revisit for respite and grounding.

The land of a thousand welcomes is surrounded by a moat of water that safeguards and protects all that we come from. Like you, I cannot wait to cross it, sink my feet into soft cold sand and walk the shores of Galway Bay, with the Burren mountains of county Clare breaking the horizon, tasting the salt on my lips, inhaling deep breaths of unsullied air and feasting upon what I know will be a sight for sore eyes.

My husband can have his Bulmer's or Guinness. My drink of choice will be the uisce beatha from Achill Island Distillery, preferably a Mayo Mojito at the hands of Seán McKay, a son of the Island, who continues the work of the Irish monks by distilling the only whiskey on the Irish islands.

Mitch Albom provides food for thought when he says, “You're not a wave, you're a part of the ocean.” Ryunosuke Satoro echoes the sentiment: “*Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean.*”

Such poetry is a gentle reminder that the origin of the human race is that of water. Each one of us are a drop in the ocean of life, that together, can harmoniously rise to beautiful and magnificent

breakers on the shores of life, at home and abroad. ♦

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Regina is a postgraduate from the National University of Ireland. Former Curator with the Irish American Archives Society, former Executive Director of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Commission and former Executive Coordinator of the Northern Ohio Rose Centre. Director on the Boards of the Mayo Society of Greater Cleveland and The Irish American Charitable Foundation. She resides in the Greater Cleveland area with her husband and together enjoy their family of two spirited teenagers and beloved wheaten terrier. She would love to hear from you: rcostello@ameritech.net

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And tho' I grudge them not, I weary,
weary
Of the long sorrow-And yet I have my joy:
My sons were faithful, and they fought.”

We remember the Heroes of Easter Week every year on the Anniversaries of their executions. This year is the 40th Anniversary of the deaths of the Hunger Strikers.

WE REMEMBER:

May 3, 1916: Thomas Clarke, Thomas MacDonagh, and Padraic Pearse
May 4, 1916: Joseph Mary Plunkett, Michael O'Hanrahan and William Pearse
May 5, 1916: John MacBride

May 5, 1981: Bobby Sands
May 8, 1916: Eamonn Ceannt, Edward Daly, Sean Heuston and Michael Mallin
May 9, 1916: Thomas Kent
May 12, 1916: James Connolly, Sean MacDiarmada
May 12, 1981: Francis Hughes
May 21, 1981: Raymond McCreech and Patsy O'Hara
July 8, 1981: Joe McDonnell
July 13, 1981: Martin Hurson
August 1, 1981: Kevin Lynch
August 2, 1981: Kieran Doherty
August 3, 1916: Roger Casement
August 8, 1981: Thomas McElwee
August 20, 1981: Michael Devine.

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The Many Stages of Melissa Fitzgerald, Part II

From West Wing to the Non-Profit Justice for Vets, Irish Roots Fuel the Fire

[To read Part I, pick up the print edition of the April Issue, or read it all online at www.OhioIANews.com]

You know Melissa Fitzgerald. Your mind immediately snaps to The West Wing when you see her face. The West Wing veteran, and now, Director, Advancing Justice, lives a life of passion and persuasion, whether on the West Wing stage as Carol Fitzpatrick, or on the world stage, fighting for life changing justice for our veterans.

What do you think of the West Wing following now, with so many people still talking about it, being influenced by it, and make another round appearing on TV? Did you have some idea? It was something special. I knew it was something special when I read the pilot script over a year before they shot the pilot. My now ex was auditioning for something; his agent had given him the script from that [and one from The West Wing]. He gave them to me to read.

He asked what I thought. I said *Sports Night* was brilliant. I also said *The West Wing* is going to be the best show ever on TV. I still stand by that statement.

Aaron and the team that they built

in every department, every single role, they just really committed to excellence, and talented hardworking people who really wanted to put the best work that we all could together put out in the world. I feel very lucky.

I work with a group of people like that now in the job that I have; so hardworking, and really care about putting our best work out in the world. We know that the work that we all do together is impacting people's lives.

I work for the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP). Justice for Vets is one of the divisions. In Advancing Justice, which is the initiative that I head up now, one of the main things that our organization does, in addition to advocating



for the courts and fighting for funding, is that we have a whole division that trains the court staff on how to do these court programs, how to adhere to best practices. People who adhere to the model strictly do the best.

There are over 4,000 treatment courts around the country. The National Association of Drug Court Professionals has faculty all over the country.

When I started working at Justice for Vets, I called my castmates and I said, nobody knows what these are; hardly anyone has reported on them. Will you guys come together and do a couple of videos that really talk about what we do? Everyone said I'm in; I'm in; I'm in; I'm in. They show up for everything.

We've had fundraisers they have come to; everything I've asked for [they do]. They are the most giving, generous group of people; it really is a family.

Do you think your work with NADCP is more successful because of what you did in West Wing?

The support of The West Wing and Hollywood in general has certainly elevated the work that I'm doing now; it is a bigger platform. Sometimes if we have some important thing that we [NADCP] want to get out in the world, I'll ask Mary [McCormack] or Brad [Whitford] or Richard [Schiff] or Allison [Janney] or Janel [Maloney] or Josh

Malina, any of them - Can you retweet this? It just gets a much, much, bigger reach [that way].

I believe you know Judge Joan Synenberg?

When I came out there [to Cleveland, Ohio], I was out for a couple of days, and I spent quite a bit of time with Judge Synenberg; she's really wonderful, really wonderful. Committed, smart, great what she does; and really cares. She's well known, of course, in Cleveland.

She is just such a personable, genuine person. Those are the kinds of people that I get to interact with, and I am so lucky I got to sit in on her court. I got to go to staffing meetings, where the interdisciplinary core team meets prior to court time, to just discuss each participant in the treatment court program. They really care; they are thorough; use the best, cutting-edge treatment.

We hold a national conference every year, the largest conference in the world on the intersections of addiction, mental health, and the justice system. I think last time we had close to 6,000 attendees for four days, hundreds of hours of training. They take the training that we do very seriously, so I think she is just terrific.

Most of the people that I get to interact with, they are looking longer term. They are drawn to doing this kind of work, as they really believe in it and

want people's lives to get better. They want to make a difference.

Shoutout to Connie Schultz
Can I just say a shoutout, to Connie Schultz? She is a treasure. I love that woman so much. Her book, *The Daughters of Erietown*, so beautiful, a story that cheers. When I saw that her book was coming out, I preordered it. I posted a picture holding it on Twitter, and I started reading it.

This is such a good book. I ordered it for my friends and my mom and everybody. I said, you know, I'm not in a book club, but this makes me want to start one. Then all of these people responded on Twitter, including Connie, saying, well if you do one, I'll do it.

Connie said, "Well, if you'll have me, I'll stop by too." Are you crazy? Of course, we will have you.

So, we had a nice, big, book club - I think around 100 people came. We interviewed Connie for the book. She was just so great, so great. Personal, with no airs. She is just a genuinely good person.

You know Mary McCormack. She and I are writing book, called, *What's Next? A Citizen's Guide to the West Wing*. It is about the ripple effects of the show, certainly on all of us, and



Melissa Fitzgerald and Martin Sheen

the things that we've learned and carried on with us in other areas. It is also about the impact of the show on audiences, on viewers.

Mary McCormick and I were talking; we were interviewing one of the directors from the show for the book, and he said, you know, my daughter who is eighteen has discovered the show, and she's in love with it. So many young people that I meet in DC right now, so many younger people when I used to walk around, would come up and say, I'm here because of the West Wing; I'm doing this work because of the West Wing. It inspired me to go into politics; it inspired me to go into service.

What would you say are your dreams or what your work aspirations? What would you hope to see long-term?

I would like to see a treatment court be available for every single person who needs one throughout this country. I would like to see some of the things that work in treatment courts be applied throughout the justice system, treating people as individuals, seeing the hope and humanity in each and every person. [I'd like to see] evidenced based

individualized treatment for every person who needs it throughout the justice system, from entry to re-entry into society.

We can significantly decrease the prison population, have so many more of our friends and family members and community members back home, contributing to our communities and our lives, being parents to their children and children to their parents; friends and teachers and soccer coaches and our neighbors. I would love to see everyone have that chance.

You knew Melissa Fitzgerald, the actor, and now, the Director, Advancing Justice, still living a life of passion and persuasion, on the world stage, fighting for life changing justice for our veterans. ♦

The full interview could easily run five issues, but instead, the long form can be found on our website: www.ohioianews.com, with much more text, pictures, insights and LARGER Print.

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Ava Wildflower by Éabha McMahon

2021 13 Tracks 41 Minutes.

Éabha (AYE-vah Mac-MA-hon) began her singing career in 1998, when, at the age of nine, she was chosen by Veritas to record an album for Beo go Deo, a children's book. She then began singing in sean nós, a traditional, less demonstrative, and unaccompanied style, taught by such singers as Moya Brennan, Máire Ní Choilm, Íde Mac Mathúna, and Séamus Mac Mathúna. At the age of fifteen, Éabha won the Under18 All Ireland Oireachtas final. From age thirteen to seventeen, she was the reigning Leinster champion in the Irish music competition Fleadh Ceoil. From the ages of fourteen to eighteen, she was the Dublin champion in the



Éabha McMahon

Fairview Feis Ceoil five times. Éabha joined Anúna in 2007, becoming the group's youngest member at the age of sixteen. In 2008, she recorded the PBS Holiday Special, "Anúna: Christmas Memories", released that year on DVD and CD. Éabha joined Celtic Woman in July 2015, replacing Lisa Lambe in the ensemble, and recorded seven CDs as a member of Celtic Women. As 2019 end-

ed, she left to pursue her solo career, and is off to a splendid start, with her just released solo debut, Wildflower. Éabha continues the centuries old Irish tradition of storytelling through song, bringing her own modern contemporary style to the art and seamlessly blending English lyrics with her



oft forgotten indigenous language that adds a poetic rhythm to her songwriting.

"I am making this album because it's the most honest expression of who I am, what I stand for and my intentions for the world that we live in. I sing to heal, and it heals me too. It is the purest form of emotion that I have ever experienced, so I want that in my life every day... It is the greatest privilege to be able to make music, and something that I want to do for the rest of my life.

"It was like a breath of fresh air going back into studio after months of working from our homes. I have never been so thankful to once again feel that feeling you get in the studio. The slight feeling of nerves mixed with lots of excitement and the wonderful anticipation of how the songs will develop after singing them. Most of the album was written in the west of Ireland. I am so thankful to have been living there for that creative time because it is the most inspiring and scenic place that I have ever lived. I walked the beaches every day for an hour and the sound of the waves crashing against the shore centered me in a way that I have not felt in years.

The cold sea air allowed me to access a mindful part of my soul which I hadn't had time to tap into for a while. Now listening back to my songs, I realise that so many of the ideas were born on those beaches in Salthill and it will forever be a place full of magic.

