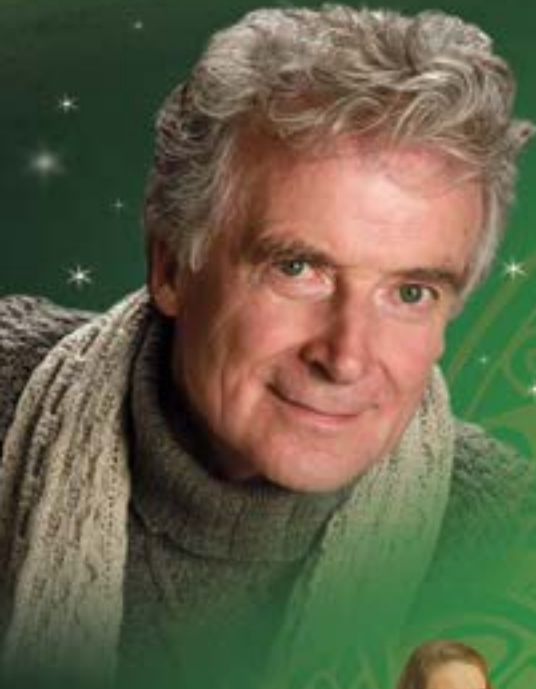


DECEMBER 2021 • VOLUME 15 - ISSUE 12

iIrish

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Tom & seen Foley's

A Celtic Christmas

25 years of music, dance and storytelling from Ireland - back in Ohio December 5th!

SHOW PROGRAM INSIDE



Savory Season

I've got crystal on my mind. I know Waterford Crystal has seen its day as a viable entity, I didn't have anywhere near enough time to collect; but I made the fatal mistake of thinking, I had time.

But the beauty, the perseverance, time past, present and future stick with me when I look at Waterford Crystal. Crystal is the symbol for the 15th Anniversary.

That usually refers to a wedding anniversary, but I like all that beauty, promise and perseverance for iIrish's 15th Anniversary too.

This is our 180th issue, the end of our 15th year. 180 issues show an ever evolving newsmagazine, and time,

that marches on.

I indulge once in a while in looking at all the covers; some of the stories come back at me in Facebook remembrances or conversations with folks previously written on, or unfortunately, when we send another guardian angel home to watch over us.

We are just off of Thanksgiving, and gratitude, and the celebration of culture, family and faith is just in front of us; gratitude seeps through all, the foundation and the quilt that wraps our life.

Onward Christian soldier ...

We wish to extend our condolences to Speak Irish and Cleveland Comhrá columnist Bob Carney, and Mary, Bob's wife. One of the loves of their lives, Irish wolfhound Morri-gán passed away last month, not too long after losing wolfhound Cian. I know how much you loved him, and since you shared all the dogs with our world so often at festivals, gatherings,



book signings and sports events, we all feel that loss too. Big hugs Bob and Mary.

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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SHAMROCK PIN

The 2022 Shamrock Pin is a special design as we incorporate the past three years into one unified symbol to commemorate the return of the Parade to the Avenue! The 2022 Shamrock Pin is a tri-color design with the years "20" and "21" in gold lettering inside the green and orange leaves of the shamrock; and the year "22" in green lettering outlined in gold in the white leaf of the shamrock. The pin is slightly different than past years, but we hope you like it and add it to your collection!

Order Online and designate the Parade Committee member/organization from whom you normally get your Shamrock Pins from!

www.stpatricksdaycleveland.com/p/2022-online-orders.html



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About Our Cover:

Tomaseen Foley's A Celtic Christmas Returns for its 26th Year!

Depublican and Remocrats

By Sheldon Firem

Identical twins separated at birth, conceived of a partisan passion, born of a mother's shame and a father's guilt, suckled on the teats of power and raised on the fruits of undisclosed financial contributions. Identical twins assuredly but politically a Cain and Abel, each alternately committing fratricide between election cycles.

Superficially, Depublicans and Remocrats appear ideologically dissimilar, but their genetic inheritance, their DNA, drives them down parallel paths. Explanations are needed.

In the beginning, the deity of 1776 created America; the English Crown was the satanic anti-deity; forces of good and evil waged a Continental War and royalty succumbed to democracy. The Constitution and Bill of Rights were birthed. The signer-midwives sallied forth to their home states anticipating national unity.

Alas, America incubated home-made divisive political devils, tempting America to taste the fruits of Republicanism (Jefferson) or Federalism (Hamilton). The concept of political parties was roundly rebuked by the 'Father of Our Country':

"It serves always to distract the public councils and enfeeble the public administration. It agitates the community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms, kindles the animosity of one part against another, fomenting occasionally riot and insurrection. It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption, which finds a facilitated access to the government itself through the channels of party passions. Thus, the policy and the will of one country are subjected to the policy and will of another."

George Washington's words resonate loudly: civil agitation, false alarms, animosity, party passions and insurrection. Nonetheless, Jefferson and Hamilton rebelled and fathered the Democratic-Republican Party and the Federalist Party.

The reader may assert, "You have proven that political parties have differing principles!"

Superficially this is correct, but political principles are shifting sands; the in-born drive for power, monetary gain, political revenge and influence comprise the bedrock of political am-

bition. Principles subordinate to power. Rationale?

1. The Democrats of 1860 were not the Democrats of 1964. Prior to the Civil War, Democrats were not averse to slavery, allowing slave states into the Union, choosing Stephen Douglas and John Breckenridge, Southerners, as their standard-bearers. Today Democrats seek to expand election access.
2. The Republicans of 1860 chose Abraham Lincoln as their standard-bearer, ultimately abolishing slavery and enfranchising the ex-slave. The first black Federal Congressmen were Republican. Today Republicans seek to place limits on election access.
3. Today, conservative Reagan principles have been abandoned for nativist Trump principles. Today, Theodore Roosevelt's anti-trust principles have been abandoned for "Wall Street Democrat" principles.

Party principles mutate unrecognizably, demonstrating that principles are sand and the desire for power is bedrock. Principles are useful only if they can be used to advance the party's existential future.

What is the genetic bedrock of the Depublicans and Remocrats? These identical twins covet power, monetary gain, political revenge and influence. Their shared DNA compels them to practice identical governing and electoral mischief with Machiavellian precision.

DEPUBLICANS AND REMOCRATS:

- Exist to win elections; self-preservation supersedes national priorities.
- Eagerly solicit dark-money campaign contributions from corporations and the wealthy.
- Sanctify their candidates and demonize the opposition in ubiquitous ads that take the Ninth Commandment to task. Any label will do: 'Nazi', 'traitor', 'socialist'.
- Utilize procedural rules to stymie the opposition's legislation.
- Promote 'talking points' for their members so the 'party-line' is of a whole, ambiguous cloth, 'pivoting' when cornered with a direct

- question.
 - Fund raise full time, legislate part-time.
 - Decry the political silos while building political silos.
 - Facetime more with lobbyists than faceless citizens.
 - Manipulate and deprecate the press.
- Individual Depublicans or Remocrats may demonstrate a responsible allegiance to country and citizenry, but the political party, that self-replicating, Covid-like organism, follows its genetic imperative by mutating its political principles to survive the cleansing

sunshine and scrutiny of the American citizen. Representative democracy can never be fully immunized against that strained mutation. To cleanse our political palette, I offer Mark Twain on principles: "Although we were organized for a principle, we didn't care much about that. Principles aren't of much account anyway, except at election time. After that you hang them up to let them season." ♦

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Writer-Researcher based in Cleveland looking for information on the Martin B. Daly family, particularly eldest daughter Kathleen, who married baseball player Ray Chapman in 1919.

Mr. Daley was President of East Ohio Gas Company 1906-1926 and the family (five children) lived at 13573 Euclid Avenue through 1950.

Please contact Scott Longert at 216-464-4682 or e-mail spencer666@roadrunner.com





An Seomra Suí

By Margaret Gralinski

I wish to stare at the weeping willow out the wide front window with its long, slender branches sweeping the ground as it sighs and sways in the wind that could cut you, in the somehow sunny rain.

Warm *cupán tae* in hand, feeling the coolness of the pale tile through the soles of my bare feet whispering all the way up my spine.

I can just see Mickey hurling a pair of thick socks at me from the hidden cabinet behind the sofa and rumbling on about me catching my death.

It is his own aggressive, grandfatherly way of showing affection.

I long to hear the stove whirring to life after its soot and ash have been stirred and last night's rubbish has been thrown in and ignited.

The two beaten, brown leather couches have this reddish hue in the sunlight. The permanent imprint of many arses gone by only adds to their character. I could lay down for hours, out cold, dead to the world.

Here exists a comfortable contradiction, for it is both rough and warm, like the wool of the Aran sweater that Granny knitted in the height of summer

on those nights when it was still bright out at nine in her burgundy Queen's chair by the stove.

The air always smells of fresh bread, but also cigarettes, Marlboro's to be exact, the gold kind, though Granny banned smoking in the house years ago. The scent clings deeper than the tacky floral wallpaper that has been replaced more than once with even tackier versions.

It digs in, and it feels homely.

Sometimes I'll catch the smell as I pass someone on the street or while riding in an elevator. I inhale it deeply, and I am pulled right back *go dtí an seomra suí.*

Ón t-údar:

Dia dhaoibh!

Maggie is ainm dom. Is as Scranton, Pennsylvania mé. Tá mé fiche bliain d'aois.

I [Maggie] am currently an undergraduate student at the University of Pittsburgh, majoring in Biology and minoring in Chemistry, Latin, and Gaelige. My favorite part of my journey as a Pitt student has been studying Gaelige. Growing up, my cousins in Ireland studied Gaelige in school, as did my mother and her siblings before them, and I always wanted to learn. I never thought that I would have the opportunity, so I was shocked when I came to Pitt and learned about the minor offered here. I am now in my fifth semester of Gaelige at Pitt, and although my Irish family thinks I am a bit mad, I have loved every second."

At Pitt, I am an t-uachtarán of the Irish Culture Club. We meet monthly to share in our love of all things Irish. It is a way for us to feel more connected to our roots. As a club, we try to hold a pop-up Gaeltacht once a semester for na Gaeilgeoiri and the students of Gaelige in the Pittsburgh community. I always leave the pop-ups having learned new phrases and words to add to mo fhoclóir. I also am on the board for the Irish dance club at Pitt. Our offi-



Margaret Gralinski

cial club's name is Rince na gCathrach Cruach (Steel City Dance). I have tried to incorporate as much Gaelige into our activities and promotions as possible to strengthen the dance club's connection to Ireland and Irish culture.

When I began to write this poem at the height of the pandemic, I was missing my family in Ireland desperately. I longed for that feeling of home. With my mother being the only member of her family in the States, it has been difficult seeing life go on over there through our phone screens. Missing out on big events like new babies, baptisms, and weddings, things that we would not dream of missing before, only strengthens this longing. ♦

Ní féidir liom a fhanacht ar an lá go mbeidh muid uile le chéile arís. (I can't wait for the day that we will all be together again)

Go dtí sin, sláinte agus fad saoil! (Until then, health and longevity!)

Go raibh míle maith agaibh! (Thank you) Maggie

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Christmas Past

"He attended for his ancestors who practiced their faith in secret or in the back of a pub when a priest's head was worth a reward"

My grandfather John Francis passed on April 13th, 1976. He was the second of the family born in the United States. Margaret Frances was the first born in 1906. The oldest were the twins, James and Joseph, both born in Ireland in 1903.

James passed away in 1918. JF moved to Cleveland in 1940 after the passing of his mother, Margaret Farley, in 1939.

After JF's passing, we would make our way to my Aunt Irene's house for Christmas. Aunt Irene's house was bigger, we could still walk there from my grandma's and she would be a guest, not a host. That Santa fellow would travel the world giving out presents, but our Christmas was limited to five city blocks.

CHRISTMAS EVE

We would get to Aunt Irene's on Christmas Eve by lunch. Our family was not blessed with the gift of punctuality, but we could be on time for events that required our presence to commence. Lunch was always the same lunch. Cold cuts with Ball Park Mustard, Dan Dee pretzels and pickles. The rest of the day would depend on the weather.

No later than the second week of December, we would start praying for snow. If those prayers were answered, we went sledding and would return to Aunt Irene's to get our hot chocolate. It was then that I learned liquids can warm your soul. My uncle was also warming his soul, but with something that was not hot nor chocolate.

Aunt Irene would leave a few ornaments for us to hang and then we had Shepherd's pie for dinner. I always preferred that meal to Christmas dinner, but all I had to do was eat. We would

then make the pilgrimage to Nela Park to see the Christmas lights.

My uncle was not afraid of beer with his Shepherd's pie. He worked in concrete, which was odd for an Irish guy, in a day when the men who labored still wore shirts with buttons and a cap. He wasn't in Lunch Atop a Skyscraper but he would have been the guy on the right with the empty bottle.

Aunt Irene knew he was having a drink. She would have one or two herself. It was Christmas and it wasn't that he drank too often or that he drank too much. It was only an issue when he drank too much too often. His responsibility was to go to Midnight Mass, which was prerequisite to his real responsibility, making breakfast Christmas morning. However that arrangement came to be, I will never know.

My uncle attended Mass every Sunday. He attended for his ancestors who practiced their faith in secret or in the back of a pub when a priest's head was worth a reward and Irish Catholics had no legal status. A good homily was a plus and Mass was always followed with a stint at the bar. On occasion he would partake in a game of chance.

He was a veteran of the pint and the quart and he knew how to mind himself. Yet, every few moons when he took a drink and the drink took him, he always made it to Midnight Mass and then to the bar for a brief stint. When we were younger we paid it no mind; sugar-plums were dancing in our heads.

CHRISTMAS FIRST

On my Christmas first, it was determined I was old enough to attend Midnight Mass with my uncle and be a deterrent for the stint at the bar. First Midnight Mass, first 7&7 and first time driving a Buick, or anything else for that matter.

I guess the 7&7 made sense, because I had just turned fourteen. The Buick was green with a green interior at a time when everyone in my family who had a home used green and white paint.

The Buick had a metal bumper which was reassuring on my maiden voyage. My uncle handed me the keys and said, "Avoid the cars that aren't moving."

Away we went. The Buick's green carpet was thick and proved to be adsorbing. I know this because my uncle always took one for the road. The one that night found more of the carpet than his gullet.

Not exactly the "angels' share," but I was praying to get home. That was a long five blocks.

CHRISTMAS SPIRITS

We both overslept Christmas morning. Aunt Irene woke us before heading out to Christmas Mass. There was no time to scold us or for us to make an elaborate feast for breakfast. My uncle and I returned to the Buick and set off to get donuts and coffee cake. Aunt Irene loves coffee cake.

It is when I sat in the Buick that I came to realize how much whiskey was lost to the green carpet. The smell made you not want to breathe so much. My uncle was keenly aware of this as the amount of whiskey that made it to his lips was still ample.

My uncle cracked his window slightly and commanded that I do the same. He was still in the Christmas spirit and began to confess to what he considered his misdeeds, including my driving home. He pulled out his flask with his right hand and took a morning cap.

I thought of Matthew 6:3, because his left hand was on the steering wheel. The baker lived above the bakery and we bought every donut in the place. Didn't forget the coffee cake either.

Our efficiency surprised both of us. So did the owner of the bar walking into the bakery. My uncle bid him good morning and asked if he had found his

scarf from night before. It had not been found, nor reported missing before that encounter.

It was decided to return to the bar to search for the scarf, since apparently my uncle's Ma gave him the scarf. On the two-block drive back to the bar, I could not recall my Uncle every wearing a scarf the night before. I also determined that I detest the smell of cold whiskey in the air.

We could not find his scarf, or any scarf for that matter. We did find time for a drink. That was the first time I had my whiskey neat. Then my Uncle traded two of the four bags of doughnuts for a bottle of Baileys. Aunt Irene likes Baileys with her coffee cake. ♦

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 the founder of Bluestone Hibernian Charities. Francis is a past president of the Irish American Club East Side. He is the founder and past president of the Bluestone Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

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ON THIS DAY IN IRISH HISTORY DECEMBER

- 4 December 2009** - Death of Liam Clancy, the last surviving member of The Clancy Brothers.
- 8 December 1867** - In Dublin, c. 60,000 attended a public funeral procession in honor of the Manchester Martyrs.
- 8 December 1939** - James Galway, the man with the golden flute, died. He was born in North Belfast, the son of a shipyard worker.
- 14 December 1900** - Maud Gonne and Paul Kruger (former president of the Transvaal) are offered the "Freedom of Limerick" by the city council.
- 20 December 1909** - The first Irish cinema, The Volta, is opened in December under the management of James Joyce.
- 21 December 1917** - Heinrich Boll, author of Irish Journal (1957) and Nobel Laureate (1972) was born in Cologne.
- 22 December 1989** - Death of Samuel Beckett, playwright and the 1969 winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- 27 December 1997** - Billy Wright (36) notorious leader of Loyalist Volunteers Force, was assassinated in the Maze Prison by the INLA.
- 31 December 2009** - Death of Cardinal Cahal Daly, Catholic Primate of all Ireland from 1990 until 1996.

WEST SIDE IRISH AMERICAN CLUB

6th – Celtic Angels Christmas Concert 216-375-2890

8th – Forever Young Christmas Luncheon 440-235-4164

16th – General Meeting 7:00PM

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Serendipities

"Shallow men believe in luck or in circumstance. Strong men believe in cause and effect."

