

MARCH 2022 • VOLUME 16 - ISSUE 3

# iIrish



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**Daniel B. Chambers**  
Our Inaugural *i*Irish Person of the Year





### EDITOR'S CORNER

By John O'Brien, Jr.

@Jobjr

## Loving All of God's Creations

At Last, it is Irish Heritage Month. I have to note, this may be our finest issue yet. All the St. Patrick's Season Honorees sent to us are listed within ~ what an impressive group of people our Lord has blessed us with. We also have as a varied newsmagazine of special events this month, plus profiles, music, Irish language, book and reviews, loads of new advertisers, Kids and Health Craic, St. Patrick (of course), food, fun and

great opportunities for friendship. Among the stellar honorees is our own *Taking the Fields of Glory* Columnist Vincent Beach. He is truly one of those *Man You Don't Meet Everyday* personalities in word and action. Besides writing the column, he is the force of nature so successful in bringing Cleveland St. Pat's GAA to a strength and popularity not seen in our time, including a men's and ladies Gaelic Football teams; Men's Hurling and Woman's camogie teams and three youth teams.

Vince is also a teacher in *iIrish* and Pj McIntyre's *Speak Irish Cleveland* classes, held every Tuesday. We are wrapping up our 8<sup>th</sup> year creating an Irish language, sport and culture community (the mission of the GAA across the world) in Greater Cleveland, and beyond.

Also honored is a personal friend and advisor, spiritual leader and funnyman. Fr. Thomas Mahoney is this year's *Hibernian of the Year*.

For as long as I can remember, Fr. Tom has been part of the fabric of our Irish community. Saying mass at Cleveland Irish Festival; The Famine Memorial with Fr. Jim O'Donnell; years of every special event, milestone, wedding and funeral, summer party; and so much more. He has been a blessing to our community for his word, advice, and action, and so much more. Read about Vince, Fr. Tom and all the honorees, within.

By the grace of God, we are holding the auld head above water, thank you for your support to help us do more than just treading covid. Celebrate this and every season with us; advertise with us; and refer advertisers to us, so they may join our gifted community as well. Plus, all advertisers get a special discount only available to *iIrish* advertisers:

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Now, about our cover. The Man is Daniel B. Chambers, our inaugural *iIrish Person of the Year*. I could wax eloquently about all that Danny is and does, but the words within say it more fully than I could. He is a leader, a man not afraid to do the hard work and make the hard decisions to make our community, Irish and not, better.

**Have you ever wanted to march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade?**

We invite all advertisers and partners to join our *iIrish* staff in the Akron St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> (1:00 Kickoff) and Cleveland St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 17<sup>th</sup> (1:06 p.m. Kickoff). I do need an RSVP, so I get enough stay hot coffee dispensers to have in our two vans. We invite you, your family and friends and well-behaved dogs to join us. All you must do is rsvp, show up, and behave appropriately on a feast of The Saint.

I hope to see you soon, see you in Akron and Cleveland Parades, and share a "pepsi" (and a cigar if you like them) many places before, during and after.

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

John



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LIVE MoreLife BE oreIrish



**About Our Cover:**  
Introducing the Inaugural *iIrish* Person of the Year, Daniel B. Chambers. Story on Page 16



**Raymond J. Reali**  
January 19, 1938- January 16, 2022)

Heaven gained another good man today. Just shy of his 84th birthday, our dad fought so hard through his illness to stay with us. He is at peace now, resting with the angels. Dad was a devoted railroad man his whole career, pouring concrete driveways and sidewalks on the side. As a child, I remember he was always moving, sleeping when he could, often working 3 jobs in order to give his girls every opportunity. "Spider", as he was known, wasn't a big guy but he was oddly strong and tough as nails.

Dad was one of the most engaging people I have ever known. Funny and charming, a real Irishman and a born entertainer, he would routinely break into song, tell and re-tell (sometimes inappropriate) jokes and hilarious stories, laughing uproariously at his own punch lines. He was a lot of fun.

Dad made so many people, even strangers to us, feel special. He avoided saying an unkind word about anyone. He was a beloved son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, cousin, son-in-law, brother-in-law, father-in-law, uncle, great-uncle, and friend. I am touched that so many have already reached out and deeply feel his loss.

In the end though, to us, he was just dad. I know he loved our mom and me, my husband, my sisters, and his grandchildren so much. We will never forget the fun memories of our childhood growing up on West 165th and back in Ireland. Family meant everything to him. He was proud of us. He told us all the time.

We will miss him. We take comfort in knowing that he is with his family and friends that have gone to their eternal rest before him. We take comfort in knowing his was a life well-lived.

Ray Reali passed away peacefully with his family at his side on January 16, 2022. Beloved husband to Johannah M. "Joan" (ne Hartnett); loving father to Maureen Gudgeon (Toby, deceased), Colleen Ann Reali (David Shapiro) and Dara Reali;

beloved grandfather to Hugh, Ellen, Thomas, William and Caroline; dear son of the late Margaret (nee Brown) and William Reali; beloved brother of Robert (deceased), John (Marie, deceased), and William; son-in-law of the late Mary Ellen (ne O'Shea) and Michael Hartnett of Lehid, Tousist, Co. Kerry, Ireland; beloved brother-in-law, uncle, great uncle, cousin and friend to many.

Raymond proudly worked as a railroad clerk for Con-rail and Norfolk Southern. As a young man, he served in the U.S. National Guard. He will be remembered for all the fun and merriment he brought to the world. He spent 55 years traveling back to his home in Co. Kerry, Ireland where he made many lifelong friends. His was a life well-lived.