"The album is greatly inspired by the sea, and the feeling I get in those moments after jumping in first thing in the morning. Each song represents my passion for the earth, equality, the Irish language and the importance of unity, family and friendship."

Rhythm of Earth ~ In Irish, Éabha means Life. How fitting, true to her core; grace, elegance and a powerful instrument in her vocals, of that ties to earth, and its joys. The warmth of both is evident from this very first song.

Wildflowers ~ "a song that will forever remind me of the women in my family. Particularly my grandmother. I am so close to her and as a child she would show me dried flowers that were so delicately kept between two sheets of grease proof paper in an old book. They were so beautiful. She told me that she found them years after her mother had passed away. Her mother, my great grandmother would tell the story of the wildflowers and I loved hearing about how they ended up in this book."

Call My Name ~ Probably my favorite song on Wildflower, the rhythm and meaning are deeply connecting for me.

Heartbeats ~ "this song was written during the lockdown. With so many news stories covering stories about inequality, discrimination and fear, it really upset me to see how people can be so cruel to one another.

I wanted to write a song that we can all relate to. No matter who you are, where you are from, what you believe in, what colour your skin is, who you love, who you identify as. No matter what you may believe is right of wrong, we are all just heartbeats. Know that no matter what you stand for, love is the only universal language. And I will forever stand for love and equality."

Seas Suas ~ "I wrote [this] when I was away touring. I missed home and my family and husband so much at the time. I wanted to write a love song to all of those who were at home and I wanted them to know that although they were physically far away, they were never far from my heart. I love this song because it really is who I am and my love for the Irish language and our tradition."

When We Dream ~ We dream of true loves, that visit us in the night, and linger into the light.

In the Quiet ~ "A song of reflection. A moment of quiet and leave for anyone who has lost someone or something close to them. In a world that is so fast paced,

Continued on facing page



Rockaway Blue By Larry Kirwan

©2021 253 Pages.

Author, playwright, singer, songwriter, Black 47 Rocker, radio host* and journalist Larry Kirwan's latest book, *Rockaway Blue*, is a pure winner. I read it in two sittings, and

wished it went on far longer.

Real characters and real experience of how things work within the city, and the cops and fire so integral to the story of the Irish in New York is crafted and creates characters the reader will root for, even when they screw up.

Kirwan traces a fictional multi-generational safety forces families' journey through their struggles with each other and situations beyond their control, trying to overcome great loss and heartache during and after the terrorist attack in New York on 9-11. The story touches on so many points expected from a catastrophic event, and so many of which will surprise readers and non-first responders.

Rockaway Blue is a well-told, emotional journey, marked with characters filled with good intentions, and bad actions, regrets for the past and vows for the future. We all resolve to do better; yet fear, physical, emotional, or both, can cloud, delay or derail intentions, seemingly so obvious to us outside, but reading the story.

In many ways, it is a story of redemption; in many ways, readers will say, "stop, just tell her, it will be

Éabha Mc Mahon Continued from previous page

I wanted to write lyrics that made a safe space to reminisce and remember all of the special moments that life offers us every day."

One More Day ~ We must keep trying, fight one more day, for that is when we are closest to our goal.

You Are Home ~ *Be the Light, be the vision, look not to the past, Sweet freedom at last.*

Native Call ~ The earth often speaks to us, sometimes symbolically, sometimes we just have to be patient, to listen to the whispers around us.

Tell Me Now ~ *Tell me now, Are you lonely? Tell you something, so am I. Around the world, love endures, even when we might not be in close proximity.*

Runaway ~ This is not a leaving from something, but rather of embracing the fear of things unknown, run away and do them, try something new. *Do one thing that will scare you ... It's good for the soul.*

Loud ~ The damage to our earth is near a point of no return. Still, we are not doing enough. *All of our land, it is drying out.*

Running away, why are we running away? Guests: Gavin Murphy, piano and keyboards; Bill Shanley, Guitars; Noel Eccles, percussion; Liam Bradley, drums and percussion; John O'Brien, Whistle.

Wildflower is a musical journey to find peace, in the night, and when retrospect overtakes us in our quiet moments. Being drawn to the light, we sway with Éabha's songs, lending ourselves to being open, and then being able to find the connections we need.

At our most basic, we are so similar, in the quest for life, connection, a bit of light that we all need, in trying times. Éabha is a songwriter who walks along with us, with stories and experiences we have all come through. *Wildflower* is a Top Shelf Selection, and highly recommended. ♦

For more than this review and the *Inner View*, see Éabha's appearance on *iIrish Songs, Stories & Shenanigans Podcast* 27, available on OhioIANews.com or on [iTunes. www.avaworldmusic.com](https://www.avaworldmusic.com) Facebook and Twitter, and Patreon.

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so worth it ... " We too often hurt the ones we love, just because we can't get out of our own way. The brotherhood way of life plays an at times detrimental part of everyone's actions.

Breaking out of the lethargy of great personal hurt and loss, Detective Sargent Jimmy Murphy fights to draw the love of his life, his wife, out too; he fights for his surviving younger son; widowed daughter in law, and grandson; and he fights the brass who wish the legendary Jimmy would just let the mysteries of his son's death lie unresolved and undisturbed, even if the one stirring things up is the father of the dead hero.

I'll say no more, beyond saying, *Rockaway Blue* is a great read, Highly Recommended, and a Top Shelf Selection. ♦

Kirwan's Celtic Crush is a SiriusXM radio show he has hosted since 2005. It airs each Sunday morning from 9am-Noon on SiriusXM Channel 710. "The Loft replays the show each Tuesday evening at 9pm.

From Wexford, Kirwan formed Black 47 with Chris Byrne

in late 1989 after a jam in Paddy Reilly's Pub in Manhattan. The band has released thirteen CDs and have performed over 2,000 shows. Kirwan has carved a legacy in Irish American culture and is especially noted for his passionate fight in his music and written word for justice and human rights. Kirwan has also written and produced eleven plays and musicals. The plays center around Irish history and politics. Five of the plays: *Liverpool Fantasy*; *Days of Rage*; *Mister Parnell*; *Blood*; and *Night in the Garden*, are published in the book, *Mad Angels*.

He also writes a weekly column for the *Irish Echo*.

Other Books by Larry Kirwan: *Liverpool Fantasy* *Rockin' the Bronx* *Green Suede Shoes* *16 Plays and musicals, including: Hard Times*

Rebel in the Soul To find out more, see: Black47.com and on Facebook

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Ireland's Five-Time Oscar Nominated Cartoon Saloon Launches a New E-Commerce Art Gallery

Creating an opportunity for animation film enthusiasts everywhere, the four-time Academy Award-nominated animation studio, Cartoon Saloon, announced the launch of a new e-commerce art gallery featuring limited-edition framed prints from a slate of their multiple award-nominated and award-winning animated films, including this year's Academy Award and Golden Globe-nominated "WolfWalkers," along with Annie Award winner and Academy Award and Golden Globe-nominated "The Breadwinner," and the Academy Award-nominated "Song of the Sea," and "The Secret of Kells."

Brian Tyrrell, General Manager, Brand Development with Cartoon Saloon, stated: "The launch of our new art gallery offers us a tremendous opportunity to share the magic of these outstanding movies with fans around the world. We are extremely proud of our films, particularly with the most



Sulayman and the Mountain (The Breadwinner)

'Sulayman and the Mountain' is a lovingly illustrated piece depicting the young boys' quest to confront his foe. It was created by Alice Dieudonné, Reza Riahi & Nora Twomey for The Breadwinner. – Nora Twomey, Director

recent recognition; WolfWalkers is receiving with Academy, Golden Globe and BAFTA Award nominations. We are thrilled to offer these carefully curated state-of-the-art limited edition numbered prints that are sure to become a valuable collector's items in the years to come."

WolfWalkers follows Robyn Goodfellowe, a young apprentice hunter

who journeys to Ireland with her father in a time of superstition and magic to wipe out the last wolf pack. While exploring the forbidden lands outside the city walls, Robyn befriends a free-spirited girl, Mebh, a member of a mysterious tribe rumored to have the ability to transform into wolves by night. As they search for Mebh's missing mother, Robyn uncovers a

secret that draws her further into the enchanted world of the WolfWalkers, and risks turning into the very thing her father is tasked to destroy.

Nominated for an Academy Award in 2010 for best animated feature and winning awards at festivals worldwide, *The Secret of Kells* is a bewitching vibrantly animated fairytale for children and adults alike that is a spirited retelling of the provenance of Ireland's most cherished artefact, the Book of Kells. With the Viking hordes approaching, the monks of Kells are forced to turn their attention from transcribing manuscripts to building barricades.

The future of the precious book is in jeopardy and it falls to Brendan, young nephew of the abbot Cellach, to save the day. The Secret of Kells was Cartoon Saloon's first feature film and was directed by Tomm Moore with Nora Twomey as Co-director, with



Brambles (The Secret of Kells)

music by composer Bruno Coulais and Irish band Kíla, features the voices of Brendan Gleeson, Fionnula Flanagan, David Rawle, Lisa Hannigan, Pat Shortt and Jon Kenny.

SONG OF THE SEA

Academy Award-nominated *Song of the Sea* tells the story of Ben and his little sister Saoirse – the last Seal-child – who embark on a fantastic journey across a fading world of ancient legend and magic in an attempt to return to their home by the sea. The film takes inspiration from the mythological Selkies of Irish folklore, who live as seals in the sea but become humans on land.

The Breadwinner

is a celebration of children—for children, whatever their age, wherever they live. The movie tells the story of 11-year-old Parvana, who gives up her identity to provide for her family and try to save her father's life. Every day is a challenge as Parvana tries to bring home enough food and water to support her mother, sister and little brother. She meets a fellow girl in disguise called Shauzia, and together, they form a bond that will give them the strength to endure the war that comes to their doorstep.

ABOUT CARTOON SALOON

Cartoon Saloon is the multiple Academy Award®, Golden Globe and BAFTA nominated animation studio formed by Paul Young, Tomm Moore and Nora Twomey in 1999 and based in Kilkenny, Ireland. From award-winning shorts to Feature Films and TV series, Cartoon Saloon has carved a special place in the international animation industry with the unique accolade of having all four of its feature films nominated for Academy Awards®. ♦

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Butterflies (The Secret of Kells)

Brendan and Aisling discover the wonders of nature in the ancient oak tree, they are surrounded by hundreds of butterflies in this spectacular moment from the film. – Tomm Moore Director



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COOKING UP A HOOLEY

By Katie Gagne

Irish Mexican Fusion

Irish Quesadillas and Burritos

and dice the meat into bite-size chunks or get thick slices from the deli and cut up).