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Do you think the universe fights for souls to be together?"

Some things are too strange and strong to be coincidences."

—Emery Allen

Above are the two most popular quotes that I found on serendipity. The first quote, Emerson's, was a full third more popular than the second one. Of course, who is going to go up against Emerson, especially if you are found the loser of that argument and the consequence is that you are judged a simpleton?

That quote is also chock full of Anglo-Saxon logical pragmatism that is the pinnacle of reasonable thought in the US. The second quote is more poetic and embraces chance. I love Emerson, despite the fact that he is clearly not Irish and neither is his quote. The sec-

ond quote resonates much more with an Irish soul.

Serendipity gave me a nod a few weeks ago. Instead of rapidly deleting Kent State's monthly email request for donations, I opened it instead. I was shocked to see the obituary of a person who I had met by the same happenstance that made me open that email, Dr. Claire Culloten.

It was the mid 90s and I used to read The Irish Times online edition frequently, before the paywalls became the norm for online reading. A headline caught my eye one day.

It was about James Joyce and the discovery of FBI files on him. Hmm. This discovery was made by a literature professor in the US, who taught at Kent State! I couldn't resist sending her an email of congratulations, which turned into an afternoon of laughs, coffee and some real surprises.

For some reason, the literature professor, Claire Culloten, wanted to meet and have a chat. I was delighted. At our meeting, I remember seeing one of her FBI sheets on James Joyce. She showed it to me in disbelief of how many names were still blacked out on the file.

She couldn't figure it out considering the time frame for the activities was so long ago, the late teens and early twenties of the last century. She had requested the files on a whim.

Culloten was an Irish literature scholar and true Joycean. She had seen a colleague request files under the Freedom of Information act on another author and thought it would be interesting to see if there were any files available on Joyce. She was shocked when several months later, a thick packet of papers arrived in a Manila envelope. She was even more surprised by the number of remaining redactions contained in those documents.

Joyce was suspicious in the mind of the FBI bosses, because he was considered an intellectual and a communist. The inferences that Claire made from her study of the documents was that the FBI considered intellectuals dangerous. They were tied to labor movements and were therefore, communists. They sought to undermine them at the time to undermine any attempts to strengthen organized labor.

Joyce came to the attention of the FBI because he associated with people like the poet Ezra Pound, also believed to



Dr. Claire Culloten

be a communist. This work was carried out in part by an aspiring young agent named J. Edgar Hoover, who always mistrusted artists and intellectuals.

Joyce raised suspicions further by associating with the Irish labor leader, Jim Larkin. Larkin was exiled from Ireland at the time, around 1920.

Big Jim Larkin seemed to frighten the powers that be everywhere that he went. He was a tireless advocate for worker's rights. Claire became really intrigued when she saw the amount of black tape in the section where he and Joyce connected. She had to see the whole file.

It took her four years to get the almost 500-hundred-page file on Jim. It detailed a crazy plot idea, which Irish leaders were part of, to assassinate Larkin and send a look alike back to Ireland to live a much different life in his place.

From this research, Claire wrote, Joyce and the G-Men: J. Edgar Hoover and the Manipulation of Modernism. The book is available on Amazon.

Claire was funny and charming. During our conversation, I tried very hard to recruit her for the Irish language class. I firmly believe that you can't really understand how the Irish use words and syntax without a working knowledge of the native tongue. Claire was immune to my evangelizing.

She quipped that she heard the first seven years of learning were the worst and she just didn't have the time. We

exchanged a few more emails and moved on, but I did not forget meeting her or her incredible story.

I really wanted to write something that had a more Christmas theme, but once I had seen the obituary, I had to write about Claire. Every contact that I had with her involved a strong element of chance, including my seeing that she was no longer amongst us.

One of the last things that she did was to petition the Irish government to save the house in Dublin that was featured in the Joyce story The Dead. As president of the Joyce society, she took her place amongst authors like Colm Toibin and Sally Rooney to save the house at 15 Usher Island from being turned into a hostel. The address is the one where the Christmas feast takes place and was also used in the film version of the story. Their effort failed but Claire made the Irish papers again.

While not maybe a Christmas classic, The Dead takes place at a Christmas feast, where a man realizes, through the chance choice of a song, that he does not really know his wife or maybe anyone at all. Maybe habit passes for real intimacy. Snow covers it all.

Maybe both of those initial quotes have an element of truth. Maybe the cause gets lost in the narrative of our lives and looks like chance when effect meets its conclusion. Maybe it is a romantic urge to believe in chance or fate or something bigger operating in our lives. But Christmas is the time of year to feel that way. This is a wonderful time of year to embrace chance meetings and give yourself the present of presence. ♦

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 Gaeilge. She runs a Gaeilge 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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A Little Luck of the Irish

One of my greatest treasures is my mom's recipe boxes. Each fall, I go through them and pull out all the handwritten index cards, many with little stains from years of use. These recipes have been part of our family holiday celebrations for decades. One of my favorite is this tasty little ball of goodness. It is a wonderful appetizer to bring along to parties as well as one of those foods we eat for a bit of luck as we head into the New Year.

IRISH SAUERKRAUT BALLS

- ½ stick Unsalted Butter
- 1 medium White Onion – minced
- 1 Garlic Clove – minced
- 12 ounces Cooked Corned Beef – sliced or diced small
- ¼ cup AP Flour

- 3 cups of Sauerkraut – drained and ground small
- 1 tablespoon Dried Parsley
- 2 eggs
- 3 cups Panko Bread Crumbs
- 1 cup AP Flour
- 1 teaspoon Black Pepper
- 1 teaspoon Garlic Salt
- ½ teaspoon Ground Mustard
- 2 teaspoons Paprika
- 1/3 cup Vegetable Oil for frying
- ½ cup of Thousand Island Dressing or Horseradish Sauce for dipping.

In a large skillet, sauté the onion, garlic clove, and corned beef until slightly browned.

Stir in the flour and cook for approximately 8-10 minutes, stirring constantly.

Add in the sauerkraut, ground mustard, and a dash of black pepper. Stir and cook for another 2 minutes.

Remove mixture from heat and place in a medium bowl, let cool and chill for at least two hours. You can also make this the night before or a day or two before stored in covered Tupperware and refrigerated.

Using a small scoop, roll the mixture into balls and I usually freeze them for about 20 minutes to help them hold their shape.

Using a typical dredging meth-



od – place the flour, eggs, and bread crumbs in 3 separate bowls. Season the 3 mixtures with the pepper. Garlic salt, and paprika.

Dredge each sauerkraut ball first in the flour, then the egg, then the bread crumbs.

Cook in a skillet with about a half inch of vegetable oil over medium heat, turning frequently to cook all sides.

Have a baking sheet on hand lined with paper towels to place the cooked balls on.

Sprinkle a tiny dash of course Ko-

sher salt over the top.

Serve with Thousand Island Dressing or Horseradish Sauce and 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 @sassysweetsandmore.

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PITTSBURGH HAPPENINGS

By Diane Byrnes

Holiday Happenings

In December, a variety of Christmas events will be taking place, even though Covid is still in our midst. The Gaelic Arts Society (GAS) will sponsor their Christmas celebration on the 4th, at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites in Greentree. There will be a dinner and short program.

AOH Sean MacBride Division 32 in Carnegie will hold their Christmas Party on the 4th at the Fairview Fire Hall at 7pm. This party usually includes a meal and music with a DJ; this group likes to dance and they dance the night away.

This division was founded September 1989 and has close to 200 active members. Their monthly meetings are based in the Carnegie area. They hold a variety of functions and support many charities, regional and international; Division 32 does live their motto of 'Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity.'

The Pittsburgh Ceili Club (PCC) will hold their Christmas Party at the Fox

Chapel Yacht Club on the 5th, with a buffet & dessert & entertainment w/'Corned Beef & Curry.' Doors opening at 2, runs until 7P.

The PCC has been in operation since 1993 and has been consistent in promoting Irish Ceili dance.

They hold weekly Ceili's at Mulaney's Harp & Fiddle in The Strip District of Pittsburgh. The Performing Group visit a variety of venues and centers throughout the area performing the dances of Ireland; they are all well seasoned dancers and bring so much joy to many.

Now that we are in the Christmas season, what thoughts have you had on shopping? A new CD I just received is Celtic Woman, 'Post Cards from Ireland.' This recording features thirteen new songs and is the group's first new studio album since 2018's 'Ancient Land.'

Celtic Woman features Chloé for a lovely version of 'Angel.' Megan Walsh and Tara McNeill have a duet on 'The Lakes of Pontchartrain,' and Susan McFadden performs 'May It Be.' The album also features the newest member of Celtic Woman, Muirgen O'Mahoney, and joined by the British folk group The Longest John's, who join Celtic Woman on a version of Richard Thompson's 'Beeswing.' This is an absolutely beautiful recording. Celtic Woman is one of the most successful PBS specials aired to date.

Their 'North American Postcards From Ireland Tour' is scheduled to begin February 2022. The Women have been performing in Pittsburgh since

they began singing together around 2006 and are one of the favorite groups that come to the 'Burg'.

Another favorite is Celtic Thunder, they will be performing at the Palace Theatre in Greensburg March 2022. Because of the pandemic, these marvelous entertainers have had to postpone two concerts. Let's hope that they can make their tour in 2022.

Other concerts scheduled for Pittsburgh in 2022 include Gaelic Storm, Enter The Haggis, Red Hot Chili Pipers, and Clannad. I expect we will have the good fortune to see a variety of other performers performing on our stages.

Shopping for the many people in our lives might take some creative thinking. Purchasing a ticket to one of the above events might be a good idea. Also, 'The River City Brass,' are celebrating their 40th Anniversary this season, offering many fine productions over the next several months.

From the 2nd through the 10th the 'Christmas Brasstacular' runs. From March 3 through 22 they are performing 'Celtic Connections,' a dynamic program with Irish and Scottish music, songs and a variety of other entertainment for the season.

The Artistic Director, James Gourley, is an accomplished entertainer, both with his antics and his tuba, you will really enjoy him. James was born near Glasgow in Scotland and has traveled the world conducting the orchestras and teaching the tuba. Tickets from this company also make for a great Christmas present www.rivercitybrass.org.

Then there is PICT Classic Theatre and their production during February with 'Endgame' by Samuel Beckett. There will be another production in April with title to be determined, and in June 'The Boys in The Band.' Programs from this company also make for an excellent present.

Along with singers and musicians being out of work for the past 12 to 18 months due to the pandemic, look what has happened to our retail shops. Due to the virus and the internet being so prevalent in our lives, so many people are shopping online. Of course if you cannot go out because you might catch something, what can you do?

Many large box shops are closing their brick-and-mortar stores and you are pretty much forced to shop online. I do not know about you, but I prefer to touch something that I may purchase, I want to see it, touch it and hold it (as long as it is not too big).

A Very Happy Christmas to all of you and may the 2022 New Year bring good health and well deserved rewards to you and your families. ♦

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THE FITNESS DOCTOR

By Dr. Frederick Peters

Avoid Holiday Weight Gain with These Festive Foods

The holidays are a time when family and friends gather to enjoy indulgent meals. So, it's no surprise that maintaining a healthy weight can present even more challenges during the holidays than throughout the rest of the year. According to research, people tend to gain 1-2 pounds over the holiday season.

A study examined the effectiveness of a brief (four to eight week) behavioral intervention to prevent weight gain over the Christmas holiday period. The researchers randomized 272 adults into one of two groups. The intervention group was given a behavioral intervention intended to increase their restraint of food and beverage consumption.

The intervention involved three components: encouraging participants to regularly weigh themselves and record their weight; providing specific weight-management strategies; and providing information on how much physical activity



would be needed to burn off the calories consumed in typical holiday foods and drinks. The control group received information on healthy living.

Results showed that the intervention group lost an average of 0.3 pounds, while the control group gained 0.8 pounds. This may not seem like much, but research shows that weight gains are not fully lost in the months following the holidays. Although the yearly gain is small, it can add up to an increase of ten pounds over ten years.

TEN TIPS TO HELP PREVENT WEIGHT GAIN

Study participants in the intervention group were encouraged to follow these ten tips to help prevent weight gain:

Keep to your meal routine. Try to eat at

roughly the same times each day.

Walk off the weight. Aim for 10,000 steps each day.

Pack a healthy snack. Choose fresh fruit or low-calorie yogurt instead of chocolate or chips.

Look at the labels. Check food labels for fat and sugar content.

Caution with your portions. Don't heap food on your plate and think twice before having second helpings.

Up on your feet. Stand up for ten minutes every hour.

Think about your drinks. Choose water or calorie-free drinks, and limit alcohol.

Focus on your food. Slow down, and don't eat in front of the TV or on the go.

Don't forget your 5-a-day. Eat at least five servings of fruits and vegetables each day.

How Much Activity Would It Take to Burn Off This Eggnog?

Physical activity — or at least understanding how much physical activity it would take to burn off calories, and possibly considering that information

when making choices about what to eat — also played a role in preventing weight gain. In the study, the researchers provided the intervention group with a chart that showed the approximate amount of activity it would take to burn the calories found in a given number of festive foods. For example, it would take approximately twelve minutes of walking or six minutes of running to burn off the calories in five pigs in a blanket, and it would take approximately eight minutes of walking or four minutes of running to burn off the calories in five tablespoons of gravy.

HOLIDAY FOODS THAT ARE HEALTHIER THAN YOU THINK

A 2013 study published in the European Journal of Clinical Nutrition found that in addition to gaining about 1-2 pounds, on average, during the holidays, people experienced increases in body fat, blood pressure, and resting heart rate. And being active didn't protect against those changes. Even small increases in diastolic and systolic blood pressure can have a meaningful impact on health.

But pumpkin itself is a nutrition powerhouse high in fiber, vitamins A and C (important for vision and fighting infection), and antioxidants, and it has just thirty calories per cup. Whether you're using it in a pie or a savory dish such as risotto or pasta, choose a fresh or frozen version.

If you're opting for canned, make sure you read the label. Look for 100 percent pure pumpkin, not pumpkin-pie filling. That has 120 calories and twenty-seven grams of sugars in a half-cup—nearly seven teaspoons—a vast majority of it added. And that's even before it gets into the pie.

A study of almost 2,000 heart attack survivors suggested that eating a heavy meal could quadruple the risk of having a heart attack on the same day. A smaller study, published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, found that a single meal high in saturated fat could impair artery function.

FOOD SUGGESTION HEALTHY CHOICES

TURKEY

It's the best option among the traditional centerpieces. There are 168 calories and 2 grams of fat in a four-ounce serving of breast meat without skin. (The skin adds about fifty calories and six grams of fat.)

Spiral Ham is comparable in calories and fat but has more than 1,000 mg of sodium in four ounces. Ham is also a processed meat and contains nitrites and

nitrites, which are potentially carcinogenic. Standing rib roast, meanwhile, has about twice the calories and sixteen times the fat as turkey.

Some turkeys are injected with a saline solution to make them juicier, so check labels; they can have as much as 300 mg of sodium in 4 ounces.

PUMPKIN

Pumpkin spice has been a long-standing holiday flavor trend in foods and beverages. That would be fine, except that "spice" often means added sugars, not just nutmeg and cinnamon.

Unlike many cholesterol-rich foods, shrimp is low in saturated fat, a type of fat that's linked to heart disease risk. Shrimp also contain antioxidants, including selenium and astaxanthin. Note that cocktail sauce may contain high amounts of sodium.

If you're opting for canned, make sure you read the label. Look for 100 percent pure pumpkin, not pumpkin-pie filling. That has 120 calories and twenty-seven grams of sugars in a half-cup—nearly seven teaspoons—a vast majority of it added. And that's even before it gets into the pie.

SWEET POTATOES

Another brightly hued vegetable that is high in fiber, vitamins A and C, and antioxidants, sweet potatoes don't need much to make them taste good. Just bake them with a little olive oil. Adding marshmallows, butter, and brown sugar ups the fat and calorie load significantly.

There are 149 calories, nine grams of fat, and fourteen grams of sugar in a half-cup of sweet potato casserole vs. 115 calories, nine grams of sugar, and almost no fat in a medium sweet potato. Avoid canned varieties packed in heavy syrup.

CRANBERRIES

Check the label on canned cranberry sauce and you'll find more than twenty grams (five teaspoons) of sugars in each quarter-cup serving. You could skip them, but these tart berries are high in fiber and rich in healthy plant compounds called polyphenols, some of which may improve your body's ability to process glucose.

HOT COCOA

Credit the flavanols, good-for-you antioxidants that may improve blood vessel function, for cocoa's spot in the "healthy" column. A 2013 study by Harvard University found that people not diagnosed

with dementia (the average age of the participants was seventy-three) who had impaired blood flow to the brain and who drank two cups of flavanol-rich hot cocoa daily for thirty days saw an improvement in the brain's blood circulation and on memory tests. Pass on the instant mixes; make your own using unsweetened cocoa, low-fat milk (which adds calcium), and a teaspoon of sugar.

SHRIMP COCKTAIL

Skip the cheese and crackers; choose shrimp as an appetizer. Five large shrimp have only thirty calories and six grams of protein. Shrimp do have cholesterol, but dietary cholesterol doesn't have a significant impact on your blood lipids, though experts once thought it did.

Mark all of the holiday events you'll be attending on your calendar so that you'll remember to plan ahead. If the meal is not at your home, eat lighter the day of the event to balance the extra calories you may consume at the party. If the event is in the evening, have a healthy breakfast and satisfying lunch, with a light snack before the event to avoid overindulging later.