In lieu of flowers, you may make memorial contributions to the Little Brothers and Sisters of the Eucharist, 3675 West 165th Street, Cleveland, OH 44111 or the Westside Catholic Center, 3135 Lorain Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44113. Obituary courtesy of Chamber's Funeral Homes [www.chambersfuneral.com](http://www.chambersfuneral.com)

**Thomas J. Egan, Sr.**  
Age 84, native of Shule, Co. Mayo, Ireland. Beloved husband of 55 years to Kathleen (nee Murphy); loving father of Thomas J. Jr. (Eileen) and James (Mary Ann); proud Papa of Owen, Seamus, Catherine and Clare; dear brother of Dell Murphy of Charlotte, NC, Kathleen Tierney

of Ireland, Seamus (deceased) of Ireland, Maura O'Doherty of Queens, NY and Sean (deceased) of NY; beloved uncle, cousin and dear friend of many. Tom retired from BP after many years of service and was a longtime member, volunteer and trustee and was honored as Man of the Year for the West Side Irish American Club. Passed away January 15, 2022. Obituary courtesy of Chamber's Funeral Homes [www.chambersfuneral.com](http://www.chambersfuneral.com)

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## ON THIS DAY IN IRISH HISTORY - MARCH

- 1 March 1794**—Statutes of Dublin University amended to allow Catholics to take degrees.
- 5 March 1981**—Taoiseach Charles J. Haughey announced the establishment of Aosdana ("poet of the tribe") to publicly honor distinguished achievement in the arts and to provide members with an annuity to free them from noncreative employment.
- 8 March 1966**—A republican bomb destroyed the top half of Nelson's Pillar in O'Connell Street, Dublin.
- 9 March 1971**—Three off-duty Scottish soldiers, ages seventeen, eighteen, and twenty-three, two of whom were brothers, were abducted by the Provisional IRA from a Belfast city centre public house and shot dead on the outskirts of the city.
- 11 March 1921**—Crown forces ambushed an IRA flying column at Stelton Hill, Co. Leitrim, killing six, including Sean Connolly, their commander and GHQ staff officer.
- 12 March 2001**—The first case of foot-and-mouth disease in the Republic of Ireland
- in sixty years was confirmed in a flock of sheep on a farm in Jenkinstown, Co. Louth.
- 19 March 1921**—Tom Barry led 104 members of the flying column of the Cork No. 3 (West) Brigade against over 1,000 soldiers of the Essex and Hampshire Regiments in Crossberry, Co. Cork, killing thirty-nine and wounding forty-seven. IRA losses were three dead and four wounded in one of the biggest engagements of the War of Independence.
- 20 March 1971**—Major James Chichester-Clarke resigned as Prime Minister of Northern Ireland. He was succeeded by Brian Faulkner.
- 24 March 1796**—The Insurrection Act declared that Magistrates can be empowered to seize any subject and send them to serve at sea, can place any district under martial law, impose curfews and the death penalty for oath-taking.
- 30 March 1931**—Garda Superintendent Sean Curtis was shot dead near his home in Tipperary by the IRA after he had taken action to prevent illegal drillings.

## MILESTONE & SWEET SNAPS



Congratulations to former *iIrish* Columnist Mary Margaret Hicks, on graduating from Trinity College with an Master of Science in Marketing.

A picture of the first ever Irish Heritage Month Proclamation made by Ohio Governor Michael DeWine, establishing March as Irish Heritage Month throughout the state.







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**PITTSBURGH HAPPENINGS**  
By Diane Byrnes

**Irish Heritage Month Events Returns**

Remember last month I wrote about Mullaney's Harp & Fiddle and the plans to celebrate their 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in business? Unfortunately, due to an increase of Covid, and a very strong winter storm, these celebrations are postponed for a bit. We will look for them once the weather breaks and Covid has subsided a bit.

It looks like this is a virus that we will learn to live with, and once everyone is vaccinated, then a new normal will be created. I know not everyone is in favor of the vaccinations and boosters, but it will

be safer for everyone. I think many of us have learned or are learning to live with Covid and if we are vaccinated, then we should not have too much of a problem, hopefully. Remember the science here.

Life is a bit slow in the Burg these days, both due to Covid hanging around and the extreme cold weather we have experienced. Coming up this month is our St. Patrick's Day Parade and associated celebrations.

This year the annual Button Party takes place on Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at The Priory on the North Shore, which is a new venue this year. Unique buttons for the Parade are sold here which help to financially support the parade. Typically, the buttons are created by students attending one of our art colleges and they have been creating these buttons for about fifteen years.

The annual Mass and Communion Breakfast takes place on Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, jointly sponsored by the AOH Allegheny County Board and Division Nine. This year the venue is Salvatore's Events and Catering in the South Hills. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop David A. Zubik.

The Communion Breakfast and a brief

program will be held immediately after Mass. As a side note, Bishop Zubik is a member of the Martin Noone - William R. Murphy Division 21 out of Garfield. This division was founded in 1874 and is the longest serving AOH in Pennsylvania.

Typically, our Miss Smiling Irish Eyes and her Court, and the Hibernian of the Year, are introduced at the breakfast. Often times, this is the first time many folks get to see and meet the young women until parade day, when they are on the Reviewing Stand. Miss Smiling Irish Eyes and her Court are usually crowned the week prior to the parade with much PR work conducted in the ensuing week. This is a hard decision for the committee to make.

Usually, the young ladies are bright and intelligent students, maybe high school and / or college. Many are involved in their Irish heritage in some form, and many of the young ladies volunteer within their communities. These are future leaders and are quite impressive candidates.

The Hibernian of the Year is typically a man with whom many of us are familiar. This person is very involved in his division and goes well beyond a regular member. With this new accolade, this gentleman is acknowledged within the community and his peers.

**PITTSBURGH ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE**

Then we have our Pittsburgh's 2022 St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal. This is a unique individual who has gone over and above in service and contribution of talent, time, energy, and ideas to the Pittsburgh Irish Community. A true honor and acknowledgement to the person chosen!

On Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, the Pittsburgh Ceili Club will host their annual 'Kick-Off Ceili.' Music is by the 'Usual Suspects' and a bit of karaoke presented by Frank Cindrich. Then there are several raffle baskets with a variety of unique gifts. This Ceili has been an ongoing event for over thirty years and has a delicious catered dinner; there are so many home baked goodies to enjoy too.

There is much camaraderie shared this time of year; it is good and mentally healthy. And with so much to enjoy, often we have said we need a 'St. Patrick's Day Fund' (like a Christmas club savings) to cover us with the expense of the season. Many of us have spent the past two years pretty much cooped up

at home, it will be good to get out and see so many old friends. At least I am hoping that happens.

**LOOKING FOR IRISH AND SCOTS-IRISH ROOTS**

A late date event occurred in February. Pittsburgh was part of a 'USA Lecture Tour' presented by the Ulster Historical Foundation. This is a non-profit organization with a long established research and publishing history. They are based in Belfast in the North of Ireland and they help people looking for their Irish and Scots-Irish roots. This is an annual event and Pittsburgh has been one of their stops over the years.

This year the presenters are providing both physical and virtual workshops. The host for this event is the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania. I have

attended this workshop in the past and found it to be very informative.