- ½ cup Shredded Irish Cheddar Cheese
- ½ cup Shredded Swiss Cheese
- 2 cups Coleslaw Mix
- 1/3 cup Dill Pickle Juice
- 1 cup Sour Cream
- 3 tbsp Ketchup
- 2 Dill Pickles – diced small
- 1 tsp Black Pepper
- 1 tsp Garlic Salt
- 1 tsp Season Salt
- 1 tsp Kosher Salt
- 1 cup Diced Hash Brown Potatoes – fully cooked
- ½ cup Green Salsa Verde
- Cooking Spray

Cook Potatoes until brown and crispy. Drain on a paper towel and set aside. Combine Coleslaw Mix, Black Pepper, Season Salt, Garlic Salt, and Pickle Juice in a small bowl and let sit for several minutes.

Chop up Corned Beef and Pickles and shred any Cheeses if needed.

Mix Sour Cream, Ketchup, Pickles, and a dash of Garlic Salt in a bowl. With a knife, spread a thin layer on one side of each Tortilla. The rest is used as a Dipping Sauce.

Layer the Cheeses, Corned Beef, Cole-slaw, and Potatoes on each Tortilla.

PLAYING WITH YOUR FOOD

These days you see many recipes that combine delicious ingredients that come from different cultures and culinary traditions. This recipe is a playful blending of two tasty and simple styles that when mixed together are a delight to the palate.

Ingredients

- 4 Spinach and Herb Tortillas
- ½ lb Cooked Corned Beef (For this, you can cook an actually corned beef



You can roll them into a Burrito shape or fold over into a Quesadilla.

For the Quesadilla, spray a baking sheet with Cooking Spray and place the folded Tortilla on the tray and bake in the oven at 350* for approximately 5-6 minutes until cheeses melt and the Tortilla start to brown just slightly. Flip over and cook for another two minutes. Cut Quesadilla into triangle pieces. Sprinkle with remaining Kosher Salt.

Serve the Burritos or Quesadillas with the Dipping Sauce and Salsa Verde.

This recipe makes 4 medium size Quesadillas or Burritos or any combination of the two.

Guacamole adds an additional green flair. Enjoy! ♦

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

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Home Sweet Home

By Dan Coughlin

Here's what I really missed during the pandemic – saying goodbye to old friends and acquaintances who died. Almost all wakes and funeral services were postponed. People died in obscurity and they took their stories with them. During my eighteen years writing sports at The Plain Dealer and later writing books, I heard many stories at funeral homes that later became newspaper columns and chapters in my books.

Many years ago, I walked across the street from The Plain Dealer building to St. Peter's Catholic Church for the funeral service of a man named E. J. Kissell, a police reporter for The Plain Dealer. Kissell, a life-long bachelor, was a very mysterious man. He worked the late night shift out of the press room in the old Central Police Station on Payne Avenue and actually entered The Plain Dealer only once a week at midnight to pick up his pay check. Virtually no one saw him.

About twenty reporters and deskmen attended his funeral service - like me - out of curiosity. Some of them walked up to the microphone and shared an anecdote. Among them was Dick Peery, who also covered the police beat.

"The first two years I saw him walking around the police station, I thought he was a detective," said Peery, "and we worked for the same paper."

The last person who spoke was a woman we did not know. She said she was Kissell's "special" friend for thirty years and told tender stories about him.

"But I always wondered," she said, "if someday I would discover that he had a wife and three kids in Garfield Heights."

It was the funniest line I have ever heard at a funeral - and she was serious.

A few months ago, we stared down the Corona virus and attended the funeral Mass for Jim Nieberding, an old friend who had everything good going for him. His mother was a McDonough; he went to Cathedral Latin; he was a paratrooper in Korea; he taught at St. Edward High School; he played on my Sunday morning slow-pitch softball team.

In his eulogy, Jim's brother told us how Jim and his wife Alberta got together. They were both teaching confraternity classes at St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish. In those days it was the name for religion classes for kids who went to public school.

It was no surprise that Alberta caught Jim's eye. Jim didn't think that a classroom at St. Ignatius of Antioch grade school was an appropriate place to ask Alberta for a date, but he did ask her for her phone number.

"She wrote it on the back of a holy card," Jim's brother revealed.

"No," said Alberta, "I wrote it on the back of a bookmark that I picked up off the desk. But it did have a picture of Mary or Joseph on the front."

They wound up married for about sixty years.

I walked out of St. Angela Merici church that morning knowing that someday I would use that story in my next sports book - and I will. Jim certainly qualified. He was, after all, a softball player in the Charlie Sheets Sunday morning League.

After the service for another old friend at Berkowitz, Kumin, Bookatz, a woman walked up to me and introduced herself.

"I was the other woman," she said.

That snapped me to attention. She went on to say that they had been boyfriend and girlfriend for at least the last twenty years. My friend was in his seventies, which made her age appropriate.

She made no attempt to hide her years, but that wasn't necessary. She was a good-looking woman. And here I thought his only interests were riding his Harley and running his business.

I don't know why she told me. I guess she had to tell somebody. Since we were standing on the fringe of a group of family members, I was her go-to guy.

She told me she was a masseuse. She gave me her card.

"Call me if I can do anything for you," she said.

"No, I think I'll get a motorcycle," I said.

Naturally, the Irish funeral homes on the West Side are my happy hunting grounds; places such as McGorray-Hanna, Chambers, Berry's and Corrigan's,



Photo courtesy of Cleveland State University Archive

St. Peter's Catholic Church, 1964

but I also can find my way to Schulte & Mahon-Murphy on the East Side, and, as I just mentioned, Berkowitz-Kumin.

Most people groan when they walk into a wake and are confronted by long lines. Not me; I rejoice. At McGorray's the serpentine line sometimes stretches from the casket, where the family lines up, and into the hallway where it doubles up like the mazes at Cedar Point.

I began conversations in one direction and resumed them in the other direction. I was collected several story ideas. Furthermore, I enjoyed myself so much that after consoling the family I went back out into the hallway and went through the line again.

I set my personal record for longest line in May of 2018 at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Mentor. But it wasn't in church and it wasn't in the funeral home. Neither one was big enough. It was in the community room, about the size of the school gym. The line stretched from the far wall of the community room out the door into the parking lot and around two sides of the building until it reached Euclid Ave.

"I've been a funeral director for twenty years and it was the longest line I've ever seen," said Kevin Coyne of McMahon-Coyne-Vitantonio Funeral Home. "It was unbelievable. The wake was too big for any funeral home, especially the parking."

The subject of such devotion was Joanne Randazzo, an Irish girl with

an Italian name. Her husband was Bob Randazzo, known popularly as Bob Roberts, The Plain Dealer's horse racing handicapper, also known as The Railbird. Joanne worked for thirty years in the main office of Lake Catholic High School. To say she was beloved is an understatement; she was revered.

I asked Kevin to put a number on the mourners.

"Thirteen hundred. Maybe 1,500," he said.

The line lasted for almost eight hours. There were thirty years of students, teachers and football and basketball coaches. I touched dozens of bases. There wasn't a gambler or horse player in the crowd.

"Do you expect the same kind of turnout?" I asked the Railbird.

"My wake will be from four o'clock to 4:15. Don't be late," he said.

Frankly, over the last half-century, I've spent more time at funeral homes than at movie theaters. As a matter of fact, I met my wife, Maddy, at a wake at McGorray's in Lakewood many years ago. Yes, funeral homes are preferable to singles bars in that regard, which is a story for another time.

It's been a tough pandemic. I missed all this stuff. ♦

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SPEAK IRISH

By Bob Carney

@BobCarneyGTR

Ban the Irish Language?

In the past, we have discussed ways to incorporate our growing Irish vocabulary into our everyday conversations. During *Seachtain na Gaeilge* (Irish Language Week) this past March, Conradh na Gaeilge (The Gaelic League) issued a statement encouraging the use of Irish among students in text messaging and social media. Many of us involved in the Speak Irish Cleveland classes have been doing this as well. It is a good exercise and will even help with spelling and sentence structure. It may take a time or two for your phone to accept Irish words instead of trying to correct your spelling.

Conradh na Gaeilge was formed in 1893 when Eoin Mac Néill invited Douglas Hyde and eight others to a meeting

in Dublin to promote Irish culture and language. The result of that meeting was Conradh na Gaeilge or the Irish League. Its members became teachers and organizers, leading to the Irish cultural revival. Books and learning materials were published and made available.

In 1906, their tireless work brought about a bilingual program in the national school system. Newspapers and magazines in Gaelic were started to spread the views of Conradh na Gaeilge and its members. The printed word also helped the language move beyond the oral tradition as many adult speakers learned to read and write in their native tongue.

PÁDRAIG MAC PIARAIS

Pádraig Mac Piarais (Patrick Pearse) was one of the most active members of Conradh na Gaeilge, and although the league was formed as a non-political entity, he saw it as an essential element of the Republican movement for an independent Ireland. Many of its members played key roles in the 1916 Rising and the War of Independence. Michael Collins said the formation of Conradh na Gaeilge was the most important event in the nineteenth century in the history of Ireland.

Today, Conradh na Gaeilge has over two hundred branches worldwide, running language courses and raising awareness about the language. Their

main goal remains to reinstate the Irish language as the common language of Ireland, and to protect the language rights in the Gaeltacht communities in Ireland and around the world. They also manage the Irish language site *PEIG.ie* and an Irish language bookshop, *An Siopa Leabhar*. You can visit www.cnag.ie for more information.

In a March column in *The Irish Examiner*, John O'Dwyer lamented about the lack of use of Irish in Ireland after becoming fluent in the language himself. He thought it might be due to the required study of the language and it's grammar in school. He said, "After all,

Irish people have a long history of rejecting whatever others try to impose on us: Norman conquest, Protestant Reformation, Act of Union, Guinness Light."

He noted that many revert to English even after attending Irish immersion schools once beyond the school gates. O'Dwyer thinks if bilingual spaces were designated or people were encouraged to use words and phrases in their everyday speech, it may help. If not, he offered this, "I'm afraid we must invoke the nuclear option and entirely ban the language. That should ensure the rebellious Irish psyche will thrill to the challenge of total mastery." ♦

Mise Éire

Mise Éire

Sine mé ná an Chailleach Bhéarra

Mór mo ghloír:

Mé a rug Cú Chulainn cróga.

Mór mo náir:

Mo chlann féin a dhíol a máthair.

Mór mo phian:

Bithnaimhde do mo shíorchiapadh.

Mór mo bhrón:

D'éag an dream inar chuireas dóchas.

Mise Éire:

Uaigní mé ná an Chailleach Bhéarra.

Pádraic Pearse

I am Ireland

I am Ireland

I am older than the old woman of Beare

Great my glory:

I who bore Cuchalainn, the brave.

Great my shame:

My own children who sold their mother.