POTATOES

It is the way potatoes are served at holiday meals—loaded with butter or cream or doused in gravy—that makes them a less-than-optimal dietary choice, not the spuds themselves. One medium potato has 159 calories and thirty-six grams of carbohydrates—less than a cup of cooked pasta. Potatoes are packed with blood-pressure-lowering potassium and fiber, and also supply magnesium, iron, and vitamin C.

If you are the host and struggle with tasting while cooking, try chewing sugar-free gum while preparing the meal, or have a small snack before you start cooking. Serve plenty of raw vegetables and yogurt-based dips to start the event and fresh fruit to finish. After the meal, send leftovers home with friends and family.

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NUTS

It is the time of year when fresh nuts in the shell are displayed in many supermarkets. Consider putting out a bowlful and a nutcracker as a predinner snack.

Nuts are rich in antioxidants and healthy fats. And nuts in the shell are time-consuming to eat—cracking them slows you down and may help you eat more mindfully.

CHESTNUTS (specifically)

There is a classic, holiday feel to chestnuts, and there are nutritional benefits to these holiday treats as well. When compared with other nuts and seeds, such as almonds, chestnuts don't have the same levels of healthy fats or protein. But they're still a good source of dietary fiber, magnesium, heart-healthy folate, vitamin C, and potassium, which can help control blood pressure.

MORE TIPS TO HELP YOU KEEP YOUR WEIGHT IN CHECK WITHOUT FOREGOING YOUR HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

Mark all of the holiday events you'll be attending on your calendar so that you'll remember to plan ahead. If the meal is not at your home, eat lighter the day of the event to balance the extra calories you may consume at the party. If the event is in the evening, have a healthy breakfast and satisfying lunch, with a light snack before the event to avoid overindulging later.

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The workplace can be hazardous around the holidays; holiday lunches

and office parties can make it difficult for even the most health-conscious employee to make smart choices. If the team is going out for a special holiday lunch, choose lower-calorie items and go light on dinner that evening. Move holiday cookies and candies to a high-traffic area to spread the goodies around.

Start new traditions that don't revolve around food. For example, attend a holiday concert or show, or take a drive or walk to see holiday lights. Catch up with a friend over a yoga or Zumba class instead of meeting for a peppermint mocha latte. ♦

Dr. Peters is the founder of "The Fitness Doctor" (www.thefitnessdoctors.com). He has a Ph.D. in Physiology from Kent State University and is a certified member of the American College of Sports Medicine. Dr. Peters was born and raised in the Cleveland area and is a graduate of St. Ignatius High School and John Carroll University. He can be reached at fred@thefitnessdoctors.com.

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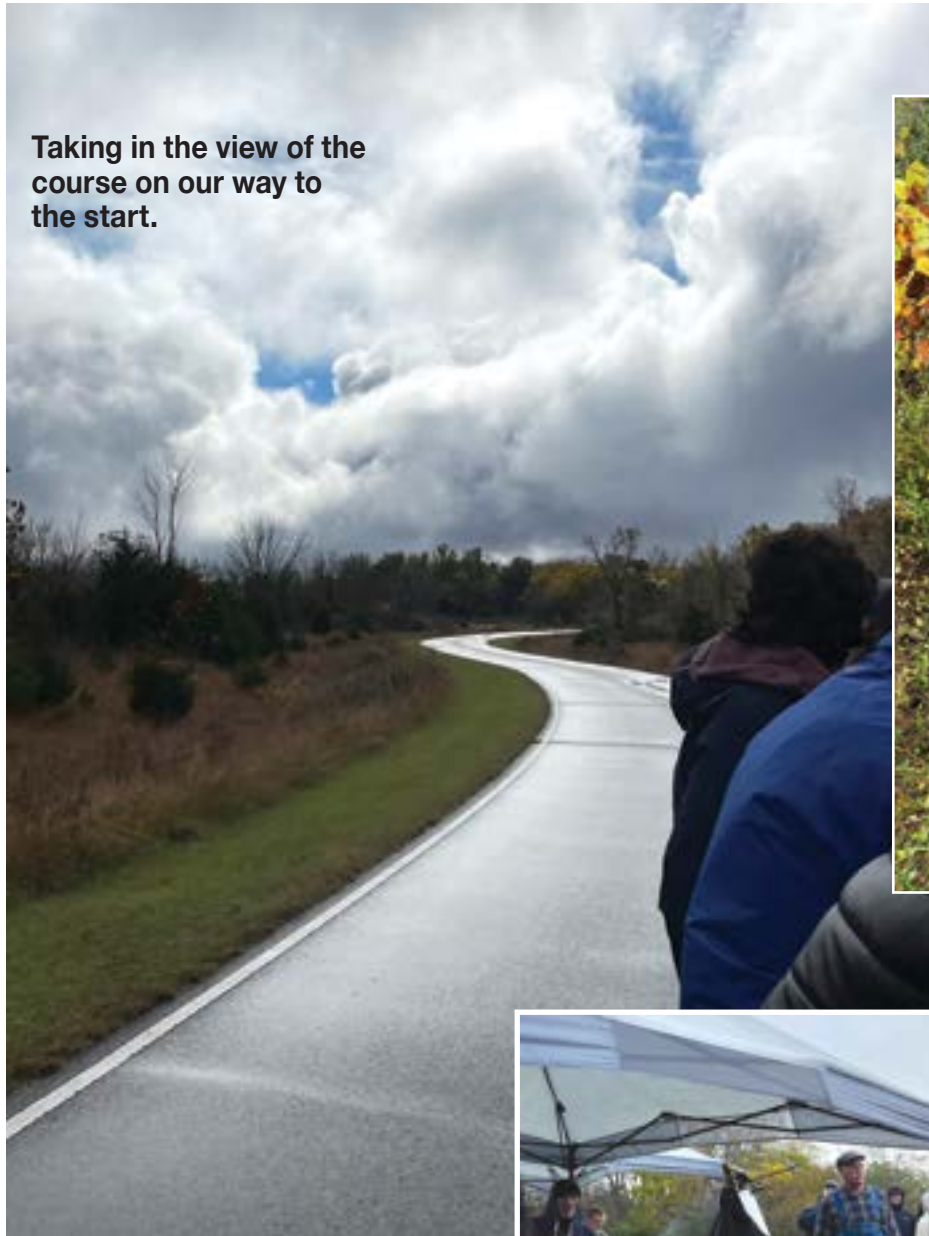




COLUMBUS IRISH

By Molly Truex

Taking in the view of the course on our way to the start.



Irish Road Bowling for the Columbus Irish Cultural Foundation

October 30 was a beautiful day for the Greater Columbus Irish Cultural Foundation (GCICF) annual Irish Road Bowling event. The day started with cold and rain but cleared off to be warm and clear. Participants actually took off layers as they rolled their steel balls down the roads of Deer Creek State Park towards the finish. As events go, there isn't another quite as fun and refreshing.

I might be biased, but spending the morning with your friends in the open air with some friendly competition is hard to beat. This year's winners came from West Virginia, the Pre-Gamers, and they have taken the trophy most every year they've attended.

Irish Road Bowling gets its origins from 1600s Ireland, when Irish patriots stole cannon balls from the English and rolled them back to their camp. From there, its first official match was held in 1928.

The first GCICF Irish Road Bowling event took place in 2014, with seven teams and was just a fun afternoon with friends. Two years later it became a fund raiser and brought in twelve teams. In the five years since, the event has brought in thousands of dollars for the Foundation.

The GCICF was originally part of the Shamrock Club of Columbus, but separated in 2004 to continue supporting Irish culture and activities in the Greater Columbus area. If you would like to donate to the GCICF and help it support the many scholarships and events they host, please check out their website at <https://columbusirishculture.com/>, or give them



PreGamers from West Virginia.

a follow on Facebook and Instagram for more information. ♦

Molly lives on the east side of Columbus with her family and two difficult dogs, and has been a member of the Shamrock Club for the past six years.

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Finding your ball in the brush is half the fun.



GCICF Founding Board Member Tom Byrne goes over the course and the rules of the day.



GCICF Board Member Lisa O'Connell-Paccioretti & SCOC Board Member Nora Feeney.

Molly Truex and Rolla McCandless.



HEALTH MATTERS

By Dr. Emily Lanzola

Understanding Your Family History

The holidays are here – a time when family becomes the focus as we all take time off work, pack our bags, and travel to Grandma's house for holiday gatherings. And this holiday season, I encourage you to take some of that time spent with these loved ones to learn more about your family's health history. Knowing that you have Grandpa's chin or the same unique colored eyes as Aunt May is all well and good, but you may have inherited more than that. And understanding your family's medical history could, in fact, save your life.

Several health risks can be passed down among family members, from generation to generation. Families often share similar environments and lifestyles as well, which can predispose you to developing certain diseases. Knowing that background can help pave the way to a healthier future for you and your children by enabling us, as your provider, to assess your risk more accurately. That leads to earlier detection, more effective treatments, and in some cases proactive measures that can even reduce your risk of getting sick.

Heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke, certain cancers, and type 2 diabetes are all ailments that serve as examples of conditions that are often more common among those with a family history. While you can't change your genetics and the inherited risks that come along with them, it's not a foregone conclusion that you will develop those conditions.

Lifestyle changes can go a long way in decreasing your risk of developing health problems, or at the very least, can push back the onset by many years. This can be as simple as eating a healthy diet and adding more exercise

into your routine.

It can also be much more specific to your inherited risks, such as taking aspirin for a history of heart problems or watching your time in the sun if your family has a history of skin cancer. Seemingly small changes can make a big difference in the long run.

HEALTH KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

Knowledge is power. For example, there are lots of guidelines on when men and women should begin getting various health screenings. However, knowing you are predisposed because of your genetics, allows you to begin those screenings – such as a mammogram or colonoscopy – at an earlier age and even have them done more frequently. That way, if a problem does develop, it's detected quickly and can often be addressed before it becomes a life-threatening illness.

The easiest way to protect your health and that of future generations is to ask questions – talk to your relatives about their health. Starting with your parents and siblings is key, as these first-degree relatives will be the most telling for your own health risks. However, your grandparents and even aunts and uncles can also provide important clues. That makes this time of year the perfect time to get started, as family gatherings can be the best time to discuss these issues.

If working your questions into a typical conversation seems too awkward, you can also put together a health history sheet that you can share with family members to see if they're willing to fill it out on their own time. Don't worry if they're not completely forthcoming or maybe can't recall some things, as you may be able to fill in the gaps with some research using public records such as death certificates. Genetic testing is also an option.

GENETIC TESTING

Keep in mind, a family health history isn't a one-time activity. Once you have it in place, you'll want to be sure to keep it updated with any new health information as you learn about it. Be sure to record any information you gather in a safe place, one that perhaps will also make it easy to share back with your family.

However, the most important person to share it with is your doctor. We can review the information with you and then work together to customize your care. It might take some extra time and effort, but this tool really can help

improve the health of your family for generations to come. ♦

Dr. Emily Lanzola is a family medicine physician who recently completed her residency at Firelands Regional Medical Center, where she was chief resident. She believes in the importance of "family" in family medicine and values

her role as an educator and guide in helping her patients manage their healthcare. Dr. Lanzola is a graduate of the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine and the College of Wooster.

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MILESTONE & SWEET SNAPS



Congratulations to Judge Brendan Sheehan on being selected for the Hall of Fame at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law with Dick Celeste.



Congratulations to Blowin' In Columnist Sue Mangan and Mike Mangan, celebrating their 25th Wedding Anniversary.

CONGRATULATIONS
to the 2022 Greater Cleveland St Patrick's Day Parade honorees!
Looking forward to March 17th, 2022!

Grand Marshal: Tom McManamon
Irish Mother of the Year: Rita Lally
Outside Co-Chair: Eileen Stull
Inside Co-Chair: Patricia Lavelle

Merry Christmas to All
from Everyone at iIrish!





Great Christmas Gift Ideas

WILL SOMEONE PLAY BLUEY?

By Eileen Ivers, Illustrated by Solomiia Musical Bridge Publishing, West Nyack, New York 2021 33 Pages ISBN 9781737632108



The violins get played, But Bluey's dismayed That still no one picks up the blue violin!

"That's it!" Bluey shouts, "I've all I can take! No kid wants to play me, I've such a heartache!"

"I'm different, I know, So I'll have to show I'm worthy, be kind to the blue violin!"

Eileen's children's book is a "stand-up-for-yourself, anti-bullying book written in rhyme and rhythm to teach children about kindness and respect." Eileen herself exemplifies that kindness and respect in the time she makes for kids before and after every concert



Eileen Ivers

and festival gig she stars in. I have witnessed this in person dozens of times in her performances at Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival. Eileen herself plays a blue fiddle – one of her trademark loves, all the way back to her performances as the original fiddler in *Riverdance*.

Eileen's Music School is a magical place. When the children go home, the instruments speak.

Why do Drake the drum, Finn the flute and the other instruments tease and bully Bluey? All Bluey the violin wants ... is to be played. So, why won't the children play Bluey? Is it because he looks different?

Find out how his only true friend, Priscilla the piano, helps Bluey gain the confidence to show kids how special he is ... how we are all unique. Will they all learn to be kind and respectful?

Join Bluey, the children and the other instruments at Eileen's music school and see how they ultimately celebrate that, our differences are often our strengths.

I love this book, even at my age, let alone for young kids. I highly recommended *Will Someone Play Bluey?* for the wonderful writing, illustrations, values, sentiments and sing-song musical flow, but most of all for how kids will love this book, so relevant to today's kids and the times we live in. *Will Someone Play Bluey?* is a playful picture book perfect for ages 4-10 and includes discussions on self-confidence, standing up for yourself, anti-bullying, *diversity and being kind*.

Will Someone Play Bluey was released November 10th in both eBook & Paper-

back, debuting at #1. It is available at <https://www.amazon.com/dp/product/B09KMGH838> and check out www.eileenivers.com too. The audiobook will be available soon.

TED SULLIVAN, BARNACLE OF BASEBALL

The Life of the Prolific League Founder, Scout, Manager and Unrivaled Huckster

By Pat O'Neill and Tom Coffman McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers, Jefferson, North Carolina 278 pages. ISBN 978-1-4766-8478-9

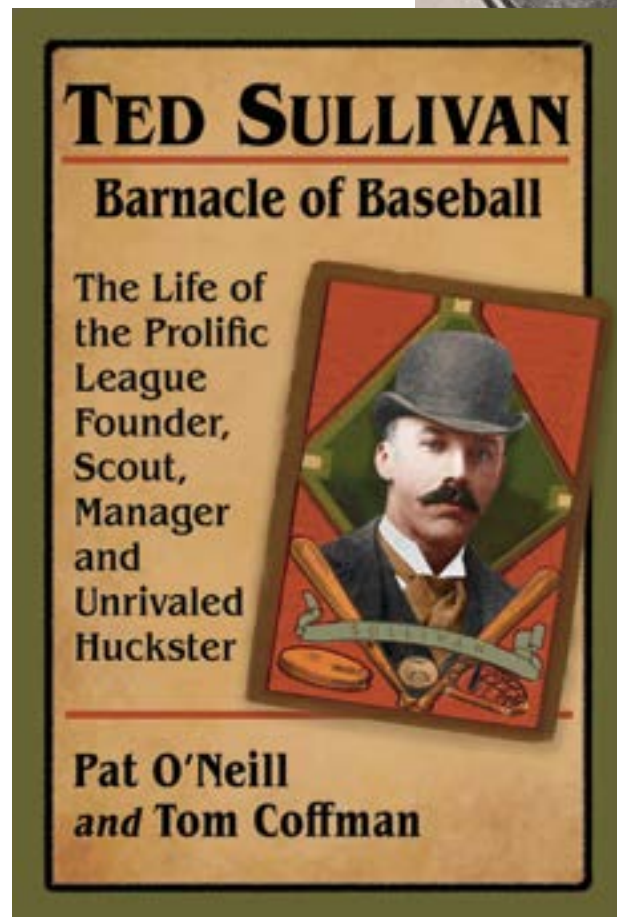
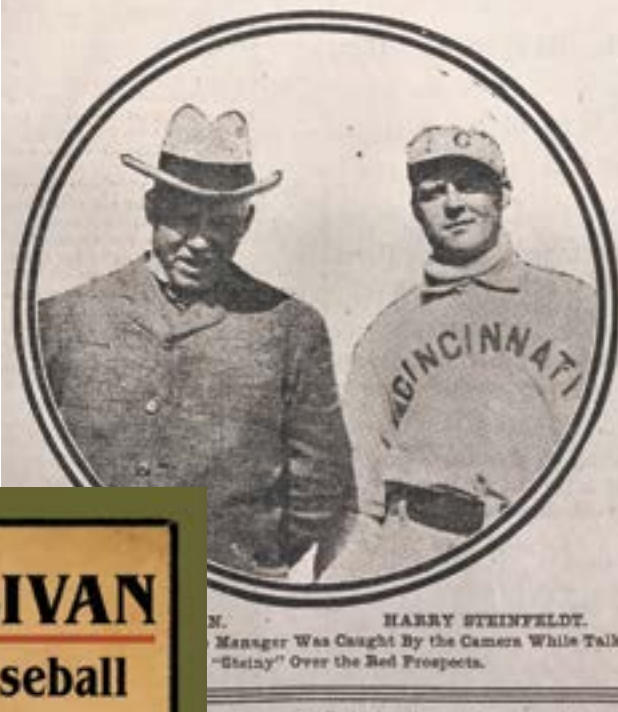
In his day, T.P. "Ted" Sullivan was considered the best baseball mind in America. Some went so far as to call him "The Daddy" of the sport. He was early baseball's town-hopping bandleader; the ringmaster of the minor leagues; a George Washington, a Harold Hill, and a P.T. Barnum all rolled into one.