The River City Brass, a 28-piece ensemble, will be performing a special concert, "Celtic Connections Concert," at a variety of venues around our area. On February 27<sup>th</sup>, James Gourlay, Artistic and Management Director, was guest on Echoes of Erin. James is such a delightful and talented human being; it is always a pleasure to be in his company and have him as a guest on the program.

This year, RCB will be joined once again by world champion piper Andrew Carlisle and Irish dancers for a program that connects the Celtic Isles to Appalachia and beyond. Scots and Irish music share the bill with country western, hip-hop, and hot Balkan sounds. You'll hear Riverdance, Lord of the Dance, Amazing Grace, Scotland the Brave, Country Tuba, and Bluegrass Breakdown.

All concerts begin at 7:30pm at the following venues: Linton Middle School, in Penn Hills, March 3; Carson Middle School in McCandless, March 4; The Palace Theatre, in Greensburg, March 5; Carnegie Music Hall, Oakland, March 1; and Bethel Park High School, in South Hills, March 22.

Have a Happy St. Patrick's Day! ■

*Diane V. Byrnes, Producer & Host Echoes of Erin on WEDO 810AM, Sunday 12:30pm. Online on Wednesday www.kdwradio.com @ 1:30pm (then click on Listen Live) Email: diane.byrnes@verizon.net Irish Heritage Month Events Returns*

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- 5 - Dulahan
- 11 - Dreams of Freedom
- 12 - The Other Brothers
- 17 - Loch Erie
- 18 - New Bartleycorn
- 19 - Smug Saints
- 25 - Roadhouse Jr and Sr
- 26 - Music Men (Music Trivia)

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**M. Colette Gibbons,**  
Of Counsel, McDonald Hopkins

**Ryan Marrie,**  
President, Ohio Real Title

**Cheryl Hagan O'Malley,**  
Chief Transformation Officer/  
Vice President Population Health, Southwest General Health Center

**Thursday, May 19, 2022**  
**Windows on the River**  
2000 Sycamore Cleve OH 44113

6:00 Cash Bar 6:30 Dinner  
7:30 Awards Ceremony

Donation \$75 (\$35 tax deductible)  
Send check & names of guests by February 18 to Irish American Archives Society  
P.O. Box 91756 Cleveland OH 44101-3756  
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"Preserving Our Heritage,  
Sharing Our Stories"





# Congratulations

## to the 2022 Irish Heritage Month

### St. Patrick's Day Honorees!



**Greater Cleveland  
United Irish Societies (UIS)  
GRAND MARSHALL  
THOMAS MCMANAMON**



Thomas McManamon was born January 10, 1947, to Thomas & Patricia Cahill McManamon. He is the oldest of six sons, with brothers Terry, Tim, Ted, Tracy & Todd. Tom's father was one of the original organizers of the United Irish Societies of Greater Cleveland in 1958 and the first Executive Director from 1958 to 1963. Beginning with the 1959 St. Patrick's Day Parade, the parade was organized on the family dining room

table. He served as Grand Marshal in 1977. This is the first time that a father and son have been Grand Marshall of the Cleveland St. Patrick's Day Parade. Tom attended St. Mark School in Cleveland's West Park neighborhood, as did all his brothers, then attended St. Edward High School in Lakewood, Ohio. Upon graduation, he served in the United States Air Force and served most of his time at Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base in Korat Thailand. Shortly before he separated from the Air Force, Tom married his high school sweetheart, Jackie Fiocca, on August 23, 1969; they have been married 52 years. Tom & Jackie have three adult children, Kim, TJ & Patrick, and eight grandchildren. Tom joined his father's insurance business in 1970, shortly after separating from the Air Force.

Tom has been an active member of the Parade Committee since 1970, and served as Executive Director from 2001 to 2004.

**MOTHER OF THE YEAR  
RITA LALLY**

Rita Lally's love of her Catholic faith, family, community and Irish heritage was born on the southeast side of Cleveland, where she attended Holy Name Church/Grade School and Holy Name High School, along with her family of six siblings.



Rita Lally

Fifty-four years ago, Rita married her high school sweetheart, John Lally. They raised two daughters, Meegan, married to Scott Spicer, and Sarah, married to Michael Pap. They are the proud grandparents of six grandchildren.

Rita retired from the City of Lakewood where she assisted in the administration of community development programs. She and her family have been involved in the Cleveland Irish community for over forty-five years.

Rita has greatly enjoyed being a member of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, where she continues to develop her faith, commitment of service to others, and her Irish heritage, and

where she is actively engaged in various leadership roles. She is also involved in the Greater Cleveland Feis Society, the United Irish Societies of Greater Cleveland, the Cleveland Gaelic League, and the Cannon/Kish Irish Dance School, where both of her daughters danced until graduating from Magnificat.

Rita and John have been members of the West Side Irish American Club for twenty years. Rita assisted John in chairing the St. Patrick's Day Dance and the annual WSIA Club picnic. She also spent countless hours working to develop a database system for the WSIA, which is still used extensively at the Club today.

They have enjoyed watching their family participate in the WSIA major-ette, fife and drum, pom-pom and ladies drill team units, and play Gaelic football at the WSIA for St. Pat's and St. Jarlath's. Rita was honored as a Co-Chair of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in 1995.

Rita became actively involved in the Cleveland Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann Chapter in response to her daughter, Sarah, being interested in traditional music, and was instrumental in opening the Irish Music Academy of Cleveland. These efforts were a "breath of life" for traditional Irish music in Cleveland, which resulted in a very special connection between Cleveland musicians across multigenerations throughout the city.

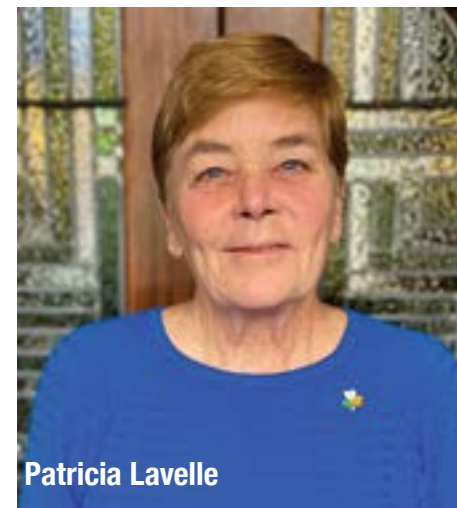
In the 90s, Rita encouraged and chaperoned her daughter, along with many young Cleveland musicians, to compete at local and international music competitions, including, the Fleadh Cheoil in Ireland. Her daughter and grandchildren regularly play in weekly Irish music sessions.