Great my pain:

My irreconcilable enemy who harasses me continually.

Great my sorrow:

That crowd in whom I placed my trust, died.

I am Ireland

I am lonlier than the old woman of Beare.

Bob Carney is a student of Irish history and language and teaches the Speak Irish Cleveland class held every Tuesday at PJ McIntyre's. He is also active in the Irish Wolfhounds and Irish dogs organizations in and around Cleveland. Wife Mary, hounds Morrighán and Rian and terrier Doolin keep the house jumping. He can be reached at carney-speakirish@gmail.com

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Medina Ancient Order of Hibernians 2021 Annual Beer Run

Charity Event Benefits Three Local Charities

by Tony Manley

The Medina County Ohio division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Irish Brigade Division in Medina County, Ohio announced the recipients of their 2021 Annual Beer Run Charity Event proceeds. Each of the following organizations is receiving a \$200.00 check from the Irish Brigade:

Birthcare of Medina County - a volunteer staffed agency that provides emergency assistance and support to families with infants and young children in Medina County.

Feeding Medina County - creating programs to educate, engage and lead the Medina County community in creating an environment where no one goes hungry. They nourish our community with essential programs that put food on the table for children, families and seniors who are at risk of hunger.

Regina Health Center - offers quality, faith-based skilled nursing, assisted living and rehabilitation

services with compassionate care in a unique setting that is open to residents of all faiths. They also provide a services program directed to the Catholic clergy.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) is America's oldest Irish Catholic Fraternal Organization, founded in May, 1836. The AOH can trace its roots back to a series of similar societies that existed in Ireland for more than 300 years.

The Irish Brigade is Medina County's singular AOH division, and inaugurated its Annual Beer Run several years ago as a recurring fund-raising event. A full-size commercial bus carries the boys and their friends to five area breweries to sample their products and have a day of comradery and fun. Historically, the event has been a sellout, or near sell out event, with proceeds going to local organizations that demonstrate the Ancient Order of Hibernian's motto of Friendship, Unity and

Christian Charity.

For more information regarding the Medina County Irish Brigade Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, contact Tony Manley:

tonym92979@sbcgloabl.net. ♦

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Donnybrook



One Hundredth Anniversary of the violently forced creation of the Six County Statelet known as Northern Ireland (1921-2021) has been "celebrated" by small groups of Unionist teenage gangs throwing rocks and petrol bombs in April. The seams of the artificially created Northern Ireland statelet are threadbare and fraying on its 100th birthday.

Several factors have converged to confront the Unionist Community's perceived birthright of entitlement and privilege: 1) Historic divisions between the Nationalist and Unionist communities. 2) Brexit. 3) Boris' "Betrayal". 4) Highest poverty rates in the E.U. 5) Northern Ireland Protocol. 6) failure to fully implement the Good Friday Accord.

Sentiments in the Six Counties have been aggravated in recent years after a majority of Northern Ireland voted against Brexit, and yet London Tories dragged the six counties out of the European Union earlier this year after an almost 50-year marriage. While promises were made to the Unionist Community that Brexit would have no impact upon

"WE REMAIN STEADFAST SUPPORTERS OF A SECURE AND PROSPEROUS NORTHERN IRELAND IN WHICH ALL COMMUNITIES HAVE A VOICE AND ENJOY THE GAINS OF THE HARD-WON PEACE."

—PRESIDENT BIDEN

the Union, the reality is that the Northern Ireland Protocol created a custom's border down the Irish Sea between the Island of Ireland and the Island of Great Britain (England, Scotland & Wales).

Two choices existed: An unnatural, hard border on the Island of Ireland, OR a natural sea border between the two islands. Under pressure from the E.U. leadership and a clear statement from U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi

that there would be no new US/UK Free Trade Agreement if the GFA was impacted by a hard, land border on the Island of Ireland, no solutions have been agreed upon.

Desperate for a Free Trade Agreement with the U.S., UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson was left with only one choice, that of the Irish Sea Border. The Unionist Community views this as "Boris' Betrayal" and are expressing their frustration in the streets. Graffiti of "No Irish Sea Border" are spray painted throughout Orange neighborhoods.

President Biden, commenting on the situation in Belfast said: "We are concerned by the violence in Northern Ireland, and we join the British, Irish, and Northern Irish leaders in their calls for calm. We remain steadfast supporters of a secure and prosperous Northern Ireland in which all communities have a voice and enjoy the gains of the hard-won peace."

This 100th anniversary has seen some of the worst sectarian violence since the adoption of the Good Friday Agreement (GFA) in 1998; time will tell whether this is a one-off hooliganism or does it portend for a long hot summer in the North of Ireland.

IRISH CLEVELAND

This summer of 2021 marks the first open race for the Mayor of the City of Cleveland in twenty years (2002 Jane Campbell election). In the likely crowded race, several claim Irish ancestry. We know well that Council President Kevin Kelley has a strong Irish Heritage and has used his leadership post to facilitate City support of the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

And every Cleveland Irish man and woman is fully aware of former Mayor and Congressman Dennis John Patrick Kucinich's pride in his Irish ancestry. But did you know that Councilman Basheer Jones' Grandfather was a McClain from Ireland as well? Perhaps more will be joining the race. 'Tis shaping up to be a true Donnybrook.

SEN. SHERROD BROWN SUPPORTS U.S. SENATE RESOLUTION 117

A bipartisan resolution has been introduced in the U.S. Senate by Republican Susan Collins of Maine and Democrat Bob Menendez of New Jersey supporting "full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement," including "action to resolve the injustices of past violence." The Resolution aims to support and protect the peace achieved under the GFA, especially during these challenging times. This resolution has been joined by over a dozen other senators, including Ohio's Sen. Sherrod Brown.

Ohio's junior senator, Rob Portman, has been requested to join the resolution, with no commitment as of the time of this publication. Please contact Sen. Brown's office to thank him for his support for the Irish Peace Process, and please call Sen. Portman's office to stand with Peace in the North of Ireland and urge his joining of Senate Resolution 117. ♦

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It Is Time For An Irish Unity Referendum

by Mark Guilfoyle

The time has come to give the people of Ireland the opportunity to decide whether to reunify the island. The Irish Government should plan for and promote Irish Unity. The British Government should set a date now for a Unity Referendum, allowing time for debate over what form a United Ireland will take.

One hundred years ago, the War of Independence was raging in Ireland. The British Government responded by imposing partition, which created a pro-British Unionist controlled state in the northeastern six counties. Eventually, the remaining twenty-six counties won independence. Partition, the gerry-mandered division of Ireland, spawned decades of discrimination, state repression, and widespread conflict in the North.

In 1994, President Clinton approved a visa for Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams, despite fierce opposition from the British Government. That same year, Friends of Sinn Féin USA was established to facilitate Americans hearing first-hand from Sinn Féin leaders about efforts to achieve Irish Unity through peaceful and democratic means.

In 1995, the United States appointed Senator George Mitchell as a special envoy. Mitchell chaired negotiations that led to the signing of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998. Conflict and repression were replaced by peace and democratic politics. Henceforth, it would be up to the will of the people to determine their constitutional future.

The Good Friday Agreement is a significant American foreign policy success. We have skin in the game, and we have contributed mightily to peace in Ireland over the last 23 years. And this contribution has been bipartisan. Democrats and Republicans have acted in concert to protect the Good Friday Agreement and to prevent the imposition of a hard border across Ireland in the Brexit process.

Underpinning the Good Friday Agreement is the fundamental democratic principle that it is up to the people to decide their constitutional future. The British Government is empowered to call a Unity Referendum when it appears likely that a majority of voters would express a wish that Northern Ireland should cease to be part of the United Kingdom and form part of a United Ireland. This condition is met now. Consider the

following.

The Assembly that meets in Stormont on the outskirts of Belfast is far removed from the one that met one hundred years ago. In the 2017 Assembly and 2020 Westminster elections, Pro-British Unionist parties no longer have an electoral majority.

Second, census data show a clear demographic trend of an increasing Nationalist electorate (that tends to support Irish Unity) and a decreasing Unionist electorate (that tends to favor union with the UK). This trend will intensify going forward.

Third, Brexit has accelerated the conversation on the future. Britain imposed Brexit against the will of the people of the North -- 56% of whom voted to remain in the European Union. Brexit is wreaking havoc in Northern Ireland, but it can automatically rejoin the EU as part of a United Ireland.

The debate on a Unity Referendum is no longer a whispered conversation. It is a democratic imperative. Even Unionist leaders are recognizing the inevitability of a referendum.

Some claim that the Unity Referendum will be destabilizing. Democracy is never destabilizing. It is the denial of democracy that is dangerous and destabilizing in any society.

Some say that now is not the time. But those same people do not offer an alternative timeframe and refuse to acknowledge the scale of change that is undeniably underway in Ireland.

Ironically, these Unity deniers include the Irish Government, which refuses to prepare for a Unity Referendum. This is an unsustainable position, an abdication of its constitutional obligation to promote Unity as the will of the Irish nation.

Presently, leading Irish American organizations are calling on the Irish Government to engage with the discussion and to plan for and promote Irish Unity, in keeping with its Good Friday Agreement obligations and the imperative of the constitution of Ireland.

Irish America is on the side of building a new and United Ireland, an Ireland that is a peaceful and prosperous home for people of all traditions and cultural persuasions. Just as Ireland's "exiled children in America" supported the Easter Rising in 1916, and just as Americans have stood as guardians of the Good

Friday Agreement for these last 23 years, we Americans have a stake in seeing the Irish people have their say in a referendum. Is there anything more American than that? ♦

Mark Guilfoyle is President of the Friends of Sinn Féin USA. He practices

law in Kentucky. During 1991-95, he served as General Counsel to the Governor, Secretary of the Governor's Executive Cabinet and State Budget Director in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

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Hurling 10v10 Scrimmage in Brecksville

Gaelic Football and Hurling Tournament Comes to Cleveland May 8th



TAKING THE
FIELDS OF GLORY

By Vincent Beach

Finally ... some schedule games and training sessions. Keep the faith, keep diligent, keep fit. While all of the adult teams were able to get out in the month of April for training, the footballers and hurlers are definitely looking forward to competitive matches and warmer weather. But, before we get into the two month look-ahead schedule, the Midwest GAA Players and Supporters Association would like to thank Annie O'Donnell for the years of service after matches in the WSIA pub serving suds, spirits, and smiles. Go raibh míle maith agat, good on yah, and enjoy the retirement.

MAY TOURNAMENT

Saturday, 8th, the Cleveland Men and Ladies' football teams host sev-

eral teams from around the Midwest (Pittsburgh, Detroit, Buffalo); Chicago (Aisling Gaels, McBrides, James Joyce); and Central (Milwaukee) divisions for the Memorial 7's Tournament at the West Side Irish American Club (WSIA). There will be two field of play going from the late morning through the afternoon. Come out to enjoy the outdoors, competition, comradery, and craic. Later in the month, May 29th, the new Buffalo Na Fianna club will travel to Pittsburgh for their first divisional championship match.