Cunning, fast-talking, witty, charming, serious, and sober, Ted Sullivan traveled more than a million miles in the days of horse-drawn buggies, soot-spit-

ting trains, and lumbering steamships. From the late 1860s until the day he died in 1929, Sullivan played, managed, and scouted for dozens of leagues and teams, planting the seed of his beloved sport across the breadth of the United States, Mexico, Europe, Asia, and South America.

In 1911, White Sox impresario Charles Comiskey, a.k.a. "The Old Roman," spoke for many in the early baseball world when he said: "Ted Sullivan's standing in the profession of baseball cannot be measured by mod-

SNAPPED ON THE DALLAS DIAMOND.



ern standards. He is in a class all by himself. He is ever and always ahead of his time, with knowledge of the game and a versatility that no other baseball man of my acquaintance has ever possessed."

Pat O'Neill and Tom Coffman write in an easy style, infused with humor and just the right touch of admiration for their subject. I kept trying to put the book down to go to bed, as dawn got closer and closer. But another fifty pages went by, and another ...

The early days of base-

ball are interesting, and a man perhaps somewhat forgotten, is brought back into the light, his story readily available for another generation, or three. Ted Sullivan, Barnacle of Baseball is Highly Recommended for sports fans and baseball enthusiasts certainly, but also for those who are interested in and want to learn more about Irish people who made a difference by the sheer will of personality and persuasion.

Read thru Ch 5, page 44.

IN FACT: AN OPTIMIST'S GUIDE TO IRELAND AT 100

by Mark Henry Gill Books 496 Pages ISBN 9780717190386

As Ireland approaches its 100th birthday in 2022, a new book claims that the country has much to celebrate, in fact. Author Mark Henry has identified 100 remarkable achievements of the country's first century as an independent nation, spanning every aspect of Irish life – economic, social, cultural, and educational.

"Ireland's big birthday is the perfect opportunity to reflect on how far we have come as a country," said Henry. "I reviewed every aspect of Irish life, and my conclusion is that we have come very far indeed."

As the book highlights, the United Nations ranks Ireland as having the second-best quality of life in the world today, after Norway. The Irish lifespan is twenty-five years longer than those alive in 1922; Half of working-age adults have completed higher education, a figure that has doubled in just twenty years; They earn five times more than their grandparents did; The lives of women and children have improved immensely; And personal freedoms exceeded those of any previous generation.

"I have spent two decades working in tourism and telling the world what a great place Ireland is. I wanted to prove it beyond any doubt," said Henry who gathered facts and figures from sixty national and international organizations as the basis for 120 different graphs and tables in the book. It took Henry, a resident of Dublin, three years to complete the task.

"Like any nation, we have important problems to address. But no matter how you look at it, we are the most fortunate generation ever to live on this island. The place has been transformed for the better."



Mark Henry with the book on the occasion of its release.

Ireland's quality of life has improved faster than any other developed nation over the past thirty years – rising twenty-two places in the United Nation's Human Development ranking to reach second place. The author points to the country's strong community bonds, its stable democracy, its investment in high levels of education, and its openness to the world as the reasons why the country has excelled.

"Ireland's success has helped it to end its tradition of emigration and to become a leading destination for immigrants," explains Henry. Nearly one in five Irish residents today was born elsewhere – a figure that is amongst the highest in Europe. "The country has never been so multicultural, and that will help us to lay strong foundations for continued success into the century ahead."

In Fact: An Optimist's Guide to Ireland by Mark Henry is available in all online bookstores.

CELEBRATING ST. PATRICK'S DAY: HISTORY, TRADITIONS, AND ACTIVITIES

A Holiday Book for Kids by John O'Brien, Jr. @Jobjr

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with this fun introduction for kids ages 6 to 9. St. Patrick's Day is about more than

just shamrocks and leprechauns. This engaging nonfiction book for kids explains the history, traditions, and customs of St. Patrick's Day—and includes interactive activities that encourage kids to celebrate at home or in their communities.

This standout among Saint Patrick's Day books for kids includes:

Celebratory traditions—Kids will learn how St. Patrick's Day is celebrated all around the world in different ways, including parades, festivals, sports tournaments, treasure hunts, and more.

A variety of activities—From games like Parade Bingo and a Green Scavenger Hunt to recipes for Irish Flag Cookies and Shamrock Shakes, kids can explore hands-on ways to get festive.

Fun facts and illustrations—Colorful illustrations and thought-provoking facts help kids discover new things about this holiday. When it comes to St. Patrick's Day books for kids, this is the one that will get your child excited to learn and celebrate.

"Celebrating St. Patrick's Day is a wonderful book for all Celtic kids, especially those who are members of our far-flung diaspora. It's slim, very readable, and packed with knowledge. Adults can learn from it too – I studied Irish for many years back home but had to wait for this book to grasp that the Irish alphabet has only 18 letters. A must read for all who wish to begin with a strong foundation for a lifetime's appreciation of Irish culture."

- Larry Kirwan Black 47/Irish Echo/Celtic Crush/SiriusXM

Personalized signed copies of all of John's books are available at www.songsandstories.net:



Celebrating St. Patrick's Day, History, Traditions, and Activities A Holiday Book for Kids

Festival Legends, Songs & Stories: The People Who Made the Music that Defined a People ~ A biographical look at twelve Irish music legends, including Tommy Makem, Liam Clancy, Johnny McEvoy, Dublin City Ramblers, Barley-corn ...

The Lyrics of Irish Freedom ~The history and the stories behind rebellious bard and ballad we think we know so well.

First Generation – a book of original poetry ♦

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SPEAK IRISH

By Bob Carney

@BobCarneyGTR

Beannachtaí an tSéasúir

It's hard to believe Christmas is here! We've talked before about music being a good way to learn or even retain something, I still find my self humming the abc's when I'm filing something. With all the Christmas music available in Irish, it's a great way to enjoy the season and practice the language.

SILENT NIGHT

Silent Night has special meaning for my mother, so I would like to share the Irish version. Youtube has a few different covers of the song in Irish; it's

best to listen with the lyrics in hand and it won't take long before you're able to sing along. Our vocabulary also includes phrases of holiday greetings and wishes you can use, they're also great for greeting cards.

OÍCHE CHIÚIN (Silent Night)

Oíche chiúin, oíche Mhic Dé,
Cách 'na suan dis araon,
Dís is dílse 'faire le spéis
Naoín beag gnaoigheal
Ceananntais caomh

Críost, 'na chodhladh go séimh
Críost, 'na chodhladh go séimh

Oíche chúin, oíche Mhic Dé,
Aoirí ar dtús chuala 'n scéal,
Allélúia aingeal ag glooch,
Cantain suairc i ngar is i gcéin

Críost an Slánaitheoir Féin
Críost an Slánaitheoir Féin

Oíche chúin, oíche Mhic Dé,
Cách 'na suan dis araon,
Dís is dílse 'faire le spéis
Naoín beag gnaoigheal
Ceanntais caomh

Críost, 'na chodhladh go séimh
Críost, 'na chodhladh go séimh

FOCLÓIR (fóh-lore) Vocabulary

Anfach (anfak) cool
Báisteach (baw-shtach) rain
Gaofar (gwee-far) windy
Fuar (foo-er) cold
Sioc (shok) frost
Sneachta (shnak-tuh) snow
Fear sneachta (far shnak-tuh) snow-man
geimhreadh (ghivrah) winter
Lá Nollaig (law null-ug) Christmas Day
Crann Nollaig (krann null-ug) Christmas tree
Oíche Nollaig (ee-ha null-ug) Christmas Eve
Daidí na Nollaig (dad-ee na null-ug) Father Christmas
Íosa (ee-uh-suh) Jesus
Muire (mwir-uh) Mary
Seosamh (shoh-sah) Joseph
Aingeal (ayn-gul) angel
Cuilleann (kwill-un) holly
Drualas (dhroo-ah-lus) mistletoe
Carúil (kahr-oo-il) carol
Cór (khor) choir
Réalta (rayl-tuh) star
Stoca na Nollaig (shtuka na null-ug) Christmas stocking
Cloigin (klegg-een) bells
Aifreann Meán Oíche (af-run mahn ee-ha) Midnight Mass
Ornáidí (ur-naw-djee) decorations
Cártaí Nollaig (kawr-tee null-ug) Christmas cards

Christmas FRÁSAÍ (frah see) PHRASES

Nollaig Shona Duit (null-ug hona gwit) Merry Christmas to you
Nollaig Shona Daoibh (null-ug hona yeev) Merry Christmas to you all
Beannachtaí an tSéasúir (ban-uhk-tee ahn tay-soor) Seasons Greetings
Nollaig faoi shéan agus faoi mhaise duit/daoibh (null-ug fwee hayn ah-gus fwee vosh-ah gwit/yeev) Christmas happiness and goodness to you/you all
Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise duit (null-ug hona ah-gus ah-veen fwee voosha gwit) Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you
Athbhliain faoi mhaise (ah-veen fwee voosha) Happy New Year
Rath Dé ort (rah dat ort) God bless you
Beannacht Dé leat (ban-uhkt day laht)

God's blessing with you
Sláinte is táinte (slawn-cha iss tawn-cha) Health and wealth
Is fearr an tsláinte ná na táinte (iss far ahn tlwan-cha naw nah tawn-cha) Health is better than wealth
Go mbeirimid beo ar an am seo arís (guh mare-ih midge byo ar ahn am sho areesh) May we live to see this time of year again
Sláinte na bhfear agus go mara na mná go deo (slawn na are ah-gus guh mar-ah nah mraw guh jo) Health to the men and may the women live forever

WE LIVE IN THE SHADOW OF ONE ANOTHER

Perhaps one that we all need to remember throughout the year. "Ar scáth a chéile a mhairimid" (ar ska ah kay-lee ah vare-ih midge). "We live in the shadow of one another."

To give of ourselves is the greatest gift we can give, sometimes a smile or a kind word can make a difference in someone's life when it's needed most. My mother used to tell us we influence everyone we encounter, it's up to us if that's positive or negative.

NOLLAIG SHONA DAOIBH.

We've talked many times in the past about sharing the language with others to learn more about their own backgrounds and traditions. On Saturday Dec. 11, from 4-8pm, the First Annual Polish Village Lights event will be held. There will be carolers, music, food and drink and participating businesses will have all manner of sales specials and giveaways. There will even be a visit from Santa at Rudy's Strudel.

My friend Michael and his wife, owners of, "The Current Year," a record store on Ridge Road, are the driving force behind the event, hoping to create a community much like we have at Kamm's Corners. The event will be at the corner of Ridge and Virginia Avenue in Parma. ♦

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

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MADIGAN MUSES

By Marilyn Madigan

Christmas Traditions

One of the Irish traditions at Christmas is the lighting of a candle in the window. This is one of my favorite traditions. The light is a beacon of hospitality, but more importantly, it shows that the Holy Family is welcomed in the home. Irish immigrants brought this tradition to the United States during the 19th century and many Irish families continue this tradition today.

This tradition has an interesting



history. In the 17th century, laws were introduced to attempt to quash the Irish language, culture and the Catholic religion. Priests were persecuted and went into hiding during this period. The story of welcoming the Holy Family served also to trick the British soldiers. The Candle in the Window invited Priests to come in

the house, take shelter and to say Mass. The true origin is unknown, but the candle does demonstrate Irish hospitality. President Mary Robinson introduced the tradition of the candle in the window at the Aras an Uachtarain. This candle is now permanently in place to symbolize that the Irish Diaspora is

always welcome and to show them the way home to Ireland.

We should also always have a permanent welcoming beacon of light to our family, friends and others. Share the light of Christ in all you do.

"May peace and plenty be the first to lift the latch on your door, and may happiness be guided to your home by the candle of Christmas. May the good saints protect you and bless you today. And may trouble ignore you each step of the way."

La Nollaig Shona duit. ♦

Marilyn Madigan is the National Vice President of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians and a Deputy Director of the United Irish Societies of Cleveland. She received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from St. John College and retired from Nursing at University Hospitals of Cleveland.

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A NOTE FROM THE BIGLEYS...

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of the people that have made A Celtic Christmas and all of our productions possible, starting with our dear friends on the stage. Also thanks: to Matt Tomek and all the staff at the Medina Performing Arts Center for their professionalism and expertise; to Jordan and Brooke Bewley for the fabulous photography; to Brigid Krane for her stellar graphic design work; to the local businesses, on the square and beyond, that helped us to promote the show.

Thanks in particular to Gerry Quinn, The Leneghan Academy of Irish Dance, and the fantastic singers in the lobby led by Ian Crane.

Also this year, we'd like to extend a warm 'Rambling House' welcome to members of Medina Presbyterian Church, St. Christopher, and St. Malachi. A very special thanks to John O'Brien Jr. and Irish for including our program in this issue.

Finally, thanks to you, our patrons, who are our raison d'être. Merry Christmas!



Tomáseen Foley's

Kristen & Brian Bigley present

A Celtic Christmas



SUNDAY, DEC. 5, 2:30pm - MEDINA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER Medina, Ohio

TICKETS: KBBproductions.net or call 440-554-2394

OFFICIAL SHOW PROGRAM

Now in its 26th season, Tomáseen Foley's A Celtic Christmas recreates the joy and innocence of a night before Christmas in a remote farmhouse in the parish of Teampall an Ghleanntáin in the west of Ireland – when the neighboring families gather around the fire to grace the wintry night with the haunting melodies of traditional Irish Christmas carols, to raise the rafters with the joy of their music, knock sparks off the flagstone floor with traditional dances, and fill the night with the laughter of their stories.

PERFORMER BIOGRAPHIES



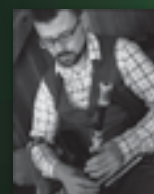
Tomáseen Foley: *Storyteller, Director*

Tomáseen Foley grew up on a small farm in the remote parish of Teampall an Ghleanntáin in the West of Ireland, where storytelling 'was as natural as breathing.' Each year his show, *Tomáseen Foley's A Celtic Christmas*, plays to critical acclaim and packed halls across the US. He also tours with *An Irish Rambling House*, performs *Celtic Journey* with the Omaha Symphony, and with Apollo's Fire, Cleveland's Baroque Orchestra. He has released several CDs, most recently, *Celtic Knots: An Irish Love Story*. "He is a master of the Irish narrative and a keeper of the flame for a priceless piece of Irish culture." - Rego Irish Records. tomaseenfoley.com



William Coulter: *Musical Director, Guitar*

William is an internationally acclaimed master of the steel-string guitar. In 2005, he won a Grammy for a track he contributed to a solo guitar compilation of Henry Mancini tunes, called Pink Guitar. He has been performing and recording traditional Celtic and American folk music for 30 years. The most recent of his eight CDs on the Gourd Music label are the acclaimed solo album, "The Road Home" and "Be Happy" with guitarist Ben Verdery. williamcoulter.com



Brian Bigley: *Uilleann Pipes, Irish Flute, Whistles & Irish Dance*

Brian Bigley has studied the uilleann pipes for thirty years as a player, as well as a maker, of the instrument. He has toured North America and Europe extensively as both a musician and a dancer, appearing with the Omaha Symphony's *Celtic Journey*, Apollo's Fire's *Christmas on Sugarloaf Mountain* and his own production, *An Irish Rambling House*. Brian competed with great distinction at the World Irish Dance Championships and at the senior uilleann piping competition, All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil. Brian lives near Cleveland, Ohio, with his fiddler wife, Kristen, and their dancing children, James and Kathleen. www.brianbigleymusic.com



Eimear Arkins: *Multi-Instrumentalist, Singer & Irish Dance*

Eimear Arkins is a multi-instrumentalist, singer and dancer from County Clare, in the west of Ireland. She holds eleven solo All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil titles and has competed in all



Kristen Bigley: *Violin*

Violinist/violin teacher Kristen Bigley has been playing the violin for twenty-five years. She studied classical violin at University of Akron and Youngstown State University. Kristen often performs with local ensembles in both classical and folk genres, but most of all loves teaching violin/fiddle to local musicians out of her home near Cleveland, Ohio. Kristen, piper husband, Brian, and their dancing children, live and play in their family music business, The Bigley Music Workshop LLC.



Natalie Wagner: *Irish Dance*

Natalie Wagner started Irish dancing at the age of twelve and immediately fell in love with the art. She competed with great distinction in Regional and North American Irish Dance Championships, including competitions in Canada and Ireland. Her passion for dance led to further education in Ballet and Modern Dance and she is most excited to be dancing in Tomáseen Foley's A Celtic Christmas.



Marcus Donelly: *Irish Dance*

Marcus first started dancing at the age of ten, in second-hand dance shoes his father bought for fifteen shillings in Dublin, and went on to compete with distinction in the All-Ireland and World Dance Championships before becoming a full-time professional dancer at the age of sixteen. From Ireland to Luxemburg and from Moscow to Paris, France and Paris, Texas, his leading performances with shows such as Ragús, Rhythm of the Dance, Celtic Legends, and most recently in the U.S. with Celtic Crossroads have created one of the most exhilarating, truly creative Irish dancers performing today.