Rita became actively involved in the Irish dance school, establishing a Parents Association, which sponsored activities to enhance the experience of the dancers. She and her family traveled to compete at feisanna and major Irish dance competitions.

Rita was a member of adult Ceili dance teams competing in pre-Feis competitions throughout the Midwest. Rita's efforts to foster this love of Irish dancing can be seen today in her grandchildren, who have danced for The Leneghan Academy of Irish Dance and the Brady Campbell Irish Dance School.

On most weekends, Rita can be seen taking care of her grandchildren, going to MANY of their sporting events and Irish dance competitions, and taking care of her aging siblings.

**INSIDE CO-CHAIR  
PATRICIA LAVELLE**



Patricia Lavelle

Patricia Lavelle of North Olmsted, Ohio is the daughter of Joseph and Florence Coleman. The Coleman's raised their six children in St. Vincent De Paul's parish and Pat graduated from Holy Name High School.

Pat married Gerry Lavelle and with their instant family of Kathleen, Michael, and Stephen, lovingly welcomed Elizabeth and Mary Bridget. Unfortunately, in 1986, our Lord had plans for Gerry and welcomed him home. Always striving for self-improvement, Pat went back to school and earned an Associate's Degree in Accounting, Suma Cum Laude.

Pat followed her grandfather Edward Coleman's footsteps in the Ancient Order of Hibernians. As a member of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Pat has served as the LAOH Division 5/10 President and working diligently with the members, the division was re-named Our Lady of the Rosary.

She is currently the editor of the Hibernian Newsletter, holds the office of President, and Treasurer for both the Division and AOH/LAOH Ways and Means, and represents the LAOH with the United Irish Societies. As a UIS Delegate and with the help of Maureen Mohny and Rasa Chambers, Pat has taken on the responsibility of producing the annual St. Patrick's Day Program Book.

As Co-Chair of the Hibernian 2021 Ohio State Convention, working with all the Committees and the theme of FUN in 2021, it gave the Hibernians an opportunity to showcase Cleveland and surrounding areas. Pat has been a long time Co-Chair of the Hibernians Annual Reverse Raffle, recently celebrating its 44<sup>th</sup> year.

Also known as the Shenanigator, Pat extends the FUN theme by keeping the Hibernians up to date of the various Irish events around town with her HARP (Hibernians Attending Regional Performances) emails.

Patricia enjoys all Cleveland Sports, Ohio State Football, swimming, attending Irish festivals anywhere, a good cup of tea, warm slippers, chocolate, spending time with friends and family, and all things relating to Peter Pan. Among these hobbies, Patricia has been active with the West Side Irish American Club throughout her adult life. Each year she marches with the Ladies Drill Team in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

She can often be found tending bar in the pub on a Friday evening; she highlights the children's Easter Bunny breakfast and Hibernian Easter Egg Hunt when she dons her Easter Bunny costume on Palm Sunday and Holy Saturday, poses for scores of pictures, hugs, waves and hands out treats to all the kids. Additionally, Pat is also a volunteer with Irish American Archives, greeting and registering guests for its various events and a committee member of Fr. Jim O'Donnell's Annual Fundraiser.

**OUTSIDE CO-CHAIR  
EILEEN MANGAN STULL**

Eileen Mangan Stull, an indomitable spirit, a ready hand, and a warm "Hello!" are trademarks of Eileen Mangan Stull.



Eileen Mangan Stull

It's with that commitment and open willingness that Eileen has approached every turn of her life.

The eldest of seven children, she was a natural leader as she stepped in as a true mother's helper, caring for the younger ones, often reading to them, teaching letters, numbers, and words: a vision of what was to come.

All seven siblings were dancers. Eileen assisted Tessie with the beginner dancers at the Burke School of Irish dance. While her brothers and sisters won many medals at feisiana, her love of Irish dance brought her back to helping Tessie for another thirty-five years.

Eileen also taught adults basic steps and ceilis for many years at Darby O'Tooles and St. Clarence. During this time, she also danced competitively in adult ceilis under the direction of Una Ellis, Bobby Masterson, and Kathleen McGinty.

She was also a member of the famous Cleveland Straw Boys, known for inviting themselves to crash and entertain at various Irish weddings, anniversaries and other events. Eileen attended Catholic schools from first grade at St. Mel and graduation from St. Joseph Academy and Ursuline College, majoring in education.

Cleveland Diocesan Catholic and Cleveland Metropolitan Schools both benefited from her energy and inventiveness in the classroom. Eileen was an elementary teacher for twenty-one years and an elementary principal for an additional twenty years. This time also reconnected her to Irish dance and culture when her own three children, Liam, Catherine and Fiona were introduced to and excelled in traditional Irish dancing under the direction of Tessie Burke.

Eileen was invited to assist with teaching the youngest dancers, both solos and groups, and ran innumerable dance

shows throughout the community. She was lovingly known for her story of seeing a leprechaun in Ireland as a child with her grandparents – proving that leprechauns are real!

Eileen's volunteering fired her passion for all things Irish and spurred travel opportunities to Ireland and her involvement with the West Side Irish American Club and their various events and groups, particularly supervising countless numbers of children in junior marching units and Little Bridgies for the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. She annually volunteered as a stage manager at both the Cleveland Feis and Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival for over twenty years.

In the practice and development of her Catholic faith, she has served her home parish, St. Mel, as both a Eucharistic Minister and Lector for about thirty years, hoping that her involvement will spur the evangelization of more Catholics.

Eileen maintains her membership at the WSIA, where she was Woman of the Year in 2010, still investing in her beloved Cleveland Irish community. Her consistent and tireless efforts have enriched every organization to which she's belonged and impacted those individuals with her generous and gracious giving.

**Ancient Order of Hibernians  
Ladies Ancient Order of  
Hibernians (AOH /LAOH)**

**MEMBER OF THE YEAR  
FR. THOMAS MAHONEY**



Fr. Thomas Mahoney was born June 21, 1939, in the old St. John's Hospital on Detroit Street; and was ultimately taken

*Continued on page 8*





## Honorees

Continued from page 7

home to West 87<sup>th</sup> St., just south off of Madison Avenue. His parents were Leo B. Mahoney and Margaret C. O'Connor. They had both been baptized at St. Augustine on the South Side on W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street and were married in St. Colman's where Fr. Thomas Mahoney was also baptized.