JUNE MATCHUPS

Akron travel to Pittsburgh for hurling, Detroit match-up in Cincinnati for the I-75 classic, and Cleveland play host to Buffalo Na Fianna and the Buffalo Ladies for a double header at the WSIA on the 5th. On the 12th, Akron battles Cleveland in hurling at the WSIA and the Pittsburgh Banshees head north to play the Buffalo Ladies, while the Upstate New York teams kick off the season with Albany at Syracuse. The 19th features Albany traveling to Buffalo Fenians while the Cleveland - Pittsburgh rivalry is enjoyed across three codes (hurling, men's football,

and ladies' football) for a full GAA Day in Pittsburgh. The final Saturday in June, the 26th, will see a hurling blitz in Akron between Akron, Pittsburgh, Roc City, and Cleveland; the Buffalo Fenians travel to Albany as the Buffalo Na Fianna and Buffalo Ladies host Pittsburgh in football; and the Midwest Division hosts a youth invitational tournament in Detroit.

CLEVELAND GAELIC FOOTBALL

Cleveland has been awarded a grant from the government of Ireland (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) through the Global Games Development Fund, a joint partnership with the GAA and DFAT's Emigrant Support Programme. They will use the funds to secure much needed equipment for the Memorial 7's tournament. Cleveland has secured several grants over the years to help develop the GAA locally as a means to support the Irish Diaspora, improve Irish networks, and strengthen Irish identity internationally. May we all travel again soon to Ireland in thanks.

After the 7's tournament, Cleveland St. Pat's - St. Jarlath's will jointly host the annual *Night at the Races* on May 22nd. This year's event will be both



Women's Football Training at Impett

indoor and outdoor at the WSIA to allow for increased spacing and social distancing. Contact the club for tickets and advertising opportunities (www.ClevelandGAA.com). There will be some full days of GAA competition and craic at Páirc na Naomh (the home field at the WSIA) on June 5th and another in July.

YOUTH GAELIC FOOTBALL AND HURLING

The Cleveland GAA youth summer program will begin Sunday June 7th at the WSIA at 3PM for football, followed by hurling at 4:15. All ages will be coached at the same time on different fields and the program will run weekly throughout the summer. Please visit www.ClevelandGAA.com/youth for registration and details.

ADULT MEN AND WOMEN GAELIC FOOTBALL AND HURLING

Remember - new players are always welcome and can join throughout the summer. The men's football team will continue training on Tuesdays at Impett Field in Westpark and on Thursdays at the WSIA - both starting at 6PM. The hurlers continue on Sundays in Brecksville at the Stadium Drive field starting at 1PM, with some joint sessions being held with Akron to increase game scenario drills. The Ladies' will continue with twice a week sessions. Please visit the club website or contact the club directly to stay up to date on sched-

ules as the summer times and days could change with sunlight and game schedules.

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.

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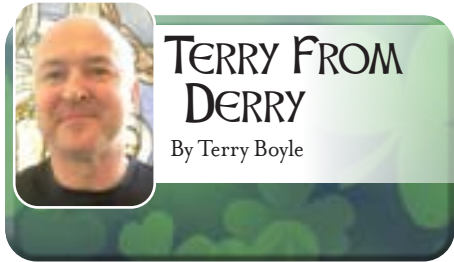
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TERRY FROM DERRY

By Terry Boyle

Because I Could Not Stop

Most people are familiar with Emily Dickinson's famous poem about death. The narrator's sudden realization that life is short, and death is inescapable hammers home the central message to live life to the fullest. It's perhaps hard for us to think of living out our *carpe diem* dreams while in the throes of a pandemic, but there is no better time for us to contemplate our mortality.

Millions of people, worldwide, have died because of infection. We've watched politicians flounder, businesses go bust, witnessed the best and worst of humanity, and there's been very little we could do about any of it. The unseen virus has reminded us daily of how fragile life is.

With fear and wonder, we've seen how this tiny, significant lifeform has resisted our best efforts to stop it, mutating to optimize its survival. Covid-19, like ourselves, is remarkably resourceful in its ability to adapt to threats, and, like ourselves, fights for continuation. However, unlike us, the virus is equitable in its attacks.

Covid does not target a particular race, creed, or gender. The virus is equally indifferent to whether its victims are rich or poor, morally upright or reprehensible. It is without any moral compass. It is neither ruthless nor malignant. There is no conscience to appeal to, and it cannot be reasoned with.

We deem it an enemy because it attacks our defense system and threatens our existence as a species. In just over a year, this new lifeform has radically changed us in ways we could never have foreseen. We are more than ever faced with the reality that we are expendable.

Dickinson's poem invites the reader to 'stop' and think. When faced with the inevitability of death, we can make some profound changes to our lives or not. The

realization that death is our final end can provide us with opportunities become better people.

DICKINSON AND SCROOGE

Scrooge is perhaps one of the best examples of how one man when faced with his selfish life is given another chance to do good. It is a heartwarming tale with a warning for us all, live for yourself and die alone.

Of course, Scrooge's ghosts (past, present and future) become a reality

BE NOT STILL

Be not still heart of mine,
Resist silence and beat your big drum, Loudly,
Stomp, shout, scream a vibrant anthem,
And, when hoarse with time
Let the chamber music of your soul echo
Through those life-giving arterial routes,

Let me feel the swell of your rage,
Deafen me in arias, tragic and sublime,
Play no requiem, nor dirge, while you throb,
Pulsate, when the breath of God shakes
The very temple of your being.

Do not slow down when time races,
Keep from the great sleep that bewitches us all,
Don't stumble when loved ones' lull and pause
Pray for life, not subsistence, vigor and hope,
Stifle the anger inside your passionate breast,
Lap for lap, give time its lead but do not follow
Passively in its wake,
Ignore the diminishing road behind, look forward,

Face the finish line with the breath of God
Still burning in your lungs.

Do not let the youth make you feel a stranger
When you have never felt at home,
Make your strangeness sublime, intricate and foreign,
Speak the language of tomorrow, not yesterday,
Do not let the courtesans of today make you disappear
Into a pension, dignify you with platitudes, or bully you
Into silent retreat,

Never relinquish, nor resign to the last gasp
Dance through the creaks and aches of your bones
Until the breath of God parts the red sea before you.

check for a man who refuses to 'stop' and contemplate his existence, and, as such, embodies Plato's unexamined life that is not worth living. When finally, he is faced with his own gravestone, as with Dickinson's narrator is, the effect is palpable. The shock of having to face his own final resting place is a last reprieve for Scrooge, whereas for Dickinson's narrator it is too late. Scrooge is saved because he has been forced to stop and reckon with his selfishness.

We have all heard the saying to *stop*

and smell the roses. In today's world, it's the antiseptic smell of a hospital that might be the thing to bring us to our senses. A vaccine is not a cure, but it can stop the virus from being deadly, and may prevent hospitalization. In one sense, this advancement is a cause for hope, but it's not a certainty.

We may have escaped death this time around, but have we learned anything from it? Will we, like Scrooge, amend our lives and find fulfillment in investing in others, or we will face our demise like Dickinson's narrator unchanged? The key to what makes us different to the indiscriminate, amoral, nature of the virus is our ability to reason and contemplate.

We, as human beings, can do remarkable things to better our world. There are countless examples of people who have unselfishly changed our societies for better. Motivated by love and concern, they have improved the lot of their communities. Conditions in hospitals, jails, schools etc. have been attributed to the work of individuals who have set themselves to leaving an impression on this world long after they've gone. Some of them we will remember, most of them we will not.

My father was one of those people who will not doubt be forgotten in time, but who, as a recovered alcoholic, changed the lives of many. Known locally as the body snatcher, my father would take the worst alcoholics from the streets and deliver them to a rehab centre. He was not a young man when he began his work, but his age was not a deterrent.

The pandemic has made those of us who are older or physically challenged reluctant to do much to put ourselves in danger. However, now with an ever-increasing number of vaccinations, we are in a position to make a difference.

There are many charities who have suffered the loss of volunteers during the worst of the pandemic that are in serious need of our help. When I retired, I was determined to not to simply let my life waste away. I was now free to do more of what I valued. And, it was with this thought that I wrote the following poem.

If I were to add to it, I would write 'don't let a pandemic stop you from doing good.' We have faced our mortality and survived. Let us make the best of it. ♦

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CLEVELAND IRISH

By Francis McGarry

From So Little Sleeping and So Much Reading

It is not every day that I have the pleasure of entertaining my Aunt Irene. However, my cousin Steven texted the other day and that does not happen every day either. Steven is her youngest and is in school and has the tendency to overindulge in academics. Perhaps a common trait in the family, but a less common focus.

He wants to be a structural engineer and is definitely smart enough to be a structural engineer. As Aunt Irene observes, "The kid is a bit up tight." When he was much younger, he became aware that some people enumerate the manner in which they eliminate body waste. Steven expanded upon the simple one, two, and composed a detailed list that had, last I heard, surpassed 200. At least now he is focusing on engineering.

When I was in grad school at University of Chicago, I noticed similar students. There were undergrads who had never had a grad lower than an A who could not deal with a B. My streak ended in the second grade, based on the E to A conversion. You punch one janitor and that justifies a S- in conduct? I was never a fan of Cal Ripken, Jr. anyway.

University of Chicago students did tend to suffer more mental health issues compared to undergraduates, in my experience. The University of Chicago has one of the highest suicide rates of American universities. In general, suicide is 10th in cause of death in the US, yet 2nd for college-aged students.

Do not get me wrong; my cousin Steven is not there. However, it is noticeable how the last year of lockdown has exacerbated some of his control

tendencies and challenged his meticulous nature. Aunt Irene is optimistically anticipating his return to campus and that the new normal resembles in some way the old normal.

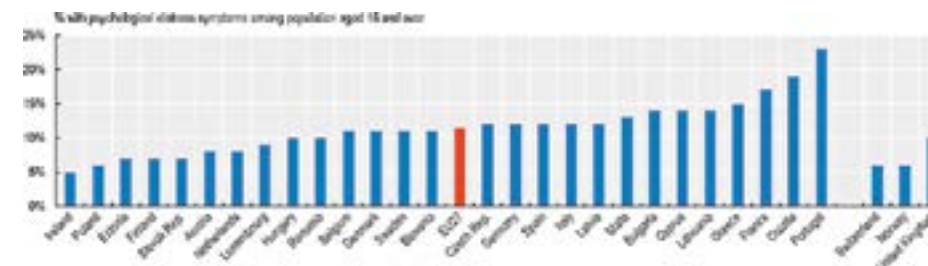
At least he can again interact with others who appreciate the mechanics of deformable soils and fracture mechanics. Aunt Irene is also old school and contributes most of Steven "in a funk" to the winter in Cleveland, especially since LeBron left. Aunt Irene likes the Cavs and has the ability to inject Ron Harper into any conversation.