Leneghan Academy of Irish Dance: *Irish Dancers*

Catherine Leneghan founded the Leneghan Academy of Irish Dance in 1992 after training with two Cleveland legends: Theresa Burke and Bob Masterson, as well as many others. While steeped in Irish tradition from an early age, she is certified as a teacher, adjudicator and grade examiner of Irish dance and is accredited through Dublin, Ireland and other regional and national associations. leneghanacademy.com



Celtic Knots: An Irish Love Story

With their latest album, *Celtic Knots: An Irish Love Story*, renowned native Irish writer and storyteller, Tomáseen Foley; traditional Irish musician, Brian Bigley, and Grammy Award-winning Celtic guitarist, William Coulter, like tapestry, they weave this radiant love story around the immortal poems of W.B. Yeats.

CD AVAILABLE IN THE LOBBY TODAY or SCAN CODE for a link to your favorite streaming service:

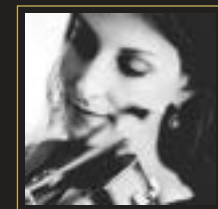


CLEVELAND CELTIC ENSEMBLE

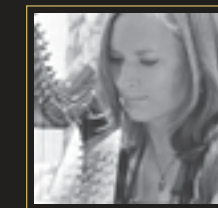
Ethereal sounds of the Celtic world presented in a chamber music ensemble setting.



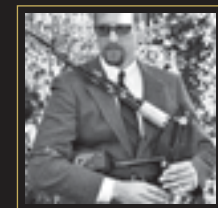
BRIAN BIGLEY
Uilleann Pipes, Flute, Whistles



KRISTEN BIGLEY
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In the West of Ireland
Tomáseen Foley - storyteller

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Rambling House Band and Dancers

Cead Mile Fáilte! (One hundred thousand welcomes!)
Tomáseen Foley - storyteller

The Kerry Christmas Carol, traditional
Eimear Arkins - vocals, and Rambling House Band

Abbey Reel/Over the Moor to Maggie, traditional
Rambling House Band and Dancers

Traditional Air
Brian Bigley - uilleann pipes, and Rambling House Band

Slán le Maighe (Farewell to the Maigue), traditional
Eimear Arkins - vocals, and Rambling House Band

Christmas in Teampall an Ghleanntáin
Tomáseen Foley - storyteller

Quarter Inch Wick/Don Oíche úd I mBeithil (That Night in Bethlehem)/**Cregg's Pipes**, traditional
Rambling House Band and Dancers

ACT II: 50 Minutes

Come West Along the Road, traditional reel
Rambling House Band and Dancers

Traditional Irish Toast /Christmas in Teampall an Ghleanntáin
Tomáseen Foley - storyteller

The Wexford Carol/Slip Jig, traditional Irish Christmas carol and jig
Eimear Arkins - vocals, and Rambling House Band and Dancers

Irish Fiddle and Guitar Duet
Eimear Arkins - Irish fiddle, and William Coulter - guitar

Here We Come a'Wassailing, traditional
Eimear Arkins - vocals, and Rambling House Band

Traditional Christmas Rambling House Deadly Dance Duel
Rambling House Dancers

Christmas in Teampall an Ghleanntáin/Heart of Christmas, music composed by William Coulter
Tomáseen Foley - storyteller, and Rambling House Band

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Midwest Gaelic Athletic Association

The Midwest Division held their annual general meeting on Saturday, November 6th, at the iconic Flat Iron Café in Cleveland's Flats. Attending clubs included Akron Celtic Guards, Buffalo Fenians, Buffalo Na Fianna, Cleveland St Pat's - St Jarlath's, Pittsburgh Banshees, Roc City Gaelic, Pittsburgh Celtics, and Syracuse GAA.

After each club provided a summary of their bounce-back year (from Covid), officer reports were provided. Highlighting the year were the Cleveland Memorial 7's in May, the Midwest Adult Invitational in Detroit in July, the Midwest Finals in Pittsburgh, and the division's prominence at the USGAA Finals in August.

Hopes for the following year were discussed, including growth of the Midwest Invitational, a return of youth games including a Midwest Youth Invitational (sidelined in 2021 due to Covid), growth of multiple teams within clubs, and plans for camogie. The Midwest Board went unchallenged



Midwest GAA Partial 2022 Board (Left to Right) Damon Margida, Matt Lamot, Paul Mulcaire, and Keith Knott.

in their positions for 2022 except where members decided not to run again.

The 2022 board consists of Chairperson Paul Mulcaire (Buffalo Na Fianna), Vice Chairperson Matt Lamot (Buffalo Fenians), Secretary Keith Knott (Akron), Treasurer Damon Margida (Cleveland), Registrar David Roberts (Pittsburgh Celtics), Public Relations Officer Sean Stayduhar (Pittsburgh Pucas), Youth Officer Garrett O'Donahue (Detroit City Harps). Stepping

down were Rob Tierney (Secretary - Pittsburgh) and Sarah Dunn (Treasurer - Cleveland). Comhghairdeas le bord nua agus go raibh míle maith ag na hoifigigh príoira. Moving forward the group discussed delegates and travel to Charlotte for the USGAA annual Convention (AGM) on November 12 through 14.

There are twenty-four motions on the docket for the USGAA Convention. Motion 1 looks to add the Games Development Officer as a convention elected official to the executive board. Motion 2 and 3 once again look to limit future motion and regulation submissions (respectively) to a two-year waiting period if they are voted down at Convention. This motion, like many other pertaining to player classifications and on-field numbers, are perennial proposals.

Motion 4 aims to limit sponsorship deals made by any USGAA entity where the sponsor is in direct conflict with a current USGAA sponsor unless otherwise approved by the USGAA County Secretary. As the USGAA board continues to secure quality sponsorships and grants, that money is being dispersed to Divisions and often eventually clubs.

Along the same vein, in Motion 5,

Continued on facing page

USGAA Continued from previous page

the USGAA Board offers to lessen the cost burden of hosting the Convention by paying for meeting rooms and delegate lunches. Motion 6 looks to address minor's (under 18) participation on adult teams. Motions 7 through 21 play the game of changing the numbers of home grown, Irish born, and sanctions on the field at one time for various codes and grades.

See comment on Motions 2 and 3 above. Motions 22, 23, and 24 look to address the USGAA playoffs: to eliminate the requirement for scoreboards at each field, to reduce the registration, administration, and referee tent size, and to require personnel to pick-up USGAA guests, dignitaries, referees, et cetera from the local airport [and transport them to the tournament hotel].

In Cleveland, the GAA club will host their annual general meeting on December 4 (Saturday) at the Flat Iron Café. Like other AGMs, reports will be shared, motions debated, and

new officers elected. Plans are also in the works for January through March indoor sessions geared towards player recruitment and offseason comradery. Stay tuned.

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 2022 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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6th - Epiphany	26th - February Issue of ilrish hits the street #ilrish #LiveMoreLifeBeMoreIrish #IrishAmerican
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2022 Midwest Board

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ILLUMINATIONS

By J. Michael Finn

Sinking of the Irish Pine

In 1939, the 26-county Irish Free State, also known as Éire, declared its intent to remain neutral during World War II. The declaration, however, did not shield the citizens of Éire from experiencing the harmful effects of the war on land or at sea.

Between August 26, 1940 and January 3, 1941, Ireland was bombed on four occasions. The most damaging and deadly bombing raid on Dublin occurred on May 31, 1941, in the area around the North Strand. This claimed the lives of twenty-eight people, injured ninety, and left over 400 people homeless. The German government later paid reparations to

the neutral Irish government as the bombings were considered an “accident of war.”

Irish Shipping Limited was an Irish state-owned deep sea shipping company, founded in 1941 for the purpose of supplying the country’s import needs during the war. The company was needed due to the stoppage of vi-

tal imports to Ireland by non-neutral countries.

The new shipping company began acquiring cargo ships in whatever condition they could find them. In its first year the company purchased eight cargo ships and chartered five more.

The first ship Ireland acquired was originally a Greek owned ship. It had been abandoned in Spain following an attack by German aircraft during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). It was purchased by Irish Shipping Ltd. and renamed the Irish Poplar (Irish merchant ships were named after trees native to Ireland). The leaking ship was so badly damaged that it nearly sank on the trip to Ireland, where it underwent extensive repairs before being placed in service.

THE LONG WATCH

Allied ships traveled in convoys crossing the Atlantic as a way of avoiding the danger presented by German U-Boats. Irish ships were generally not permitted to travel in Allied convoys. Because they traveled alone, Irish ships were well marked. The hull of the ships bore the Irish tricolor, ‘ÉIRE’ was painted on the hulls in large letters and the ships were floodlit at night. In addition, U-boat captains were under orders not to attack unarmed neutral vessels. Irish mariners referred to the period of the war as The Long Watch.

Despite precautions against attack, sixteen Irish merchant ships were

sunk during the war due to belligerent action; 149 Irish merchant sailors were killed and thirty-two were wounded. While the Irish government did register formal complaints regarding provable losses, the German government did not offer any reparations for damages or loss of life.

The Irish Pine was a cargo ship that was built in 1919 for the United States Maritime Commission, and originally named West Hematite. The ship was built by J. F. Duthie & Company, of Seattle, Washington, and was launched on April 26, 1919. The ship was 409 feet 7 inches long, and propelled by a triple expansion steam engine. The US had withdrawn the ship from active service and placed it in the reserve fleet.

On September 26, 1941, the West Hematite was chartered by Irish Shipping Ltd. and renamed Irish Pine. For the next twelve months, the Irish Pine crossed the Atlantic carrying grain from Canada to Ireland. The ship was under the command of Captain Matthew O’Neill of Wexford.

Allied ships in convoy did not stop to pick up survivors. Irish merchant ships regularly answered SOS signals and stopped to rescue survivors (Irish merchant ships rescued 534 seamen during the war).

While on passage from Halifax, Nova Scotia to Limerick on August 13, 1942, the Irish Pine was involved in the rescue of nineteen crew members from a British ship, Richmond Castle that had been torpedoed off the north coast of Ireland. The Irish Pine rescued the survivors and took them on board in heavy weather. To show their gratitude, the crew of the Richmond Castle later presented Captain O’Neill with an inscribed silver tray.

THE FINAL TOUR, MAYBE

The Irish Pine sailed from Dublin on October 29, 1942 with a crew of thirty-three, to pick up a load of phosphate rock at Tampa, Florida for delivery to Dublin. The ship was scheduled to stop first at Boston for repairs on November 17. On November 14, the Irish Pine communicated with the Irish Fir that the ship was on its way to Boston. This was the last communication anyone had with the Irish Pine.

Officials at Boston notified Irish Shipping Ltd. on December 3 that the ship was late and should be presumed

lost. A sad announcement was issued to the Irish newspapers on December 4, 1942: “Irish Shipping Ltd. regrets to announce that the Irish Pine is now considerably overdue at her trans-Atlantic port of call and must be presumed lost.”

Exactly what happened to the Irish Pine remained a mystery for thirty-five years. In 1977, author Frank Forde was researching captured German U-boat logs for his 1981 book, *The Long Watch*, a history of the Irish merchant marine during the Second World War. He discovered that the U-boat logs revealed the Irish Pine was in the North Atlantic south of Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, headed southwest for Boston when, at 12:14 a.m. on November 16, 1942, it was sunk by the German submarine U-608, under the command of Kapitän Rolf Struckmeier.

The ship was struck in the stern by a second torpedo fired by U-608 and sank vertically, stern first, within three minutes of being hit. The log noted that a lifeboat was launched but there was no indication that any of the crew actually made it to the lifeboat. Captain Matthew O’Neill and thirty-two crewmembers went down with their ship.

Seaman E. Donagh of Galway was the youngest crewmember at eighteen years old. No wreckage of the ship or remains of the crew were ever found.

Even though U-608 had been following the Irish Pine for eight hours, no mention was made by the submarine’s captain that any of the neutral makings on the ship were noticed. The sinking was the greatest single loss of life suffered by Irish Shipping

Limited during the war.

All the merchant seamen who lost their lives through belligerent action were awarded posthumously the Irish Mercantile Valor Medal with 3 Bars, which is the Irish Government’s highest decoration for service during World War II.

Today, there are two monuments in Ireland memorialize the officers and crew of the Irish merchant marine who lost their lives in service during The Emergency. One of these is the Irish Merchant Navy Memorial, located on City Quay in Dublin. The other monument is the Seaman’s Memorial, located on Bishop’s Quay in Limerick. There is no memorial dedicated specifically to the thirty-three men lost aboard the Irish Pine.

When the war was over, on May 16, 1945, Éamon de Valera, in his speech to the nation said: “To the men of our Mercantile Marine who faced all the perils of the ocean to bring us essential supplies, the nation is profoundly grateful.” ♦

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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The Sinking of the Irish Pine by Kenneth King

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IRISH AT HEART

By Natalie Keller

The Art of International Friendship

I started my Christmas shopping early this year. Not necessarily because of the supply chain issues we've all heard about, but because my Christmas gifts must go a bit far to reach their recipients. So, when I arrived at the post office the last week of October with two wrapped Christmas gifts in my arms, the employee raised her eyebrow at me. "I know it seems early," I told her. "But these are going to Ireland!" She laughed in understanding and sent them on their merry way.

I no longer live in England or Ireland, but these countries are still present and important in my life because they hold some of my favorite people within their borders. Two of my most treasured friends are from other countries: Luke from England and Marie from Ireland.

All it takes is a video call with one of these two — and hearing their respective accents — to transport me back to the United Kingdom. And until we invent actual teleportation, that's the best

way to travel the world without leaving your house.

Over my life, I have been part of several overseas friendships and even an international long-distance romance, and I've learned much about fostering these types of relationships. Compared to typical friendship, international friendship has a few extra nuances and challenges, but more importantly, countless additional layers of meaningfulness and fulfillment.

So, what is so valuable — even vital — about international friendship? And how do you nurture one once you have it, despite the thousands of miles that possibly lie between you?

SHARING CULTURE

During the years I lived abroad in the UK, I learned the joy of sharing culture. When I first met my friends, we discovered our cultural differences were embedded in the very language we spoke. I soon learned that the trunk of a car is a "boot," a vacation is a "holiday," and cotton candy — despite its adverse effects on dental hygiene — is "candy floss."

Whether it's preferable to drive on the left or right side of the road is an ongoing debate, as is the use of automatic or manual transmission cars. At times it feels like we're speaking different languages or are aliens hollering at each other from opposite ends of the solar system.

My friends introduced me to beans on toast while I made them their first ever peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. These silly differences and exchanges formed the foundation of lasting friendships.

For my foreign friends and I, swapping silly cultural quirks soon gave way to more serious discussions of the ideological differences between our countries concerning subjects such as healthcare, politics, educational systems, and diversity. In many ways, these conversations are some of the most valuable I've had during my life, because they expand my worldview and challenge many of my fundamental assumptions concerning how a society should function.

International friends offer a perspective that is radically different from those who grew up in the same hometown as us, provoking us to see the world in a new light. I believe good friendship is the kind that pushes us to evolve and become more well-rounded and open-minded versions of ourselves,

and international friendship achieves that beautifully.

THE SECRET OF LONG-DISTANCE FRIENDSHIP

The most difficult part of making international friends in my experience was, of course, going home. Those good-byes are some of my most heartbreaking, tear-filled memories. Though "goodbye" is perhaps the wrong word because we've always promised each other, "It's not a goodbye. It's a 'see you later.'" And that hope — that promise — of reunion, whether it be virtual or in person, is more than enough to sustain us.

The secret of long-distance friendship is this: geographical distance need not mean emotional distance. In fact, with the right amount of time and effort, these friendships can offer us the most intimate kind of comfort, guidance, and presence.

Technology is a saving grace, because phone calls or video calls go such a long way. Granted, time differences make scheduling a little tricky, but I'm now the master of knowing what time it is in Exeter or Galway: five hours ahead. The math comes almost immediately these days — ten AM here means three o'clock there, so I make sure to plan these calls during my mornings and their afternoons. Not only can we be world travellers with our long-distance friends, but time travellers, too!

Hearing each other's voices and stories over the phone is incredibly reaffirming, because it allows us to feel involved in each other's lives and up to date with the important events and emotions of the moment. Anytime I chat with Luke or Marie, I find myself reflecting on the "big picture" of my life rather than the small, mundane details, and I appreciate the overarching perspective this gives me.

In October, for example, after the loss of two of my great-grandparents, the important subjects of discussion were death, loss, and grief. Because our time together is less frequent, our conversations tend to hold more meaning and depth, and I so greatly appreciate their wisdom and listening ears.



A summer's worth of letters, cards, and gifts from friends across America and the world.

The postal service is also a lifesaver. Perhaps it's a childish delight, but I simply love getting mail from friends and the excitement of seeing a handwritten envelope addressed to me, rather than the usual bills or catalogues.

It is magical to hold a piece of paper in my hand that has travelled across the Atlantic Ocean to reach me, and to touch my friend's handwriting. Though friendship itself is intangible, it is nonetheless lovely to have physical tokens of it to keep nearby and read anytime you miss the other person.

BRIDGING THE FRIENDSHIP GAP

The most important thing I've learned about long-distance friendship is that the "distance" part doesn't matter. As it turns out, friendship — the deepest, truest kind — knows no distance. It knows no time. It doesn't depend on physical proximity or convenience.