At the age of three, or so, the family moved to Lakewood, and it was there that he attended all eight years of grammar school at St. Clement's. Tom's older brother, John, was a doctor on the West Coast before passing away a few years ago. Two younger brothers, Leo, who is married to Sally Coyne, and Robert. He has nine nieces and nephews and seventeen grand nieces and nephews.

Tom's grandparents, who came from Cork and Kerry in Ireland, came to Cleveland between 1848 and 1867. The great grandparents began at St. Mary on the Flats, some married by Bishop Rappe, the first bishop of Cleveland, and others receiving first communion from him.

They lived on the "South Side" in the area now referred to as Tremont. When St. Augustine's parish was established, his great grandparents and grandparents (except for a Connolly and O'Rourke branch that came from Columbus) lived in and belonged to St. Augustine's. From there it was on to

St. Colman's and then to Lakewood: St. Clements and St. James.

Tom attended St. Ignatius High School ('57), and then Borromeo College Seminary ('61) in Wickliffe and St. Mary Seminary (the Theologate). He was ordained in 1965 for the Diocese of Cleveland.

In May 2022, he will be ordained for fifty-seven years; all but five have been in Cuyahoga County. In those years, he managed to serve Immaculate Conception, Willoughby (1965-1970); St. Francis de Sales, Parma (1970-1975); St. Michael, Scranton Rd. (1975-1978); St. Angela Merici, Fairview Pk., (1978-1980); pastor St. Cecelia, E 152<sup>nd</sup> & Kinsman (1980-1987), pastor St. Ann, Cleveland Hts., (1987-1996), back to associate at St. Patrick's, West Park (1996-2001); pastor St. Pius X, Bedford (2001-2009) administrator St. Malachi (2018-2019).

Fr. Tom retired in 2009; he now lives about nine miles from where his great grandparents – the Mahoney, Scanlan, Corkery, Flanigan, O'Connor, and O'Loughlin antecedents settled.

Somebody recently asked him how he got involved in the Irish community. He answered, "I guess that I just assumed that I always was part of it, simply by birth. We were raised with a strong sense of Irish nationalism and pride. My father's sister, who was a schoolteacher, would never allow 'My Country 'tis of Thee' to be sung in her classroom because its melody was that of 'God save the King.' This same aunt sang at the International Eucharistic Conference in Dublin in 1932. My mother's father was born in Cleveland in 1875.

"I don't exactly remember when I got involved with the LAOH, but I do



Daughters of Erin

2021 Member of the Year Sharon Selby, 2022 Member of the Year Mary Grady Strickland, President Chris McKenzie, 2021 Irishwoman of the Year Becky Ellis and 2022 Irishwoman of the Year Debbie Lynch at the Clann Na nGael banquet.



Mary Grady Strickland



Debbie Lynch

**MEMBER OF THE YEAR  
MARY GRADY STRICKLAND**  
**WOMAN OF THE YEAR  
DEBBIE LYNCH**

Columbus Ladies  
Ancient Order of Hibernians  
Franklin County Division

**MEMBER OF THE YEAR  
JANELL BROWN**

**PRESIDENT  
LISA O'CONNELL-PACCIORETTI**

The Daughters of Erin  
(Central Ohio)



George Penree, President Ken Stebleton



Columbus LAOH

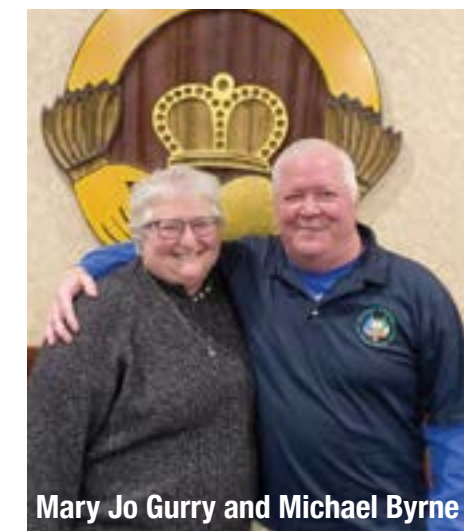
**COMMODORE BARRY AWARDEE  
GEORGE PENREE,  
PRESIDENT KEN STEBLETON**

**HIBERNIAN OF THE YEAR  
BRYAN HORN**



Irish American Club  
East Side (IACES)

**CO-MEMBERS OF THE YEAR  
MARY JO GURRY AND  
MICHAEL BYRNE**



Mary Jo Gurry and Michael Byrne

**Ancient Order of Hibernians  
JOSEPH T. NALLEY SR.  
MAHONING COUNTY DIVISION 6  
IRISH MAN OF THE YEAR  
MARK KLACIK**

Mark is a lifelong member of the Mahoning Valley, the youngest of three sons to Julie (Curran) and Paul Klacik. Mark has worked at the family business, Cyclone Auto Seat Cover, since his childhood and currently runs it with his brother Tim Klacik.

Mark is a lifelong Catholic, having received Baptism at Holy Name, making his sacraments of initiation at St. Joseph's Church in Austintown. He has attended Men's Renewal, worked on a Renewal Team, attended Crissio, and has been an adult supervisor in the youth CELEBRATE! Program at St. Christine's since 2000.

Mark was very involved in Austintown Wrestling After a career ending injury during his freshman year, Mark began helping his brother Tim and Coach Rich Burton with the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade team. He became the Head Coach and Manager of the Austintown Wrestling Club at age 22, the club was comprised of 150 6-12-year-old wrestlers. He then went on to coach Austintown Wrestling for another ten years.

During high school, Mark was a member of Junior Achievement, a program that fosters entrepreneurship through starting a business, developing a product and actively marketing it. He was chosen as President of his company and made a profit on his product. He was chosen to attend the Junior Achievement Nationals to represent the Mahoning Valley. He went on to attend ITT Technical College and earned a W/A degree in Electronic Engineering Technology

Mark is an avid golfer and joined the St Joseph Golf League in 1991, became League Vice President in 2000 and served as President from 2005 - 2020.

Brother Klacik joined the Ancient Order of Hibernians in 2010, served as Sentinel until he was elected President in 2014. He served two terms and then was elected Treasurer, a position that he currently fills. During his tenure as



Mark Klacik

President, Mark oversaw four "Irish Man of the Year" Luncheons and the hosting of the Ohio State Convention in 2017. He volunteered to undertake the annual Ancient Order of Hibernians Invitational Golf Tourney the last two years and been able to attract more golfers and increase earnings each year, even during the pandemic.