After hanging up the phone with her, I began to appreciate the effect the last year has had on folks and began to ponder how a historical event like the Famine would have on individuals. There are quite a few books on Irish history that I have read and I struggle to recall discussions on mental health. Emile Durkheim's *Suicide: A Study in Sociology* and Louis Perez's *To Die in Cuba: Suicide and Society* is all that came to mind.

Durkheim was required reading for social sciences and Perez's work discussed how Cuban women, primarily, would publicly set themselves on fire. My interest was more in general mental health and the Famine.

Health at a Glance: Europe provided some data to juxtapose current and historical narratives. 2018 statistics, devoid of Covid influenced cases, places Ireland with the lowest percentage of psychological distress symptoms.

Prevalence of psychological distress symptoms, 2018



Not surprisingly, that refutes some "professional" opinions of the 19th Century. Those Irish immigrants admitted to asylum in Liverpool were ascribed with a variety of degenerate behaviors and hereditary peculiarities, including immorality, intemperance and violence. It was believed that these traits were denotable in the facial features of Irish patients.

Patrick Gibney in 1873 was "quite deformed and resembles more a monkey than a human being." Bridget Devaney in 1874 displayed a "head small and ill shaped with a forehead narrow" and perhaps more pertinent to her placement, the use of profanity "in her native and adopted tongue." Newspapers described the Irish as "wild Frankenstein's monsters" or "half-crazed Fenian monkeys."

The monumental migration of the Irish to England coincided with exceptionally high rates of institutionalization. Many were transferred from the workhouses and admitted in a poor state of physical health. In 1861, nearly nineteen percent of the population of Liverpool was Irish born, and they comprised half of the asylum population. As the influx of Famine immigrants lessened, the Irish percentage in the asylum did not.

19th century Newfoundland reported over forty percent of its asylum population as Irish born. Nova Scotia reported nineteen percent of its institutionalized population was Irish born, compared to three percent of its general population. New South Wales witnessed twenty-five of its patients as Irish born. In general, single males and females comprised about half the Irish admissions.

However, a greater comparative percentage were widows. Each context social bias had its role; the Irish were "degraded and had dirty habits." "The Irish peasant, in his native country, has a marked immunity from these fatal forms of brain disorders."

Those common comments denote the bias of the time and simultaneously illustrate the fact that the Irish immigrant was a foreigner. Cultural change despite a varying degree of familiarity caused stress.

It is the comparison of behaviors that denotes some as bizarre. It was not much better in Ireland under English rule. The Dangerous Lunatic

Act 1838 allowed person thought to be a danger to themselves or others committed to jail and/or the "lunatic asylum."

In America, the first study of "insanity" was in 1854 Massachusetts. Physicians reported, "one in ten are idiots or at least no better. Three fourths of the remaining Irish importations, are monomaniacs, being dupes of Catholic Priests."

That bias, in a more modern lexicon, continued 120 years later. Historians noted that psychiatric treatment rates of Irish Americans far exceed other ethnic groups. They concluded that was due to lack of social mobility. More recent scholarship shows this to be hokum.

There is more general scholarship on immigration, culture and mental health. It includes some of the bigger words I like to use and an adequate amount of over analysis. Those readings did not assist with the attempt to empathize with the mental aspects of Famine, both for those who remained in Ireland and those who migrated.

The bias of the time increases the difficulty of comprehension the singular issue. I do recall my great aunt Kay being called a "crazy Irish lady" and I did find another great aunt who was in the asylum in Pennsylvania for a few years. Sometimes anecdotal data is all you can trust.

In the end, Steven will return to analyzing statically determinate trusses and I will get my second shot. Then Aunt Irene and I can go back to sipping whiskey on the porch and critiquing my uncle, with a more compassionate lens as he curses the lawn. ♦

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 Blue-stone Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

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ILLUMINATIONS

By J. Michael Finn

The Mass Rock

In these times of Covid-19, things in Ireland are eerily similar to those of 17th century Ireland. Currently, the Covid Level 5 restrictions regarding religious activities in the Republic of Ireland are: Public worship is forbidden; religious services must be held online; only up to ten can attend funerals; only up to six people can attend a wedding; and baptisms can only be celebrated in exceptional circumstances, that is, if the person is in danger of death.

In March 2021, the Catholic bishops of Ireland appealed to the government of the Irish Republic to relax these restrictions, stating, "It is particularly painful for Christians to be deprived, of the public expression of our faith during the most sacred time of Holy Week and Easter. Consideration must be given to people's mental, spiritual and emotional wellbeing. For people of faith, gathering for worship is fundamental to their identity and to their spiritual lives."

On March 17, *Catholic Culture* Columnist Phil Lawler lamented, "Please, Irish readers, reassure me. Tell me that somewhere in the republic, stalwart priests are celebrating Mass, regardless of government restrictions. Tell me that loyal Catholics are gathering – perhaps at the "Mass rocks" where their ancestors celebrated the Eucharistic liturgy during an earlier era of repression. Tell me that the fire St. Patrick kindled has not burned out."

What are the Mass rocks referred to by Mr. Lawler? A Mass rock (in Irish: *Carraig an Aifrinn* pron: *karr-ig an af-rin*) is a flat rock or gathering of stones used as an altar in mid-17th century Ireland as a location for Catholic Mass.

Isolated and secret locations were required in those days to hold religious ceremonies, as celebrating Mass was a

matter of great danger. This was a result of both Oliver Cromwell's campaign against the Irish, and the Penal Law of 1695.

Bishops were banished from Ireland and priests had to register with the government under penalty of death. Priest hunters were employed to arrest, and often execute, the unregistered priests. Mass rocks were used in Ireland from 1536 to 1829.

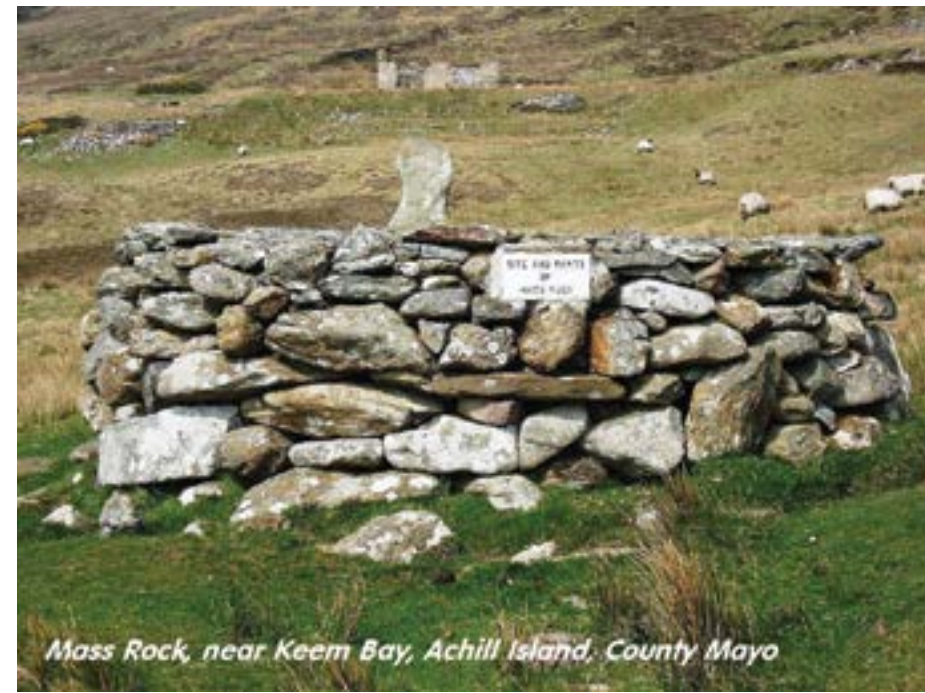
The English believed that the way to stamp out the Mass was to eliminate priests. But they soon found that these brave men, though imprisoned, starved, tortured and executed, were not so easily exterminated. When priests were barred from Ireland, they were forced to exile in Europe. Young men wanting to train for the priesthood attended seminaries in France, Italy, and Spain. These seminaries were specifically established to provide training for the persecuted Irish Catholics.

Showing great courage, these priests returned to Ireland knowing full well that their lives would be continually in grave danger. Back in Ireland, an underground network developed that supported the Catholic clergy. Many befriended the priests, hiding them in their homes and caring for their material needs. Through concealment and subterfuge, sacraments were offered in private houses.

Those who sheltered priests or provided their houses for Mass were liable to receive the death penalty. As the Catholic Encyclopedia states, "To such an extent was the persecution carried that Catholic churches were soon in ruins, a thousand priests driven into exile, and not a single bishop remained in Ireland." So, a more secret venue to allow larger groups to attend Mass was needed. Because Catholic religious worship was illegal, Masses were not scheduled, and parishioners would be obliged to spread the word of them by mouth.

Some of the Mass rock places may have also been used for patterns (patterns refers to the devotions that take place within a parish on the feast day of the patron saint of the parish). It is claimed that virtually every parish in Ireland had at least one Mass rock.

As one might expect, the locations of the Mass rocks varied greatly. Far from the main roads, some were hidden in the mountains, some in rough wooded



Mass Rock, near Keem Bay, Achill Island, County Mayo

glens, while others could be found in well-known landmarks like ruined forts. Many were near streams so footprints could not be traced.

These secret Mass sites were always subject to discovery. According to historian Seamus MacManus, "While the priest said Mass, faithful sentries

watched from the nearby hilltops to give timely warning of the approaching priest hunter and his guard of British soldiers. But sometimes the troops came on them unawares, and the Mass rock was splattered with his blood, and men, women and children caught in the crime of worshipping God among the

rocks were frequently slaughtered on the mountainside."

A traditional Irish hymn called "Were You at the Rock" speaks to the remoteness of the Mass as well as the need to "stay silent as the day" about the site of the Mass rock:

*Did you go then to the grey rocks,
And behind a wind-swept crevice there,
Did you find Our Mary gently waiting,
Our Lady, sweet and fair?
Did the sun shine gently round her,
Making gold darts through her hair?
And will you stay silent as the day
When the wind has left the air?*

By 1730, active persecution of Catholics tapered off and it became clear even to the most hardened Protestants that laws to prevent the growth of "Popery" had been a resounding failure. Catholic emancipation eventually came in 1829, and the faithful finally were allowed to use their Mass houses in peace.