It lives in postcards, phone calls, long-distance D&D, gifts of tea, shared recipes, artwork, and Christmas cards. All these — combined with simple love and care — come together to form a bridge that fills the gap and spans the world.

I have envelopes addressed to me from Massachusetts, New York, Montana, Minnesota, England, Ireland, and Japan. There's a certain sadness and longing that comes along with faraway friends, but also incomparable joy.

It's easy to love someone who lives next door. It's much harder — and so deeply rewarding — to love someone who lives a thousand miles away. ♦

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CLEVELAND COMHRA

By Bob Carney

@BobCarneyGTR

Patrick Kavanagh

*"I nicked six nicks on the door post
With my penknives big blade
There was a big one for cutting tobacco
And I was six Christmases of age"*

*"My father played the melodeon
My mother milked the cows
And I had a prayer like a white rose
pinned
On the virgin Mary's blouse"
from "A Christmas Childhood"*

The most quoted of all the Christmas poetry to come from Ireland, Patrick Kavanagh wrote, "A Christmas Childhood" when he was lonely and feeling nostalgic, spending Christmas alone in his flat in Dublin. Like much of his work, it reflects his rural upbringing in the early part of the last century.

Kavanagh was born in 1904 in Inniskeen, Co. Monaghan, the fourth of ten children to James Kavanagh and Bridget Quinn. James was a farmer and a cobbler.

Education was important in the household, Patrick's brother Peter became a university professor and a writer, two of their sisters became teachers, three became nurses and another a nun. Patrick left school at the age of thirteen as was the custom in rural Ireland, to apprentice with his father as a shoe maker and to work on the family farm. In his spare time he was a goalkeeper for the Inniskeen Gaelic Football Team, but writing was his true passion.

His first published work appeared in 1928 in The Irish Independent but was initially rejected by the editor of The Irish Statesman, George William Russell. Russell encouraged the young poet and told him to keep submitting his work, finally publishing him in 1929 and again the following year.

Being published gave Kavanagh the push to leave the farm and walk to Dublin to meet George Russell. His brother Peter was teaching in Dublin and he was able to stay with him. Russell was enthusiastic

about his arrival and gave him many books containing the works of Victor Hugo, Emerson, Whitman and Browning among other literary giants. Soon he became a mentor and literary advisor to the young writer.

Kavanagh's first collection, "Ploughman and Other Poems" was published in 1936. The work was a realistic portrayal of life in rural Ireland, differing from the romanticized poetry usually found depicting Irish country life at the time. Popular with readers, it did not have a great impact on the literary crowd.

THE GREEN FOOL

However, his novel, "The Green Fool," published two years later, received good reviews and international praise. It was loosely based on his own upbringing and writing ambition.

After spending time in London, he settled in Dublin. As the war was heating up, Ireland remained neutral.

It was not what the young writer had hoped for as far as the literary world was concerned. He felt many of the writers there put on a facade of sophistication and played at writing. It didn't help that he felt as he was treated as a lesser because of his rural roots instead of the poet he believed he was becoming.

THE GREAT HUNGER

Kavanagh's long poem, "The Great Hunger," was published in 1942. It is considered by many to be his best work. He was also working as a part-time journalist and film critic for the Irish Post.

At the end of the war, he moved to Belfast, finding employment as a barman in a number of Falls Road area public houses. He continued writing for the Irish Post until 1949, returning to Dublin in November of that year.

Kavanagh's personality and focus was becoming unpredictable as his drinking increased. He became unkempt in his appearance as he wandered the pubs of Dublin in a whiskey fueled haze, often turning on his friends and benefactors. He was writing a monthly column for a publication called "The Envoy," their offices were on Grafton Street, but most business was conducted at McDaid's Pub; Kavanagh could often be found there.

An anonymous author penned a profile of Kavanagh in the magazine, "The Leader," describing him as an "alcoholic sponger." It could have been any one of a number of people that Kavanagh had crossed over the years, but he saw an opportunity and filed libel charges against the magazine, hoping for a quick settlement to make him go away. It ended up

going to trial and he lost, very soon after he was diagnosed with lung cancer and had to have a lung removed.

As he recovered from his surgery, he spent time on the banks of the Grand Canal and regained his appreciation of nature and beauty and found inspiration for his poetry. He submitted some of his new work to McMillan and became depressed when it was rejected.

SWIFT

Patrick Swift was in Dublin and Kavanagh asked him to take a look at his work. Swift arranged for nineteen of the poems to be published in the English literary journal "Nimbus". Soon Kavanagh began receiving the acclaim he was due.

He began to spend more time in London and contributed to Swift's "X Magazine." He lectured at University College Dublin and in the United States. Kavanagh even became a judge at the Guinness Poetry Awards.

In April of 1967, he married his long time companion, Katherine. Life was good. Unfortunately, his earlier lifestyle had taken a toll on his health and he fell ill and passed away on November 30th of that same year.

Patrick Kavanagh is buried in Inniskeen next to the Patrick Kavanagh Centre. Katherine died in 1989, and is buried

at his side. A reading of "A Christmas Childhood" can become a nice addition to anyone's family Christmas traditions. Merry Christmas everyone.

ON RAGLAN ROAD

"On Raglan Road" has been called the greatest love song out of Ireland. Kavanagh wrote the poem at forty years of age, when he began an affair with the twenty-two year old Hilda Moriarty. In his head he knew it was a mistake, but his heart convinced him otherwise.

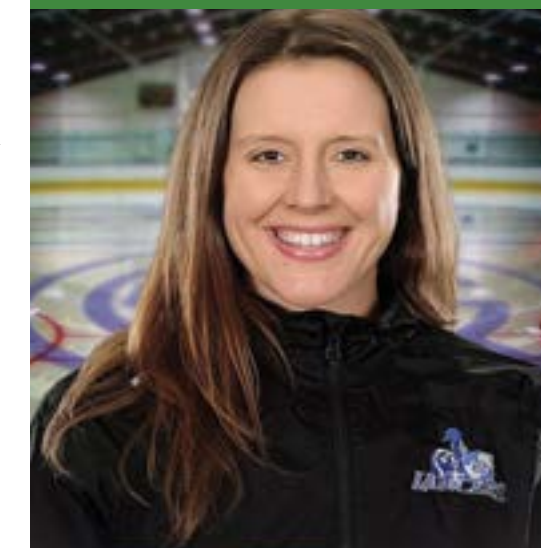
In an interview in 1987, Hilda said it was a relationship doomed from the start mostly because of the age gap. The lines of the poem or lyrics in the song became clearer as I learned more about the man behind them. ♦

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

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ERIN GO BRAGH





AN Eejit ABROAD

By Conor Makem

Why Do We Irish Love Potatoes?

Like the call of the siren, it beckons from the center of the Thanksgiving table in all of its starchy goodness, just on the other side of the green beans. There is no shame. Everyone with Irish ancestry succumbs to its lure. We're all powerless in its awesome gaze.

Of course, I speak of the spud, the incredible, edible, delectable master of all tubers, the potato, the perfect vehicle for gravy, the granddaddy of side dishes.

The potato has played a crucial role in our history, sustaining our ancestors and spreading us tragically across the world when nature denied us its bounty. My father used to say that a day without potatoes is like a day without sunshine. Indeed, I've been served dinners in Ireland with three different kinds of potato sides. And I loved it.

How seriously do we take our potatoes, any of you non-Irish may ask? Let's just say that three years ago, in November 2018, a Cork woman was sentenced to jail for damaging a packet of Pringles. Don't mess with our crisps!

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HOW DID POTATOES BECOME SO POPULAR?

Potatoes evolved from the poisonous ancestor of nightshade, so its cousins include tobacco, chili peppers, bell peppers and tomatoes. Just so you know, the part we eat is the root of the plant, where the energy is stored for the following year.

Yet, I digress. Our story starts about 15,000 years ago, in the South American Andean highlands between what is now Peru and Bolivia. That is when human settlers appeared in the region. Somewhere about 8,000 B.C., we domesticated the wild potato (my personal belief is that the first fish and chip shop opened not long after, but archaeology is murky on this subject).

The potato remained unknown to the rest of the world until the Spanish conquistadors started poking around the area in the early 1500s. Somewhere between 1570 and 1593, they brought the plant to Europe, but it was hardly an immediate success.

Europeans were used to eating the upper portions of plants, not the roots, and as such, the plant was regarded as poisonous and even evil. Doubters blamed the potato for leprosy, sterility, over sexuality and for destroying soil.

But the lowly potato found its salvation in its long shelf life, in particular for the French military. France sought a food not only to sustain their soldiers, but also a populace starved from

continuous warfare.

The government planted one hundred acres of potatoes and guarded the food. The fact that it was guarded sparked interest among the French and eventually it became one of the most popular food sources in Europe.

THE GREAT HUNGER

The potato was introduced into Ireland in the late 1500s and apparently, we liked it. Not only did it flourish, but the tuber grew so well in Ireland that eventually farmers began to rely solely on the plant for their crops. Big mistake. It became the staple for the poor Irish family.

So, when a blight hit the potato crop in 1845, the working poor were unprepared. That year, a fungus-like organism called *Phytophthora infestans* turned up to one half of the potato crop into goo. It devastated about three-quarters of the crop over the next seven years.

Britain—which at the time ruled Ireland—failed the population. Though Ireland continued to export a great many foods, their populace was dying. Roughly a million Irish people died of starvation or related causes and another million left the shores of their homeland for America and other less impoverished nations. We spread throughout the world.

In 1997, British Prime Minister Tony Blair issued a statement, offering a formal apology to Ireland for the British government's handling of the catastrophe. And so here we are, with Irish seeds cast all

over the world. We stuck by our beloved potato and have—in the inimitable Irish way—bettered ourselves through our misfortunes.

POTATO PIZZA CRUST

Allow me now to move past the traditional roasted, mashed, baked, boiled, fried, chipped, crisped potato to offer you a new avenue for potatoes: pizza crust. Yes, it's possible and yes, it's delicious (and gluten free).

I'd suggest listening to appropriate music while making this recipe. Suggestions include Bud the Spud and the Ketchup Song, both from Stompin' Tom Connors; Potato's in the Paddy Wagon, by the New Main Street Singers (from the movie *A Mighty Wind*); and Let's Call the Whole Thing Off, performed by Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong.

RECIPE

Potato Pizza Crust

1 ½ pounds potatoes (try red potatoes)
½ cup of shredded cheese of your choice
1 egg
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
Salt and pepper

Your choice of toppings

Preheat oven to 425 F (220 C)
Line a baking sheet with parchment paper
Peel potatoes, discard peels
Grate potatoes in grater (large holes)
Transfer potatoes to towel and squeeze out excess moisture

Add potatoes to a bowl with cheese, egg, salt and pepper. Stir to combine.

Form a 12-inch circle on the parchment paper with the mixture
Bake 25-30 minutes

Remove from oven and top with toppings of your choice (suggestions: mozzarella cheese, cherry tomatoes sliced in half, pepperoni and basil)

Bake an additional 10-15 minutes.
Crack open the latest edition of *iIrish* and enjoy. ♦

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

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AT HOME, ABROAD

By Regina Costello

An Idle Mind is Not Necessarily the Devil's Workshop!

As we celebrate the winter holidays, we consume festive food, share sentimental memories with family and enjoy some much-needed down time. Experts are now encouraging us to get bored!

Yes, they are suggesting we dedicate some time during our day to be mindless! Coming across this topic in recent weeks fascinated me because by nature I find it difficult to be still.

My husband jokes with me and tells me my "on" button is activated before I even wake up. I rarely sit down idly, so I really could not tear myself away from the concept that boredom has benefits.

Looking at different sources, data suggests that giving the brain a complete break provides an opportunity for meandering between consciousness and subconsciousness. This abstract state does wonders for the mind and does not necessarily provide the proverbial workshop for the devil.

TED TALK

Manoush Zomomori, a journalist, podcast host and author, addresses boredom in a Ted Talk. Based on her research and life experience, she observed that she is more productive in her bored state. Attempting to sit down and brainstorm with a dedicated time slot is useless for her. She draws a blank, feels under pressure and comes up with nothing.

She realized that her mind works better when she is walking or standing in line for a coffee. While idle and not trying to force the ideas to come, her brain is more functional during these

small bursts, rather than dedicating time forcing her brain to work.

Dr. Sandi Mann says that when the brain is bored, the default mode engine is switched on, and contrary to what we might think, our brain actually gets very busy. Connections occur during daydreaming when we let our minds wander and drift. In this environment, we solve problems, reflect upon life, establish goals and identify effective steps to bring them to fruition.

WHAT HAPPENS TO OUR BRAIN

So, it begs the questions of what exactly happens in the brain during boredom circumstances and how can we tap into this resource to reap the best benefits? It seems that taking a break allows an already overloaded brain to relax and alleviate stress. In this element, we are enabled to look inward, and studies show that doing just that we discover useful ideas.

When we are bored, there is nothing of any interest around us, and so the brain is forced to look inside in its own imagination and use itself alone as a resource to think in different ways. One fact that I found very interesting is that boredom creates an innate desire for novelty, and as such makes us long for new ideas and adventures! Those new ideas and adventures come to us while in that bored realm! Perhaps one of the main reasons boredom is fast becoming a buzz word is because up until recently, the act of being bored really did not have much competition. We reaped the benefits of boredom until the cell phone was created and unfortunately, we allow it to enter into too many facets of our lives.

Sadly, when we are bored nowadays, we automatically pull out our cell phones - standing in line at the post office, waiting in the school hallway for the bell to ring to pick up our kids, sitting in the doctor's office waiting to be called - so many of us are on our phones.

When we turn on that screen, we deprive ourselves of both communicating with those around us, and of creative developmental "bored" time that allows us to be potentially brilliant! But let's not beat ourselves up because we are not to blame.

Cell phone engineers develop and manage cell phones to create a dependency of us upon them. Some liken the human relationship with the phone to that of a drug addict and the drug.

So, the odds are from the onset stacked against us, necessitating a concerted effort on our part to shut our phones off. They are built to make us addicted. Scrolling on our cell phone effects the brain in the opposite way of boredom. It tires it out!

It forces the brain to multitask and to keep shifting. Certain circumstances require us to open our phones, - if we receive a message from our child, or an email from work is received - but the trick of course is to learn to limit our use just to that single task and force ourselves to put our cell away immediately afterwards.

BUYING FIVE YEARS OF LIFE

Doing so could buy us as much as five years of life! Yes, some studies document that adults spend approximately five years of their lives on their cell phones! Let's not fool ourselves - we would all rather spend those five years in a very different capacity.

Preparing this article has made me more mindful in recent weeks. If I am honest with myself, I have to admit that I am noticing a pattern. When I aimlessly walk my Wheaten Terrier or wait for the kettle to boil for my tea, I find that my mind is at its most creative.

Great ideas pop into my head for ideas for talks and programs for adults where I work; plans for displays in the teen section of the library come to the fore; creative craft kits for toddlers to bring home with their borrowed books twirl around in my head; topics for future columns for *iIrish* spring to mind; projects that my son might enjoy or spots for vacation that might be worth investigating dawn on me....

The list goes on and necessitates my carrying a small notepad, because I just know these "brilliant" plans will fall out of my head once I return home from a walk and wipe Ashley's muddy paws clean or sit down to drink my tea and munch on Boland's Bourbon Cream biscuits.

THE SWEETNESS OF DOING NOTHING

Seeing these results for myself, I am determined during the holiday season and beyond to make time each day for a boredom break. The phrase "killing time" as sometimes used to describe boredom sounds both negative and uninviting. The Italians use nicer language "il dolce far niente", that translates as "the sweetness of doing nothing". Such words and sentiment serve as an appealing invitation not to

be dismissed.

If you are interested in diving further into this topic, come visit me at Buckeye Library, where I can reserve for you the books *Boredom* by Peter Toohey or *Boredom and Art* by Julian Jason Halaydn. Perhaps discussion can be had over coffee at Sean Lackey's *Gandalf's Pub & Restaurant* down the road, which could soon become another home abroad. ♦

Sources consulted:

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A postgraduate from the National University of Ireland, Regina's career focus is in the fields of Irish history, libraries and museums. She works at the Buckeye branch of the Medina Public Library District; serves as Director on the Boards of the Mayo Society of Greater Cleveland and The Irish American Charitable Foundation. She and her husband enjoy their family of two spirited teenagers and beloved wheaten terrier. Regina loves to hear from readers at rcostello@ameritech.net

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TOLEDO IRISH

By Molly McHugh

Christmas is Coming, the Goose is Getting Fat!

"Please put a penny in the old man's hat. If you haven't got a penny a ha'penny will do; if you haven't got a ha'penny, then God Bless You!"

Ah, I can hear the rounds of that classic nursery rhyme dancing through my head now. Not only are the lyrics contagious, but there is also a nice Christmas message woven into the rhyme; specifically, Christmas is

a time for giving, and if you haven't anything to give, a blessing will work just fine. A ha'penny is also known as a halfpenny, but more on that another time.

AN IRISH CHRISTMAS

The origin of the nursery rhyme doesn't just share a message of a giving spirit, but it alludes to the fact that a Christmas Feast was on its way! In Ireland in times past, goose was central to any feast, but especially at Christmas because the goose was considered such a delicacy. I often remember my dad talking about the Christmas Goose as the "piece de resistance." The goose would be caught and cooked over a turf fire in a big black pot. Parsnips, carrots, and, of course, the potatoes accompanied the feast.