Mark is dedicated to our Irish culture and the AOH, if you come to any club function he will be in attendance, usually working.

**IRISH WOMAN OF THE YEAR  
SHANNON COLLEEN PRICE LEHN**

An Austintown native, Shannon graduated from Fitch High School in 1990 and has been a very active member

Continued on page 10

## 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.stpatricksdayscleveland.com/p/2022-online-orders.html](http://www.stpatricksdayscleveland.com/p/2022-online-orders.html)







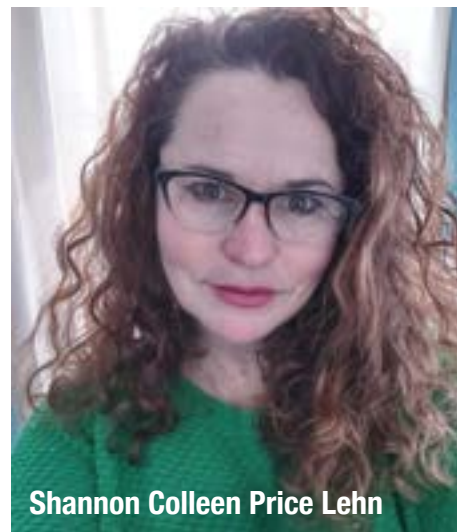
## Honorees

Continued from page 9

of the community. Mrs. Lehn has run the Austintown Farmer's Market in the Austintown Township Park since 2013.

In prior years, she was a military wife for thirteen years and very proud of her service to the country. Shannon held the position of Key Wife in USMC, providing support for wives of deployed Marines. She was Leader of Family Support Group for 141 soldiers & families in the 216th Engineering Battalion Ohio National Guard 2003-2005 while they were deployed in Iraq.

Shannon joined the LAOH in 2014 and has held numerous offices on local, state and national level, including Division Webmaster & Publicity 2018 – present. She is currently Division President, since 2020. She was also State of Ohio Webmaster & Publicity 2017 – Present and held the position of National Assistant Editor for



Shannon Colleen Price Lehn

the Hibernian Digest 2018-2020. Additionally, she heads the Lady Hibernian Toy Drive, which benefits St. Vincent de Paul Christmas party.

In addition to her work with the LAOH, Shannon has started Advocates for Austintown and is the Founder of the Mahoning Valley Irish Festival.

A tireless worker, Shannon is employed as a Medical Transcriptionist, Spinning and Yoga Instructor at Creekside Fitness, and runs an online clothing business called Echo Resale, in addition to her work with the Austintown Farmers Market.



Tim McSweeney

Shannon lives in Austintown with her husband, William Lehn. Together, they have three children, Shannon's son, Brian Royea, and stepdaughters Victoria Lehn and Erica Lehn of Canfield, Ohio.

Shamrock Club  
of Columbus

PARADE MARSHALL  
TIM MCSWEENEY

MEMBER OF THE YEAR  
DOUG EAKINS

IRISHMAN OF THE YEAR  
ED GAUGHAN



Doug Eakins



Ed Gaughan

West Side Irish American Club  
(WSIA)

QUEEN

MARGARET LAVELLE

Margaret Lavelle is the daughter and middle child of Michael and Anne Lavelle of North Olmsted, and sister to Mary Therese, Michael (Gerry), Sean, and Maeve. Margaret is the third generation of Lavelle's to have the honor of representing the West Side Irish American Club as Queen. She is following the footsteps of her grandmother, Mary B. Lavelle (married to past club president Gerry) in 1973, her aunts, Kathleen (McLouglin) in 1992 and Mary Bridget in 2009, and most recently her older sister, Mary Therese (Donaldson), in 2015.

Margaret is a graduate of St. Bernadette Elementary School and Magnificat High School. During her time at Magnificat, she was actively involved in campus ministry and the Outreach program, where she was able to nurture her Catholic education and commitment to serving her community.

Margaret is a fourth year at the Ohio State University, studying speech and hearing sciences, and will graduate this spring, the attend graduate school to pursue a master's degree in speech-language pathology. She is a proud Buckeye, following the footsteps of her older sibling alumni.

Margaret has marched with the WSIA in every St. Patrick's Day she can remember, with the majorettes, flags, and the pom-pom units. She led the pom-pom unit in 2017 and 2018 parade seasons. Her favorite memory from St. Patrick's Day is taking the annual family photo each year when she and her siblings are dressed in their marching uniforms.

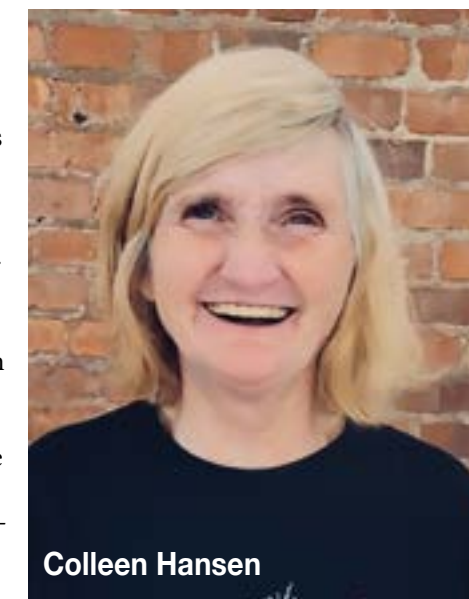
In addition to her involvement with the WSIA, Margaret danced competitively with the Leneghan Academy of Irish Dance for twelve years, participating in numerous Feiseanna and the Mid-America Oireachtas. Margaret served as an apprentice for the school and was able to help younger dancers advance their skills. Since starting college, Margaret has continued dancing with the Ohio State Irish Dance team, performing at various shows on and off campus and competing at inter-collegiate level competitions. She currently sits as President of the team, responsible for leading practices, choreograph-



Margaret Lavelle

ing dances, and facilitating shows.

WOMAN OF THE YEAR  
COLLEEN HANSEN



Colleen Hansen

Colleen Hansen is the daughter of Rosemary (nee Kilbane) and John Smyth, who was born in Co. Clare, Ireland. Both parents are deceased. She has three siblings, Kevin, Karin, and Colin (deceased).

Colleen attended St. Joseph Academy, majoring in secretarial practice and shorthand. She graduated in 1976. After graduation, Colleen worked for Stephen J. Knerly, a domestic relations attorney, for six years.