Today, Dr. Hilary Bishop seeks Mass rocks in order to document their existence before the knowledge of their locations is lost. She has been adding to the existing records by finding and pho-

tographing Mass rocks. This is no easy feat, given that they are usually hidden from sight and often difficult to find. Bishop runs a website, www.findamass-rock.com, enabling members of the public to share or request information about Mass rocks. She records GPS co-ordinates, but doesn't publish them if they refer to private land.

In these times, let us hope that the Irish Government listens to the Irish bishop's request and relaxes the Covid rules regarding in person religious services; otherwise a return to the Mass rocks may be necessary. ♦

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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23 writers from Northeast Ohio's Irish community and Beyond the Pale.

OHIO IRISH AMERICAN NEWS

Happy Mother's Day!



Ireland's EV Imperative

In the early 1900s, before the advent of the age of the automobile, a walk down the street of any major city could be a very unpleasant experience. Horse and ox manure was everywhere, puddles were not just water providing an unwanted fragrance to the air. Many times an over-worked or sickly animal that expired would be left in the street where it died, sometimes for days before it would be removed.

It's no wonder the automobile was heralded as the answer to city pollution. As the population and nation's economies grew so did the number of autos. Today there are over a billion on the roads worldwide.

Ninety-seven percent of all the scientists in the world agree that our climate is changing as a result of human activity. Alexander Von Humboldt warned of man's impact on the environment as early as 1798; he could not have envisioned the effects of the fossil fuel age in manufacturing and transportation.

In 2019, fifty-one billion tons of greenhouse gases were released into the atmosphere. 2020 is estimated to be about the same, even with a global pandemic restricting manufacturing and transportation.

Worldwide, transportation is not the number one cause of emissions, although it is in America, just ahead of producing electricity. In the U.S. and some of the other advanced economic nations in the world, our carbon footprint has stagnated or even decreased. Almost all growth in emissions comes from developing countries.

But climate change is a global crisis requiring a global solution. Recall that old Irish saying, "We live in the shadow

of one another?"

Transitioning to electric powered vehicles is not the complete answer in reducing carbon emissions. Transportation accounts for 17% of carbon emissions, manufacturing and producing electricity are higher contributors. Of transportation emissions, 47% comes from automobiles, SUV's and motorcycles.

In the U.S., the trucking and delivery industry is making a large investment in electric vehicles. Amazon, FedEx, DHL and even the U.S. Postal Service are already purchasing EV's as replacements are needed in their fleets of vehicles. Every major automotive manufacturer has begun to phase out the development of fossil fuel powered vehicles. All are anticipating a shift in the methods used to produce electricity.

Currently, two-thirds of the power used to generate electricity comes from fossil fuels: oil, coal and natural gas, with hydropower, nuclear and renewables making up the rest. When zero carbon sources of electricity are available, EV's will be a logical choice for anyone simply from an economic perspective.

If you've ever been to London or watched movies set there, you're probably familiar with the iconic black taxis there. They're based on the Austin FX3 from the 1950s, the high ceiling in the interior tall enough to accommodate a gentleman's top hat.

For nearly fifty years, the purpose built taxi was manufactured by The London Taxi Co. In 2018, the company was purchased by automotive giant Geely, a Chinese manufacturer. They purchased Volvo in 2010; Lotus in 2017; and almost 10% of Daimler, the company that manufactures Mercedes Benz, in 2018.

They rebranded The London Taxi Co. as The London Electric Vehicle Company. They are the only taxi that meets London's new clean air regulations requiring newly licensed taxis to be able to drive thirty miles without releasing any pollutants. Across Europe there are more than two-hundred low emission zones that levy charges on heavily polluting vehicles or outright bans them from certain areas.

In China, economic growth has enabled more consumers to purchase vehicles, increasing emissions in the very industrial country. The government

is subsidizing electric vehicle growth in a number of ways. A license for a fossil fuel powered vehicle can cost as much as \$10,000, for an EV, they give it to you. Policies to encourage businesses and developers to include charging stations in real estate development and existing factories and shopping centers have been implemented.

The goal is to have 40% of all vehicle sales to be EV's by 2030; this will bring production costs for EV's and EV batteries down worldwide. The benefits for air pollution, human health, climate change and national security are likely to be substantial enough to offset the projected transition cost of 0.1% of the nation's gross domestic product every year.

Ireland is the ideal climate, terrain, and size to become a leader in EV's. The national imperative is to limit sales of new vehicles to electric by 2030. Last year, although a poor one for auto sales, electric vehicle purchases rose, slightly over 4,000. Over half of them were in Co. Dublin.

The EV infrastructure is not as established away from Dublin. Cork, as an example, had the second highest EV sales, with 388. Investment is determined by averages and is directly affected by Dublin's population density.

Rural counties in the rest of Ireland are progressing, and options for charging are being developed. Most people will continue to do the majority of their charging at home, where it is the least costly and the most convenient, provided there is access to power and parking, fairly simple if you have a home with a drive or off-street parking. Other options evolving include charging at the workplace or destinations such as supermarkets or hotels.

ESB e cars, based in Dublin, has been replacing existing standard AC chargers with DC fast chargers in towns across Ireland. They have installed new rapid charging stations in Sligo, Tullamore, Clonmel, Drogheda, Ballina, Clifden, Tralee and other areas. These are pay to use, and the company considers all requests for installation whenever a business case can be made.

One of the biggest concerns expressed

about EV's, aside from power from dirty electricity, is the range of the vehicles. The reality is very few people need to be concerned.

According to The Central Statistics Office, the average journey is 13.7 km (about 8.5 miles). In Dublin it is lower, just 9.5 km.

A KIA e-Niro has a range of 420km (261 miles) on a full charge, and as batteries and EV technology increases, so will range. Scientists are experimenting with sodium based batteries, which could be more eco-friendly. Battery cost has seen an 87% decrease since 2010, due technological advances and demand.

One last note, as I was researching alternative fuel sources for automotive use, I came across this statement on biofuels in a book by Howard J. Herzog entitled, *Carbon Capture*. "Because it is energy intensive to grow and process the corn used for biofuel under the US Ethanol Program, the biomass has a large carbon footprint. Many studies show adding corn ethanol to gasoline results in very little, if any carbon reductions."

As travel opens up, I'm looking forward to my next trip and drive along the Wild Atlantic Way in my own rented EV. ♦

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

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Photo courtesy: chargemap.com



Charging station in Sligo



Dancing in the Moonlight

The first time that I heard a *Thin Lizzy* song, it stopped me in my teenage tracks. The guitar riffs and lyrics combined in pure rock and roll swagger that it still has today. "The Boys are Back in Town" is a bona fide classic to the extent that it is a mandatory tune for boys making an entrance, even if those boys weren't even a bad thought when the song was released in 1976.

It's one of those songs that envelops everything in cool, at least for three minutes and twenty-two seconds. The only thing that could be cooler than the song is the band that brought that song into being, Thin Lizzy, led by Phil Lynott. It was a surprise to me that they were Irish. This was pre-U2, and Ireland was all about traditional music and showbands, especially outside Dublin. For Ireland's first big rock group to have a black lead singer was another surprise, flying in the face of all the silly Irish stereotypes. That was part of the point; the lead singer, Phil Lynott, was used to being the odd man out.

Phil was born to Philomena Lynott October 22, 1949. Being born to a single Irish mother and a black Caribbean father in Manchester in 1949 was no small thing. In that society, those factors were two strikes against them all. Philomena was a Bohemian spirit well ahead of her time. His father was more of an artistic dandy and was not long on the scene.

Philomena tried to raise her first born son but could not manage it alone. So, Phil was sent to live with what became his mother in practice, his grandmother, Sarah. The Lynott's lived in one of the tougher neighborhoods of Dublin, Crumlin. He grew



Phil Lynott

up adoring his grandmother.

Phil was a mediocre student but always had an interest in poetry and music. The black people that were in Ireland at the time were primarily students studying at Trinity College in Dublin. He later said that the students in his school were very naïve about black people and were more curious about him and his hair than anything else.

He did run into some prejudice and name calling, but not as much as he may have encountered in other places. What he did was take his difference and make it an asset.

It did not hurt him at all that he was attractive and cultivated a different, arty look. People just assumed that he could sing. In that area, he disappointed some, he was no Smokey Robinson, but he developed his own distinctive style over time.

As he grew into his teenage years, Phil's interest in music and girls grew simultaneously. Before he turned

twenty, he had been in several bands, beginning with one called the Black Eagles. By the time that Thin Lizzy came into being, he had established a few patterns that he never really broke. There were always alcohol fueled complications with girls and bandmates that ended with somebody walking out.

The band walkouts and reunions alone are the stuff that could rival any daytime TV plotline. Guitar players came and went and came back and went again in that band. The two founding members of Thin Lizzy, Phil and former Crumlin neighbor, drummer Brian Downey, had a work ethic and dedication to success for their band that put everything else second. Rather than really being abusive, it seems like there were not too many musicians who could keep pace with their drive.

The style of Thin Lizzy would be classed as hard-edged rock and roll, more bluesy than a lot of the flowery indulgence of the seventies. The lack of flowery pretense was also part of the bands visual appeal.

Phil Lynott looked great on stage and he commanded it. He was a combination of street tough and gypsy. Their songs were economical and full of punch, there were no epics. Thin Lizzy seemed much more working class and everyman than their contemporaries.

The metaphors of Phil Lynott's lyrics represented a different kind of heroism too. The heroes and imagery that Phil drew upon were Celtic legends and the American television hero cowboys and anti-heroes. "The Boys are Back in Town" has American roots. Phil also had a strong interest in Irish mythology and traditional music.

Both of those themes showed up repeatedly in the music of Thin Lizzy. Their first hit, a rendition of "Whiskey in the Jar," is the first rock and roll version of an Irish traditional ballad that I know of, and plenty have come along since. Thin Lizzy opened the traditional music genre to reinterpretation for all the Irish bands that have followed, like The Pogues.

Lynott was a man of contradiction. Despite a kind of hard-edge ap-

pearance, he brought contemporary vulnerability to his music too. One of my favorite Thin Lizzy songs is "Dancing in the Moonlight", there is something so Irish and sweet in the lyrics of that song, where he sings about going on a date, getting chocolate on his pants at the movies and staying out too late.

It displays the charm that everyone said that he had in buckets. Musically, it has a kind of doowop, pop flavor, including a saxophone solo, was not the norm at all. His song writing deepened and matured; his interest in poetry and writing became more evident; some of the lyrics that look very simple have another dimension, a timeless quality, when you take a critical look. A different example of his maturity as a song writer is the lovely ballad that he wrote for his daughter, "Sarah", who was named for his beloved grandmother.