Another Irish Christmas tradition that my dad often talked about was the candle in the window. Ah, that special candle in the window.

What was so special about the candle you may ask? In Ireland back in the 1700s, the Penal Laws suppressed the Catholic faith, so Mass had to be celebrated in secrecy. When it came time for Christmas, Catholic homes

would place a candle in the window to signify their faith, and families prayed that a local priest would come into their home to celebrate Christmas Eve Mass in person. Doors would be left unlocked throughout the night in hopes of receiving that special visit, and if you were lucky enough for that to happen, well, that would have been the ultimate Christmas gift.

As the nursery rhyme says, Christmas is about giving; but even with nothing to give, a Christmas blessing would mean even more than a ha'penny. Certainly, a visit by the local priest to celebrate mass on the Holy Night would be most magical.

A CHILDREN'S PRAYER

The children's prayer to receive the visit went like this:

"Candle burning warm, Candle burning bright, Guide the Holy Family to this home tonight.

Wandering the world, Looking for a bed, Anywhere to lay the tiny Baby's head.

On this Christmas Eve, May their travels cease, Jesus, Mary, Joseph-- stay and be at peace."

As time went on, the candle in the window tradition continued, but not

exactly for the same reasons, since there are no Penal Laws in place today, or even when my dad was growing up. While the candle still proclaims a welcoming message for the Holy Family, in true Irish spirit, it's also a welcoming signal for friends and family to "call in" and gather into the home during the Christmas season--hopefully just in time for the goose!

While it's so easy to get wrapped up in the moment of laughter and good cheer at the time of the holidays, sometimes it's nice to just take a step back and remind ourselves of a short little nursery rhyme or child's prayer to capture the true meaning of the season. One of my personal favorite little anecdotes is, "Maybe Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store, maybe perhaps, Christmas means a little bit more."

Wishing all iIrish readers a happy, healthy and safe Christmas season. Now go enjoy the goose! Nollaig Shona Duit! ♦

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By Megan Lardie

KIDS CRAIC

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree

Have you ever wondered why it is a tradition to bring a tree inside the house and decorate it? The idea of it surely seems odd. This tradition goes back quite far in history.

The evergreen tree has always been used because it stays green all year

long. Ancient Egyptians used evergreen wreaths in homes and temples to celebrate life, peace, and great wealth. They believed that the sun god, Ra, grew sick during the winter and that is why the days were cold and dark. They believed that evergreens helped Ra grow stron-

ger and brighter, eventually returning to warmer days.

In Northern Europe, priests of the Celts decorated their temples with evergreens and mistletoe because they believed it would keep evil spirits and sickness away during the winter. This is how green and red became the primary colors of Christmas. Some say people began to bring in just small branches of pine trees in during the winter months to remind them of spring and warmer days and eventually they began to just bring in the entire tree.

LIGHTING OF THE TREE

The tradition of adding light to the trees was an idea that came from the 1500s! Legend has it that Martin Luther, who was a leader of a religious movement, was inspired by the stars and tried to recreate the night sky by adding candles to the tree in his home. This tradition has moved away from the use of candles since the invention of electricity and now people use glitzy electric lights of all colors.

DECORATING THE TREE

The tradition of decorating trees did not start until the 16th century in Germany. The Germans used nuts, apples, and gingerbread cookies to decorate their trees. As Germans began to move to other countries, the tradition spread around the world.

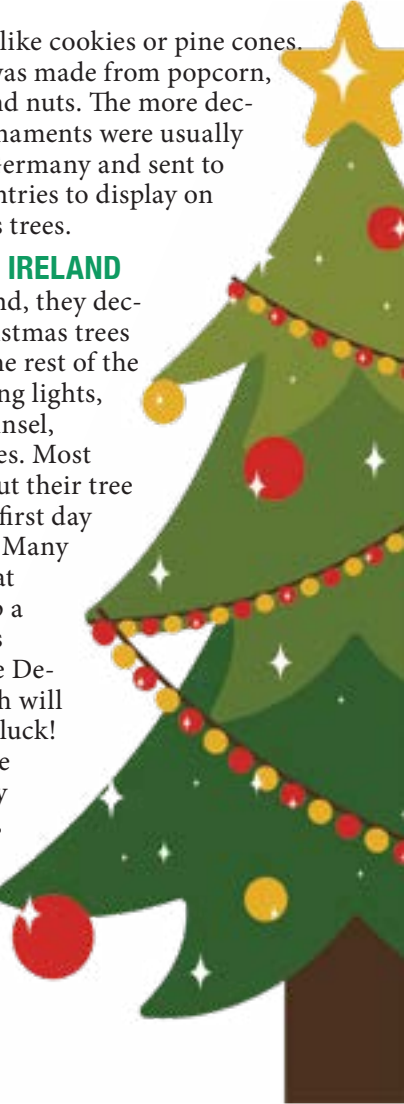
Most people used homemade ornaments made from items around

the house like cookies or pine cones. Garland was made from popcorn, berries, and nuts. The more decorative ornaments were usually made in Germany and sent to other countries to display on Christmas trees.

TREES IN IRELAND

In Ireland, they decorate Christmas trees just like the rest of the world, using lights, garland, tinsel, and baubles. Most families put their tree up on the first day of advent. Many believe that putting up a Christmas tree before December 8th will bring bad luck!

Trees are beautifully decorated, usually with an angel on top. Many families still use holly and ivy as decoration, and it is believed that the more berries on the holly means better luck in the new year! ♦



Kids Literature Corner



The Christmas Pig by J.K. Rowling

Poor Jack has lost his favorite toy, Dur Pig (DP for short), on Christmas Eve of all nights. Jack received a new toy, which is actually DP's replacement. How far will Jack and his new toy, The Christmas Pig, go to find DP? After all, DP is Jack's most treasured possession and has always been there for Jack in good times and bad times.

The Christmas Pig has a daring plan to help Jack find DP on Christmas Eve, the night for miracles and lost causes. Read about the magical adventure that Jack is on to find his best friend! For ages 8 and up. Chapter book with 288 pages.



A Wish to be a Christmas Tree by Colleen Monroe

Families show up every year to pick out their Christmas tree. The trees would rejoice when they were cut down and taken home to be decorated. One tree knew his days of being picked were over because he was too big and too tall. In this charming story with beautiful illustrations, the tree's woodland friends help his wish finally come true. For ages 3-8. 32 pages.

Kids Cooking in the Kitchen



COOKIE CUTTER PIZZA

Since you have the cookie cutters out making cookies, keep them out to make these cute pizzas too!

- Pizza Dough (you can make your own or just use frozen, just remember to thaw it out in time)
- Pizza Sauce
- Mozzarella cheese
- Toppings of your choosing
- Olive Oil
- Cookie Cutters

Step 1: Generously flour your surface and roll out your pizza dough to the thickness that you prefer. **Step 2:** Cut the dough out with your cookie cutters of your choice. Place on a parchment paper lined baking sheet and brush with olive oil.

Step 3: Bake the cut-out shapes for 8-10 minutes at 400 degrees. **Step 4:** Top with pizza sauce, toppings, and cheese. **Step 5:** Bake at 400 for another 5-10 minutes, or until the crust is the color of your liking. The longer you bake it, the crispier it will be. **Step 6:** Enjoy!

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BLOWIN' IN

By Susan Mangan

@SueMangan

Christmas Without Artifice

"The newness that was in every stale thing

When we looked at it as children:

*The spirit-shocking wonder
in a black slanting Ulster hill . . .
the bog-holes, cart tracks, old stables
where Time begins.*

O after Christmas, we'll have no need to go

*Searching for the difference that
sets an old phrase*

Burning . . .

Christ comes with a January flower."

"Advent" by Patrick Kavanagh

Artifice pulls us into the trap of the Christmas season. Holiday music begins as yellowed sycamore leaves fly in the crisp November air. Snowmen perch happily next to signs for "Harvest Blessings," while red and green lights illuminate moonlit nights in late autumn.

Twenty-first century marketing will never relinquish to Ecclesiastes: "To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven." Walking down humbug lane with Ebenezer Scrooge, I embrace the merry mayhem with the resolve that "Christmas comes but once a year."

After sleepless nights as a nurse, my mother would utter these words like a mantra as she untangled lights and threw tins of burnt spritz cookies into the bin. Despite my mother's exhaustion, Santa always arrived before 5 am on Christmas Day, dishes of ribbon candy rested on every sideboard, and a bowl filled with plump oranges and nuts sat on the dining room table. Mothers passed North Pole bootcamp with high marks.

Ironically, immersion into this

wonderland of baubles and confections does not make me merrier, just more frenetic than usual. Much like my mom before me, I hate to disappoint.

The holidays are built on tradition, whether that means roasting that turkey on the table or baking dozens of sugar frosted cookies that are devoured before Christmas Eve. I try my elfin best to uphold expectation, but inevitably something always goes wrong. Disgruntled trolls threaten my quest at every turn.

To thwart seasonal anxiety, I have built in a few rituals of my own that allow me to breathe as the holidays inevitably unravel. Oftentimes, I look to the purity of nature: her birds and beasts and the subtle change of atmosphere when I seek a moment's peace. True magic lies in the passing of seasons, when the darkness of autumn surrenders to the promise of light on the eve of the winter solstice.

Since childhood, I could sense snow that falls in the dark hours of sleep. A feeling of calm, like a weighted blanket, seemingly envelops the house. Wind lulls me to sleep, and snow, a silent benevolent phantom, whispers quiet dreams. Upon waking, there is a decided chill in the air as I reach for my thick glasses. Finally, I see out of my window, rather than sense, the snow that has blanketed the skeletal limbs of trees. Icy configurations hang from stubborn oak leaves, primitive ornaments, gifts from the earth.

Before the sleeping house awakes,

I accompany my spaniel as she cuts a path through the pristine tableau of white. She can hardly wait for her human to step into old Wellingtons and wrap a tattered woolen coat around her flannel pajamas.

My spaniel leaps with the vigor of an Artic hare through the fallen drifts of new snow reminding me of the miracle of life. I like to breathe winter air deeply until my lungs nearly burst with the cold.

On those rare Christmas eve nights when snow falls in frozen cascades, I run childlike into the wind and stand mesmerized by the soft glow of my Christmas tree as seen from the front yard. My hair stiffens, and yet is not so grey that crystalline snowflakes still shine like coronets against a pillow of chestnut velvet.

Removing my frozen coat, I quietly slip back into the house. By this time, dawn is approaching. Still awake, I am enjoying the peaceful strains of medieval carols and motets by the acapella quartet Anonymous 4. I listen with a calm heart to the sounds of angels, alive and gently snoring, the memory of my mother breathing deep of her mantra, and the hymn of silence before the waking dawn. ♦

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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DONNYBROOK

By John Myers

The Third Patron Saint

The Cathedral of the Youngstown Diocese is named in honor of St. Columba. Columba is the Latin for the Irish "Columbkille" or "Colmcille". The parish of St. Columba was one of the first in Northern Ohio, founded in 1847. St. Columba later became the Cathedral Parish when the Youngstown Diocese was created in 1943, carved out of the Cleveland Diocese.

St. Columbkille is considered the Third patron saint of Ireland, along with St. Patrick and St. Brigid.

St. Columba was born in County Derry in 521 of Royal Irish lineage and founded over twenty -five monasteries in Ireland and Scotland, including those at Derry, Durrow and Kells.

Seeking solitude, Columbkille left with twelve followers and traveled to the remote Celtic Island of Iona on the edge of the North Atlantic to establish an abbey there, now a part of Scotland, but an area the Irish had long been inhabiting. Iona Abbey was the foundation to evangelize the Picts (Scots) and became the greatest monastery and center of Christian study of the Age.

The monastery of Iona mastered the art of Illuminated Manuscripts, usually the Psalms or the Gospels. The Book of Kells is Iona's most celebrated creation.

It was at Iona that the Celtic Cross was created and first used. The Iona Abbey took the lead and with other Irish monasteries, teaching monks were sent out to the continent of Europe, founding some of the cornerstone centers of learning and study on the continent, while laying the seeds of the Enlightenment and taking Europe out of the Dark Ages. His feast day is celebrated on June 9th.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE ANGLO-IRISH TREATY

It is Time to Go
December 6th marks the Centenary



A Mankato stone sculpture of St. Columba, holding the gospels, stands outside the Cathedral of the Youngstown Diocese.

of the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty, one of the most significant dates in Irish history. After the Easter Uprising in 1916, the election landslide of Sinn Fein in 1918 and the Irish war for Independence (1919 to 1921), the Irish had fought the British to a military stalemate.

Both sides were exhausted after years of direct conflict, in addition to the general exhaustion of World War I. Michael Collins (The Big Fella), along with W.T. Cosgrave, Kevin O'Higgins and Arthur Griffith, lead a delegation to London to negotiate with the Brits. Eamon DeValera chose to stay in Dublin, sending Collins' team off with the statement that "scapegoats were needed."

Prime Minister Lyold George and Winston Churchill lead the British delegation at the talks being held at 10 Downing Street. Collins and company, ardent Republicans, were still stumbling on the Brit offer of Dominion status, which included an oath to the Crown, and for the possible partition of the Island of Ireland.

The British leaders made it clear that this was the deal or else all-out war would be unleashed upon Ireland within three days. Along with the realities of not only renewed war, but a ramped-up war upon the people of Eire, coupled

with the promise of a Border Commission to re examine any partition in several years, The Irish Delegation signed The Treaty in the early morning hours of December 6th, 1921, at Number 10 Downing Street.

December 6th is not a day of celebration for Irish Republicans, it certainly is a day to note and reflect. The Treaty did lead to the creation of the Irish Free State, and ultimately, to the Irish Republic we know and love.

However, it came at a great price, with the ugly scar of the artificially created border by the British on the Island of Ireland that continues to fester today. This centenary is a milestone, one hopes a milestone to renew efforts to unite, in peace, the people and island of Ireland.

CONGRATS TO THIS YEAR'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY HONOREES

All the best to the 2022 United Irish Societies honorees for the Greater Cleveland St. Patrick's Day Parade. This year's Grand Marshall will be Thomas F. McManamon Jr., principal of McManamon & Associates Insurance; Irish Mother will be Rita Lally, joined by Inside Co-Chair Patricia Coleman Lavelle and Outside Co-Chair Eileen Mangan Stull. The theme of the 2022 Parade will be "Ireland's Scenic Coastlines." Send us your groups or communities 2022 Parade Honoree's so we can share with all the readers of iIrish.

AGED WHINE

Portions of the overindulged Unionist community in the Six Counties continue to ramp up the decibel level of their age-old whine. As the reality of "be careful what ye wish for" sinks in as a result of Unionist leaderships push for Brexit, a new level of desperation has emerged, and foot stomping has commenced.

"Sir" Jeffrey Donaldson, the leader of the loyalist DUP party, has suggested that the U.K. Government should unilaterally exit (implement Article 16) the N.I. Protocol (Irish Sea trade border). Such unilateral action by the U.K. would likely lead to an escalating trade war with the E.U. In the case of such a trade war, the twenty-six County Republic of Ireland economy would be hit hard.

In addition, David Campbell, Chair of the Loyalist Communities Council, has withdrawn their support for the Good Friday Agreement, a very

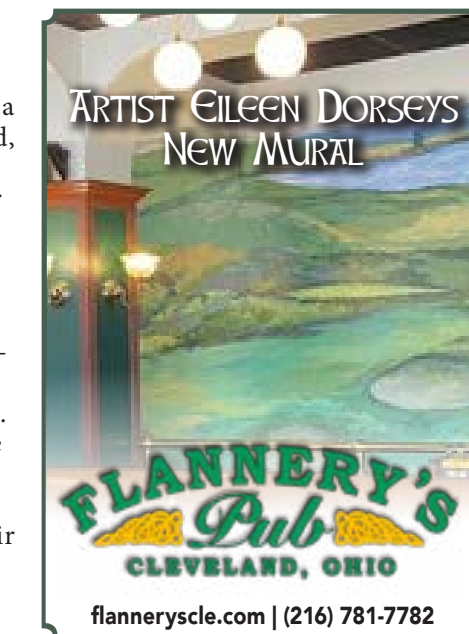
serious matter, something politically akin to the 'nuclear option'.

Most observers on the ground expect U.K. P.M. Boris J. to invoke Article 16 and leave the Northern Ireland Protocol Agreement. However, P.M. Boris is very skilled at the game of bluff, and it is hard to see how a trade war with the E.U. and ruptured relations with the U.S.A. as a result has any positive outcome. Still, foot stomping has worked for the Orange Community in the past, domestic politics could force Boris's hand to go against wisdom and logic.