Colleen married George Hansen in 1981. They were blessed with three beautiful children, Kelly, Scott (deceased)

Continued on page 12

# KEEP JUDGE CALLAHAN

## THE JUDGE THAT KEPT THE BROWNS IN CLEVELAND



Paid for by the Committee to Keep Judge Callahan







## Honorees

Continued from page 11

and Christopher. George Hansen died in 2006. Colleen has a 2-year-old grandson in California.

In 1988 Colleen attended Jane Addams School of Nursing. After a twenty-nine-year career in nursing, Colleen retired in 2017. She started volunteering at the West Side Irish American Club and became a part of McDonough's Brigade.

Colleen's hobbies are swimming, bowling, and playing pinochle.

### MAN OF THE YEAR

#### VINCENT BEACH

Vincent was born in 1980 in Flint, Michigan to parents Tom and Mary and is brother to Dr. Jordan Beach and Aimee Breetz. At an early age, the family moved to Cleveland and settled in Fairview Park, attended St. Ange-



Vincent Beach

la Merici School and Fairview High School. Vincent went on to study Civil Engineering at the University of Cincinnati, where he met his wife, Michelle.

The couple moved back to Cleveland a few years after graduating, married, and bought a home in Columbia Township, where they are raising their children, Ambrose (12), Bernadette (11), and Cedric (7).

Vincent's Irish roots are through his grandmothers, Dorothy Ranville (nee Wallace) and Doris Beach (nee Madden). Patrick Wallace who left Limerick in the 1840s and made his way to Ohio. From there, the Wallace's continued their western migration, ending in Ludington, Michigan, where Dorothy served ice cream to vacationers, and her brother Lloyd boxed anyone who wanted (or so they said) when not running the lake ferry to or from Manitowoc, WI. The fierceness never left. *Go ndéana Dia a mhaith orthu.*

The Maddens hail from Galway, made their way through Canada, and settled in Merrill, Michigan. Doris's family, uncles, and cousins (Ryan's, Kennedy's, Fleming's) built St. Patrick's Church, in Ryan, Michigan. Years later, Doris was honored by the Flint AOH as Irish Mother of the Year for her devotion to family and St. Michael's Church, Flint. *Go ndéana Dia a mhaith orthu.*

Vincent's Irish heritage was sparked at the age of eighteen when he was asked to play Gaelic Football for Cleveland St. Pat's. Despite his studies in Cincinnati, travelled whenever possible to matches in Pittsburgh, Detroit, and Buffalo.

It was also at the University of Cin-

cinnati where he escaped the engineering and math of his major to learn the Irish language with Dr. Edgar Slotkin. To continue his *Gaeilge* journey, he entered the National University of Ireland, Galway's Irish language immersion program in An Ceathrú Rua, Galway. He also worked at farm in Gort an Doire, Uachtar Ard, Galway.

It was hard to leave a whole summer in the Gaeltacht. Upon returning to Cleveland, Vincent studied and taught Irish language with Bob Carney at Speak Irish Cleveland.

Today, Vincent continues his grá (love) for Gaelic Games and Irish along with his father, Tom, (a GAA board member), and wife, Michelle (footballer), through the Cleveland St. Pat's-St. Jarlath's Gaelic Athletic Association. The GAA's work at the WSIA supports Irish culture through sports. With Kevin Hayes, he co-hosts the annual Night at the Races for the benefit of the WSIA and GAA.

Throughout the spring and summer, the GAA has other events at the WSIA, including field capital improvement projects, adult hurling and football practices, youth practices and official men's and ladies' football, hurling and camogie matches. Each month's events

are captured in his *ilrish* (formerly Ohio Irish American News) columns.

Vincent is the current Chairperson of the Cleveland GAA, is a hurler and footballer, and is a youth coach to many, including the All-Stars, Ambrose, Bernadette, and Cedric. Cleveland Abú (/uh boo/ - forever).

### VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

#### CHRISTI DREAMER CRUZ



Christi is the daughter of Robert and Kathleen Dreamer. She is second oldest, and the proud sister of Robert, Michael and Kelly. Christi is the granddaughter

of Mary Ellen (McGinty) and Steve Mikanovich (deceased) and George (deceased) and Lillian Dreamer.

Christi grew up on the west side of Cleveland, where she graduated from Saint Augustine Academy and finished her Bachelor of Arts Degree in History at Cleveland State University. After graduating college in 2006, she began her career at Marketing Communication Resource, Inc where she still works as a Data Analyst. In 2012 she married Jaime and together they have three children - Julicia, Jaime III and Nathan.

Christi has been a lifelong member of the West Side Irish American Club; her love for her Irish heritage and the club was instilled in her from a young age, as her family brought her to the club for events and dances. She began marching with the majorette unit and continued to both Pom-Pom and Ladies Drill Team.

Over ten years ago, Christi began volunteering with the Junior marching units and leads the charge on organizing sign ups, Co-Chairing the Junior Unit Exhibition Dance, and helping with the units on Saint Patrick's Day. During this early volunteering experience, she realized how important it was to the WSIA to dedicate time and talent back to the club.

While she still volunteers her time to the Junior marching units, she is also heavily involved with the Night at the Races, chairs the Annual Family Picnic

and can be seen on occasion helping with Friday night Pub Grub. In 2016 she and Heather Harvey became Co-Chairs of the Largest Fund Raiser at the club - The Annual (Thanksgiving Day) Raffle. In 2021, Christi was selected for

the Board of Trustees and has worked on getting the club social media and website updated. ■

#### GET MORE TO THE STORY

More pics, and larger print too!  
@www.ilrish.us

Paid for by The Committee to Re-Elect Joan Synenberg, 2042 E. 4th #300, Cleveland Ohio 44115

## LOOKING FOR IRISH NEWS & EVENTS IN...

*Columbus? Cincinnati? Youngstown?  
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Beyond the Pale? In Your Town?*

### IF YOU DON'T SEND THEM, WE CAN'T PRINT THEM!

Submit news, events, releases, memories, milestones, ads and pics for inclusion in the *ilrish* Out & About Monthly Events List, blurb features or the Coming Next Month Save the Dates List. **Due date is ALWAYS the 10th of this month, for the following month.**





# Ward Irish Music Archives Announces Incorporation and New Mission Statement

The Ward Irish Music Archives (WIMA), located in the CelticMKE Center in Wauwatosa, WI, is pleased to announce its new incorporation status and mission statement, along with an initial slate of board members. Beginning last year, WIMA began the process of incorporating as a subsidiary of CelticMKE and becoming its own entity.