There is a joke that goes, "Why did God invent whisky?" and the answer is, "To keep the Irish from ruling the world." It applies to Phil Lynott. He died on January 4, 1986 at the ripe old age of thirty-five. His death was not directly from the abuse that he gave his body, but the after affects, pneumonia and heart failure. In 2005, a statue was officially dedicated to him. The ceremony was attended by his mother Philomena, and his former bandmates. That his statue stands outside of a bar, the Bruxelles Pub in Dublin, feels like a memorial and a warning combined. I would have loved to see what he did next. ♦

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. Please send any Akron events to my email!

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By Megan Lardie

KIDS CRAIC

Happy Mother's Day

Mother's Day, as we know it, began very differently. In Ireland, it began as Mothering Sunday, which was a Sunday in Lent that you would go to visit your "mother" church; the church you were baptized in, or the church you grew up attending. Sometimes children would pick flowers on the way and give them to their mom when they got to church. This then turned into gift giving.

In the United States, the idea of Mother's Day began as a day to celebrate peace and motherhood after all the lives lost in the Civil War. It was not until May 9, 1914 that President Woodrow Wilson declared the 2nd Sunday of May to be officially observed as Mother's Day in the United States.

Mother's Day is celebrated all over the world. Many people celebrate

all the mother figures in their lives, such as grandmothers, godmothers, aunts, and stepmothers. Some of the traditions in the United States include giving gifts, making breakfast in bed, making dinner, or doing extra chores around the house. Whatever you and your family do for Mother's Day, make sure you tell your mom or special woman in your life how much you appreciate all they do for you! If it were not for them, you would not be where you are today!

In the English language, there are forty-eight words that contain the word "mother!" Some are great, like, "motherhood" and "motherly." Some are not so great, like "smother." The word "mother lode" dates back to the 19th century and relates to how much love a mother gives! How many can you come up with?

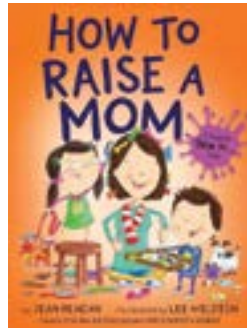
Literature Corner

Ever feel like everyone wants you to act older and more mature, but then you still get treated like a baby? Ever feel like no one likes you and you would be happier if you ran away from home? Find out what Ramona's mother tells her when she finds Ramona packing her suitcase!



Ramona and her Mother (Part 1)
- Best with Headphones! - YouTube
Ramona and her Mother (Part 2)
- Best with Headphones! - YouTube
These two siblings offer the best ways to raise a happy mom! Their

plan includes lots of play dates and lots of veggies!
How to Raise A Mom Read Aloud | Books Read Aloud | Kids Books | Mother's Day - YouTube



Gab in Gaelic

There's nothing like a mother's love = 's bláth anail na máthar

Breakfast Sundaes

This recipe for breakfast sundaes is waffle cone cups layered with fresh fruit, Cheerios cereal and yogurt, then finished off with an array of fun toppings. A fun way to make breakfast special! You could even make them for Mom on Mother's Day!

Prep Time: 5 minutes
Cook Time: 1 minute
Total Time: 6 minutes

Ingredients

- 4 waffle cone bowls
- 1/2 cup chopped fruit (strawberries, blueberries, banana, or any fruit you like)
- 2 cups Greek yogurt (vanilla works best)
- 3/4 cup Cheerios cereal divided use or any cereal you like
- 1 tablespoon sprinkles
- 1 tablespoon mini chocolate chips
- 1 tablespoon sliced almonds
- 4 strawberry halves for garnish

Instructions

- Divide the chopped fruit evenly among the bottoms of the waffle bowls. Top the fruit with 2 tablespoons of Cheerios™ and then add 1/2 cup of Greek yogurt over the cereal.
- Sprinkle the remaining Cheerios™, mini chocolate chips, almonds, and sprinkles over the tops of each waffle bowl.
- Garnish each bowl with a strawberry half and serve immediately.



JOKES

Q: What time is it when you are on a trampoline in May?
A: Spring-time.

Q. When you look for something, why is it always in the last place you look?
A: Because when you find it, you stop looking. (Or it's the 1st place Mom looks for it!!!!)

Megan is a Reading Intervention educator at Andrew J. Rickoff Elementary in the Cleveland Municipal School District. She holds a BA in Humanities from Hiram College and a BA+ in Early Childhood Education from Ashland University. She resides in Avon Lake with her husband, Joe, and their five children. Megan enjoys being part of the Brady Campbell Adult Ceili team, trying new restaurants, and traveling. She may be reached at meganlardie126@outlook.com

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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. One winner in each age group. Participant must color page without assistance. Participant may use crayons, markers, or paint. *Use your imagination!* Coloring page is also printable from: www.OhioIANews.com

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.

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Bringing you the movers, shakers and music makers in our community each month.

- 4th - Irish Songs, Stories & Shenanigans Podcast 31 drops at 5pm. Listen anytime at or after, forever. It's free: Signup below.
- 6th - D-Day Shamrock Club of Columbus General Meeting
- 7th - #OhioIANews eBulletin drops in your inbox at 3:10 p.m. Signup info below.
- 8th - Irish American Club East Side (IACES) Monthly Meeting
- 14th - Flag Day
- 17th - West Side Irish American Club (WSIA) Monthly Meeting

- 18th - Irish Songs, Stories & Shenanigans Podcast 31 drops at 5pm. Listen anytime at or after, forever. It's free: Signup below.
- 20th - Father's Day / Summer Begins
- 21st - #OhioIANews eBulletin drops in your inbox at 3:10 p.m. Signup info below
- 25th - Ancient Order of Hibernians/ ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians National Convention, Westlake, Ohio.
- 30th - July Issues arrives

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OFF THE SHELF

By Terry Kenneally

@TerryKenneally

SNOW

By John Banville

Hanover Square Press ISBN-13:978-1-335-23000-3 2020 299 PP

Banville is a prizewinning literary novelist, but he is also a critic, former literary editor of The Irish Times, playwright, screenwriter and developer of a TV series. He has been compared to the English novelist Graham Greene, famous for his "entertainments." Banville's contribution to that genre is a series of detective novels written under his nom de plume, Benjamin Black, featuring Dublin pathologist Garret Quirk, which has been successfully adapted for television.

Snow is a classic policier in the Benjamin Black mode that features a young Irish detective called St. John (pronounced "Sinjun") Strafford. Set in 1950s Ireland, it starts out with the murder of a priest in a country house in Wexford. Detective Strafford is sent from Dublin to investigate. He finds a host of suspects including the mem-

bers of the Osborne family (4) and their staff, who were all in the house the night of the murder. One detail of the murder which draws his immediate attention is the fact that the priest has been expertly castrated.

As Strafford attempts to find the person responsible for the priest's demise, he unearths secrets about the Osbourne's and the dark undercurrents in 1950s Irish society. The Osbourne's are Anglo-Irish Protestant landowners who trace their arrival in Ireland back to the time of Oliver Cromwell. They are a stark contrast (5%) to the overwhelming Catholic population in Ireland.

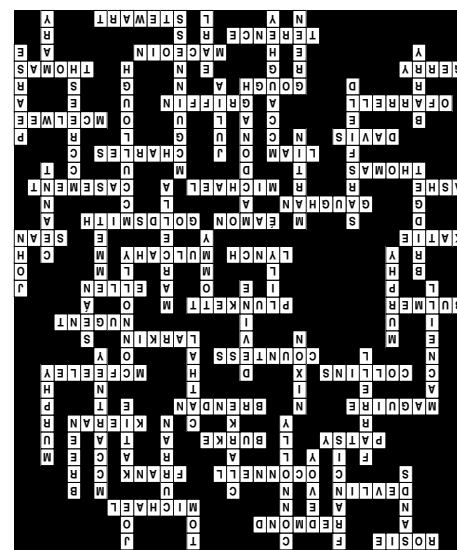
What distinguishes Strafford from almost all of his colleagues in the Garda, the Irish police force, is that he is likewise a Protestant. Strafford confuses the Osbourne's by being one of them, yet potentially, their enemy. The family is bizarre and riven with mutual antagonisms. Each member has personality traits which make them prime suspects.

The plot thickens, and it keeps the reader guessing. The title of the book is reflected in the weather, which seems to permeate every page. Reminds me of Joyce's novella, "The Dead," with concluding lines, "Snow was general all over Ireland..." Banville has once again written a TOP SHELF book which will capture the reader's interest. ♦



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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

By Linda Fulton Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Rosanna '_____' Hackett
- 7 John _____
- 9 _____ Davitt
- 11 Josephine Bernadette McAliskey (née _____)
- 15 Daniel _____
- 16 _____ Stagg
- 20 _____ O'Hara
- 21 Edmund _____
- 23 _____ Doherty
- 24 Frank _____
- 26 _____ Hughes
- 27 Michael _____
- 29 Tom _____
- 31 _____ Josephine Plunkett
- 33 James _____
- 35 Kieran _____
- 36 _____ Hobson
- 37 Joseph _____
- 41 _____ 'Nellie' Gifford Donnolly
- 45 Kevin _____
- 46 Richard _____
- 48 _____ Byrne
- 49 _____ McKenn
- 52 _____ de Valera
- 54 Oliver _____
- 56 Michael _____
- 57 Thomas _____
- 58 _____ Fitzgerald
- 59 Roger _____
- 61 _____ Burke
- 63 _____ Lynch
- 66 _____ Lucas
- 67 Thomas Osborne _____
- 70 Thomas _____
- 71 Elizabeth _____
- 72 Gerald _____
- 73 Bridget _____
- 74 _____ Adams
- 76 _____ Moore
- 78 Sean _____
- 79 _____ MacSwiney
- 80 Charles _____ Parnell

DOWN

- 2 Bobby _____
- 3 _____ Hughes
- 4 James _____
- 5 _____ Barry
- 6 _____ McDonnell
- 8 John _____
- 10 John Philpot _____
- 12 Tom _____
- 13 Raymond _____
- 14 Dan _____

Patriots of Ireland

Linda Fulton Burke

- 17 _____ Barrett Connolly
- 18 Mairéad _____
- 19 Bridget Brady _____
- 22 _____ Brugha
- 24 Eoin _____
- 25 John _____
- 28 Michael _____
- 30 James _____
- 32 Joe _____
- 34 _____ Mac Diarmada
- 38 _____ Kempson

- 39 _____ McKearney
- 40 _____ Cosgrave
- 42 Robert _____
- 43 _____ McDonald
- 44 _____ 'Breedid' Foley Martin
- 47 Eamonn _____
- 50 Patrick _____
- 51 _____ Hurson,
- 53 Thomas _____
- 55 Denis _____
- 60 Raymond _____
- 62 Martin _____

- 64 Seán _____
- 65 _____ 'Sheila' Grenan
- 68 Patrick _____
- 69 Denny _____
- 73 Leo _____
- 75 _____ of Lucan
- 77 _____ Gahann O'Carroll

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