FINUCANE HONORED

At The recent Ancient Order of Hibernians Presidents Testimonial gathering in Youngstown, Ohio, the AOH awarded the Sean McBride Humanitarian award to Geraldine Finucane, widow of murdered civil rights attorney Patrick Finucane and mother of North Belfast MP, John Finucane, for her years of work seeking to uncover the British collusion in her husband's assassination, as well as her fight on behalf of the human and civil rights struggle in the Six Counties. The award was presented to Ms. Finucane by AOH Vice President Sean Pender and the LAOH Vice President, Marilyn Madigan (Madigan Muses Columnist) on behalf of the Hibernians. The presentation came at the Testimonial dinner to honor and recognize AOH President Danny O'Connell. ♦

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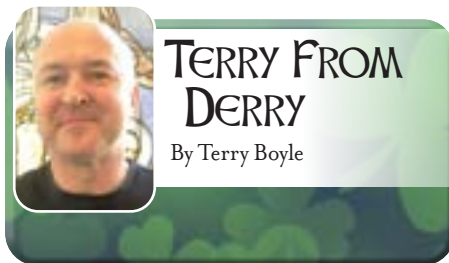
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God Bless Us Curmudgeons, Everyone

If you're a curmudgeon like myself, you'll know just what the countdown to Christmas really means; long queues at the shops, traffic nightmares, buses and trains packed to the gills, anxiety about purchases (too cheap, too expensive) and so forth. Every year you live in dread of seeing the first display of cheap, tacky decorations, followed by the usual raft of musical exhortations to be happy and thankful. From late October to Christmas Day, we could be in North Korea listening to Kim Jong-

un ordering us to fall prostrate before the jolly fat man in a red suit.

It's bad enough watching the dark nights devour more and more of daylight without whipping ourselves into a happy frenzy of epicurean stature. We end up getting fatter while our bank balances get thinner.

I remember reading an article attributing the modern concept of Christmas to Charles Dickens. The author of the said article suggested that 'A Christmas Carol' with the conversion of Scrooge, the archetypal curmudgeon, is responsible for our indulgent commercialism. Isn't ironic that an author whose work was used to reform child labour laws has since been used to line the pockets of the merchants of capitalism?

The one place of refuge against such blatant exploitation is usually the pub. Having a few jars with your mates is always a good salve for the soul. Within an hour, you've sorted out the world's problems, righted every dodgy political system and ended world hunger, without having moved more than 20 yards from your seat.

If only politicians were astute enough to eavesdrop on their inebriated constituents, we might actually see some change for the good, instead of the usual dance around the Maypole propaganda. But, I digress, as Christmas looms, the norms of pub life radically change. Hordes of office party goers invade the sacred space of the regulars and to quote Yeats, 'all changed, changed utterly'.

The alternative to going out isn't much better. You can stay at home hugging the fire, or wrap yourself around the radiator while watching

another re-run of a would-be nun fending off the Nazi threat from her native Austria by teaching kids the musical scale, or the one about a tornado survivor (possibly an acid dropper) caught up in the surreal world of little fat people with a yellow brick road, and a wizard of no substance. It could be worse, I suppose, we could be walking in the air with a snowman, something I've always thought possible during those heady psychedelic hippy years.

Given the stay-at-home option, the prospect of a pub full of revelers was maybe not the worst thing that could happen to me. I determined to leave early. The closer to seven the fewer chances of getting a seat.

THE SNUG

If I timed it right, I could snag one of the snugs and keep it for one or two mates, if they dared to face the Christmas nightmare. One thing in Ireland that you can be sure of at this time of the year is the weather. The damp cold eats into your bones.

Going anywhere, you have to dress up prepared for the worst weather conditions, and tonight was no exception. Rain and sleet, slush around the feet, while you almost kill yourself trying to avoid people and puddles.

Getting into the pub, I spied a vacant snug. Moving quickly, I caught the bartender's eye and signaled for the usual poison. Staking out my spot with a very wet coat and scarf, I made my way through the usual frequenters with a nod and a 'how are ye?' I had made it.

Along with a drink in my hand, I had successfully negotiated a truce with the dreaded holiday and soon, one or two of the gang would be here to keep me company. For the umpteenth time, we'd set the world to right again, or so I thought.

In they came, sporting Santa hats, the elves and snowmen. Young, sickeningly happy, they swept aside the other curmudgeons in their tide of frivolity. Orders were thrown at an elf, while Santa and his posse surrounded me.

Laughing, toasting me with imaginary drinks, they wished me the season's best. My wet damp coat and scarf proved to be no deterrent and lay squashed under the bum of Rudolph. As the world shrunk around me, I tried in vain to ignore their antics.

Refusing to acknowledge any of my social nuances indicating a need for

privacy, I was unwillingly adopted me into their Christmas tribe. And, suddenly, I was inundated with questions, banter and offers to buy my next drink.

As they pressed in, I could barely lift the glass to my mouth without feeling my arms had lost their range of motion. I was being overcome with that well-known quality of Irish generosity and it was suffocating. When two of my mates arrived, I watched as they pointed to me and laughed.

When I tried to get up to join them, I was pulled down and made to drink. There I was stuck with no red slippers to click, my potential rescuers enjoying my excruciation too much to intervene, and my snowman was downing a Jägermeister.

MONEY FOR NOTHING

One of the merrymakers started a conversation about songs that made no sense or she'd completely misunderstood. An example she shared was Elton John's 'Benny and the Jets.' Instead of singing 'she got electric boots,' she had been singing she got electric boobs.

Another chirped in with Dire Straits and 'Money for nothing and your chips for free, instead of chicks for free.' This was followed Adele's 'or should I just keep chasing penguins instead' rather than chasing pavements.

On and on they rattled out their malapropisms with infectious enthusiasm and, for some reason, I wasn't squirming. They were funny, even witty. What was happening to me? Had they spiked my drink with some kind of Christmas ecstasy?

Then, turning to me, I was put on the spot. *What yer song mucker?*

Well, there's always been a song that's troubled me. It's long before your time, so I don't expect you'll know it, called, 'Leader of the Pack.' The guts of the song goes like this. A young girl is telling her friends about her boyfriend who's died in a motorbike accident. Out of nowhere, they asked her 'was he hurt' to which she responds, 'I'll never know'. Now, tell me if that isn't a stupid question. Was he hurt? No, but he's lying in the fecking morgue never to see the light of day again.

Falling about laughing, they rallied for more. It seems my plot was following a predictable outcome. *God bless us, everyone.* ♦

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April in Spain

By John Banville
Hanover Square Press
ISBN-13: 978-1-335-471 40-6
318 pp. 2021

There have been many legendary Irish literary characters. Names like Leopold Bloom, from *Ulysses*, Jimmy Rabbitte, from the *Barrytown Trilogy*, Mary Kate Danaher from *The Quiet Man*, and Cathleen Ni Houlihan from Cathleen Ni Houlihan. A more recent one is Quirke, chief pathologist in the Dublin city morgue, who investigates sudden-death victims in the 1950s.

The character was created by well-known Irish author and Booker Prize winner, John Banville, writing under the pseudonym Benjamin Black. Black wrote seven novels featuring Quirke as

his titular protagonist. The character has also been adapted as a BBC series under just the name Quirke.

This year, however, an eighth novel has been written in the series by Banville, not Black, titled *April in Spain*.

April in Spain finds Quirke on holiday in Spain with his psychiatrist wife in the sunny Basque city of San Sebastian. The change of scenery gets on his nerves (the holiday being his wife's idea). "You love to be miserable," his wife analyses. "It's your version of being happy."

Quirke is not a happy camper. It was like, he said, being in a drying-out hospital. He had been in more than one such place in his day and he knew what he was talking about.

One day Quirke decides to open an oyster with nail scissors rather than proper shucking tool. He slices his hand and ends up in a hospital, where he comes face to face with a young woman whom he has seen recently in a

café. Her name, she tells Quirke, is Dr. Angela Lawless.

Despite only having glimpsed her in the shadowy twilight at the bar, Quirke grows suspicious that Angela Lawless is in fact a woman named April Latimore who was supposed to have been murdered by her brother, who later committed suicide back in Ireland. April was a friend of Quirke's daughter Phoebe. Alerted by Quirke to the possible discovery of April's status, as a person who is still alive, Phoebe heads to Spain.



The Latimore family is powerful, and there are secrets and scandals that must not come to light. The only thing to do is hire a killer and take carte of matters once and for all. The payoff is melodramatic, but almost worth the prize of admission. Having read almost all the Black/Banville books, this does not disappoint. It's TOP SHELF for sure! ♦

Terrence Kenneally is an attorney whose office is in Rocky River, Ohio. He received his Master's in Irish Studies from John Carroll University.

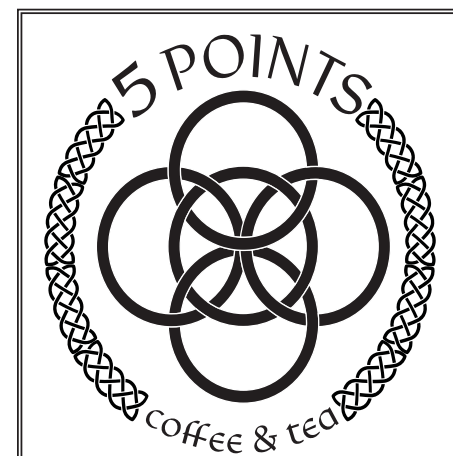
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DECEMBER

- 3 - Guy Snowdon
- 4 - The Island Doctor
- 10 - Crawley & Sofranko
- 11 - The Other Brothers
- 17 - Nathan Henry
- 18 - New Barleycorn

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

By Linda Fulton Burke

ACROSS

- 4 _____ by Percy French
 7 The Dublin _____ (Dublin Can Be Heaven)- by Leo Maguire, made famous by Noel Purcell
 10 When I Mowed _____ Murphy's Meadow - originally a poem by M. J. Devine whose people came from North Kerry.
 12 The _____ of Donegal - written in 1900 by Neil McBride, recorded later by Bridie Gallagher[80]
 14 The Shores of _____ Bay - about leaving Ireland for Australia
 15 The Emigrant's _____ - written by Paul Kealy, about an Irish emigrant leaving home & his loved ones in the 2010s.
 16 Murshen _____ - a traditional song collected by Colm Ó Lochlainn
 19 My Dublin _____ - composed by May O'Higgins.
 20 _____ Bay - the name of two songs, one written by Francis Arthur Fahy of Kinvara, and one written by Dr. Arthur Colahan
 21 _____ of Donegal
 23 Road to _____ - about the village in Donegal.

- Recorded by Bridie Gallagher.
 25 _____ by the Lee - words and music by Irish songwriter, Dick Farrelly.
 28 The _____ White Hare - song set in Creggan, County Tyrone, from a poem by John Graham.
 31 Ireland's _____ official anthem for the Ireland national rugby union team, written by Phil Coulter
 33 Emigrant's Letter - written by Percy French
 35 From _____ to Here - about emigration, by Ralph McTell
 36 Dublin in my _____ - written by Dubliner Brendan Phelan and recorded by the Dublin City Ramblers
 38 _____ Mulligan (Fresh Fish)- written by Harry O'Donovan, music by Eva Brennan, about Biddy Mulligan's daughter.
 39 _____ Thee Well, Enniskillen - about the regiment from Enniskillen
 40 The Road to _____
 43 _____ Johnny Dear - song made popular by Bridie Gallagher in 1950s
 45 The Flight of _____ - song by Liam Reilly, formerly of Bagatelle, about the Irish diaspora leaving in the 1950s and 1960s to search for work
 46 _____ - a translation of an Irish-language song from Munster, referring to town in Northern Ireland
 48 Lovely _____ Gweedore
 50 The _____ of Armagh - a 19th century Dublin broadside ballad, traditionally associated with Bishop Donnelly (1649-1716); recorded by John McCormack, Margaret Barry and the Clancy Brothers.
 51 Stone Outside Dan Murphy's Door - written in the 19th

- century by Johnny Patterson
 52 The Shamrock _____ - several songs by this name
 54 The _____ Road to Dublin - a rollicking song written by Galwayman D. K. Gavan for music-hall artist Harry Clifton around 1863
 57 _____ of Hope, Isle of Tears - written by Brendan Graham, about Annie Moore, the first immigrant to pass through Ellis Island
 58 The Mountains of _____ - about Irish emigrants in London (Composer: Percy French)
 60 _____ of Dooneen - popularised by Planxty
 66 _____ Is Beautiful
 69 The _____ to Ballybay- by Percy French
 72 Come Back Paddy _____ to Ballyjamesduff - by Percy French
 73 The Homes of _____ - written by local teacher Seán McBride (1902-1996) in 1955, recorded later by Paul Brady
 74 _____ Go Bragh - about an emigrant Irishman's experience in Scotland, recorded by Dick Gaughan
 76 _____ of New York - about emigration (1988 song by The Pogues and Kirsty MacColl. (Composer: Shane MacGowan)
 77 As I _____ Out"- there are several different songs by this name, recorded by the Clancy Brothers and Planxty, among others
 78 Green _____ of Antrim

DOWN

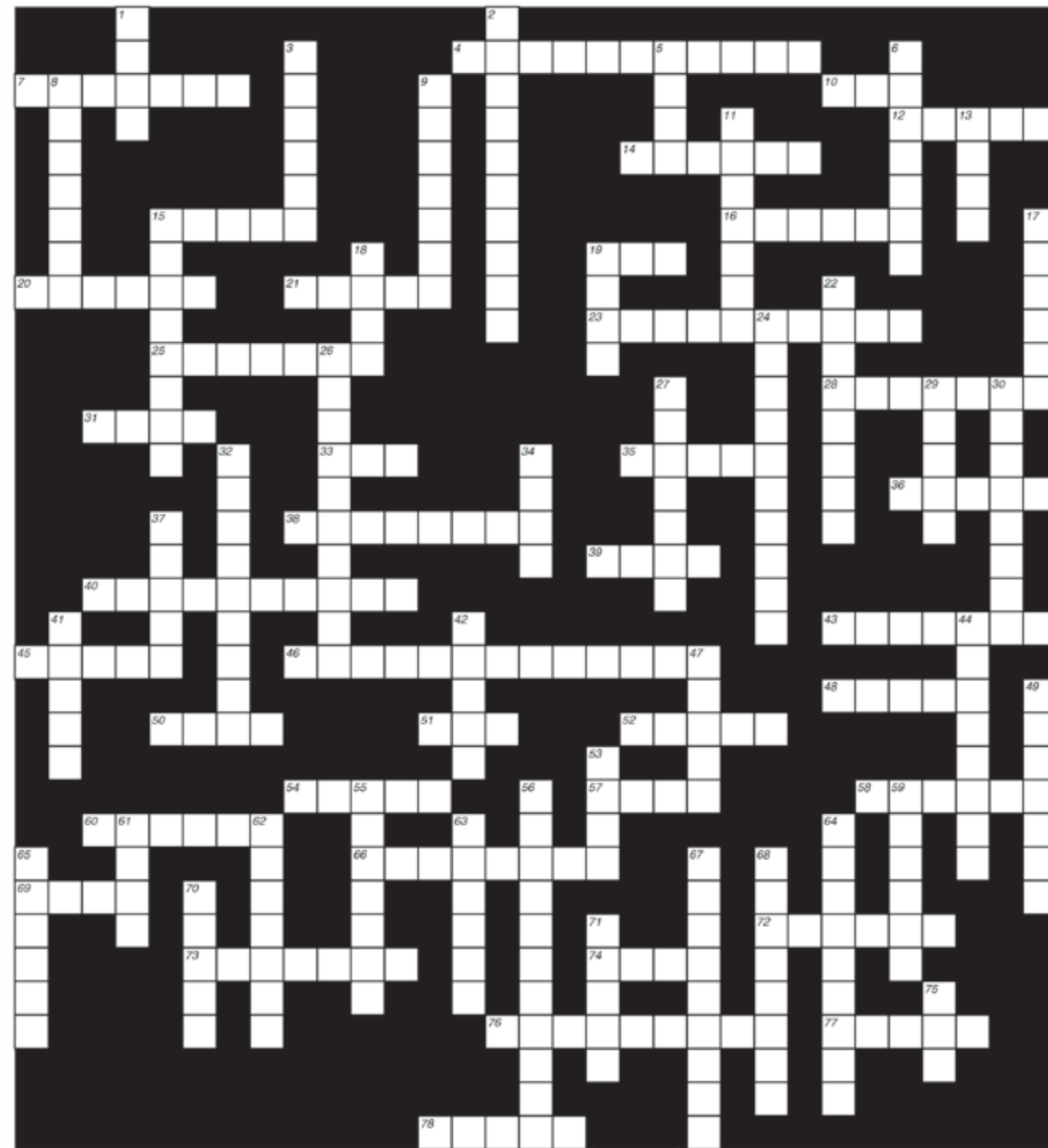
- 1 _____ for Ireland - anthemic song by Englishman Phil Colclough
 2 _____ - recorded by Sinead Stone & Gerard Farrelly. Composed by Dick Farrelly.
 3 _____ Inishowen
 5 Moonlight in _____
 6 The Tumble Down Shack in _____ - one of several "Irish" songs written by Monte Carlo and recorded by John McCormack
 8 Thank God for _____ - by the Wolfe Tones, a song about Irish emigration to North America.
 9 _____ Donoghue - written in the 19th century by Johnny Patterson
 11 The Zoological _____ - by Dominic Behan
 13 _____ Hospital (also known as "St. James Hospital" and "The Unfortunate Rake")
 15 _____ Hill - an emigrant's dream of returning home to his native County Clare
 17 _____ City in 1962 - written by musician and footballer Dermot O'Brien
 18 Dublin in the _____ Old Times - 1980s song about Dublin before the 1960s (composer: Pete St. John
 19 _____ Home in Derry - by Bobby Sands
 22 _____ - by Luke Kelly
 24 Down by the _____ (Fish and Chips) - written by Peadar Kearney
 26 _____ - by Percy French (his favourite song)
 27 The Curragh of _____ - old song popularised by The Johnstons and Christy Moore.



Irish Ballads about Places

Ballads about Irish Places

By Linda Fulton Burke



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