The organization incorporated as the Ward Irish Music Archives but are still legally associated with and supported

by CelticMKE. This allows them to protect their assets and engage many other individuals that have a passion for all forms of Irish music. As their own entity they will be able to secure outside funding for WIMA.

WIMA's new mission statement is:

*The Ward Irish Music Archives (WIMA) collects, promotes, preserves, and disseminates Irish and Irish American musics in all their forms. WIMA makes these cultural resources available to researchers,*



artists, and the general public now and into the future for the purposes of teaching, scholarship, and practice.



**Barry Stapleton**

The new board of directors includes President John Daley, Secretary Bernie McCartan, Treasurer Greg Baran and six Community directors: Tes Slominski, Danny Diamond, Scott Spencer, Aileen Dillane, William Fliss and Dan Neely. Non-Voting members are Mike Mitchell, Executive Director of CelticMKE, and Barry Stapleton, Director of WIMA.

Jeff Ksiazek, who has been with WIMA for thirteen years, is the Senior Archivist. WIMA employs two part-time archivists, whose positions are funded by the Emigrant Support Programme from Ireland. Many volunteers help at WIMA throughout the year.

The Ward Irish Music Archives debuted in 1992, after Milwaukee Irish Fest founder Ed Ward visited the Irish Traditional Music Archives (ITMA) in Ireland and found his grandfather's books in their collections. Upon return-

ing to Milwaukee, he asked the board to support establishing WIMA in honor of his grandfather.

WIMA has since grown to be the largest Irish and Irish American music archive in North America. Over 60,000 objects are currently held in a variety of collections and include traditional music to rock and classical music. Its earliest object is from the eighteenth century.

The organization maintains a robust online presence to bring its materials to the wider world. WIMA has released three digital collections - the Dunn Family Collection, Irish Sheet Music Archives and the Irish Fest Scrapbook. WIMA also shares highlights from the collection through their social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and SoundCloud.

"We are extremely grateful for all of your support whether it be volunteering, supporting us financially or by engaging with our resources," stated Barry Stapleton, the Director of WIMA. "We are very excited about our future and our new board of directors."

Learn more about WIMA, browse through their collections, and more by visiting [wardirishmusicarchives.com](http://wardirishmusicarchives.com). ■

**GET MORE TO THE STORY**  
More pics, and larger print too!  
@[www.ilrish.us](https://www.ilrish.us)

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Filmmaker  
**MAURICE FITZPATRICK**



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# Person of the Year 2022

## Daniel (Danny) B. Chambers, Jr., Cleveland, Ohio

by Publisher John O'Brien, Jr.

iIrish is a celebratory newsmagazine. I am adamant about that. We feature the good people, music, events and actions in our ever-expanding community monthly in print, and near daily on our website, social media etc.

The plan felt right from our very beginning, in 2006, in that bad news and bad people are readily publicized, to all of our detriment, 24/7. But good people? Not so much.

In that vein, when we decided to annually recognize an individual that impacts the whole community, and name she or he our **iIrish Person of the Year**, I wanted to be sure it was done right, in the right spirit and with the right consideration.

That is why we delayed naming the inaugural honoree two years, as celebrating seemed a little inappropriate, when Covid first crossed the horizon and took so many. The selection was the same, the timing just had to fit.

Our Irish family is so fortunate. There are so many who are so dedicated to it, who do so much in the community. Then and now, there is no one who exemplifies the values of the award, the selfless embracing, nurturing and, of course, celebration, of all that is good in our family, than Danny Chambers.



Danny Chambers with his family.

### A MAN YOU DON'T MEET EVERY DAY

If you don't know Danny, I am surprised. But make the effort to meet a man you don't meet every day. I could spend a day or three telling you all that is good about him, his day and what he does, but I will let other voices chime in to do that, after I populate the bio. Here are just a few of those bio facts to get us started.

Dan is a third-generation funeral director and embalmer. He is the oldest child of the late Eileen (nee Gallagher) and Daniel B. Chambers Sr. He has four siblings: Brian, William (Bill), Connor and Eileen. He attended St. Edward and Fairview High School, Xavier University and

graduated from Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science in 1991.

He is married to Kathleen (nee Campbell); they have five children: Daniel III, Fiona, Emmett, Ronan, and Bridget; live in Olmsted Township; and attend St. Mary of the Falls Church. Dan is a lifelong member of the West Side Irish American Club, serving on their board for many years, currently as Vice-President, as well as a member of the Mayo Society of Cleveland.

He belongs to the Ohio and Cuyahoga Funeral Directors Associations as well as the Embalmers Association of Cleveland. Dan is currently a board member and past president of the Fairview/West Park/North Olmsted Rotary Club; member of the North



Some of the Chamber's Funeral Home Family, Paul Kearns, Danny Chambers, Brian Chambers, Pat Campbell, Stephen Tirpak (Rest in Peace), Steve Tirpak.

Olmsted Chamber of Commerce and Olmsted Falls Chamber of Commerce; served as a member of the City of Fairview Park Planning Commission; and was past managing member of Foresight Family Funeral Homes. [He is all of that, and more, as this is the edited version].

Chamber's Funeral Homes are a Cleveland institution. We mourn losses and console loved ones there, swap stories and hugs, seeking solace and perhaps closure. Understanding is hard to find, but love is not. A Chambers, Tirpak, Campbell or other friend is there with us, offering strength, empathy, wisdom and plentiful hugs too. Often, we meet at a local, usually Public House, to continue the conversation after.

### CHAMBERS FUNERAL HOME

Agnes B. & William F. Chambers, Sr. founded Chambers Funeral Home in 1933. First at West 85th and Madison Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1937, they purchased a home on Rocky River Drive in Cleveland and moved their family and business into the West Park neighborhood.

William Sr. passed away unexpectedly in 1950 at the age of forty-five. Agnes Chambers assumed

the leadership of the business, and with the encouragement of her sons, decided to remain open until they were old enough to take over the reins. William F. Chambers, Jr.



Wm F. Chambers, Sr., Agnes; William F., Jr.; Daniel B. Sr.

received his funeral directors license in 1955 and Daniel B. Chambers, Sr. received his in 1959.

Chamber's Funeral Home expanded to Berea in 1974, and North Olmsted in 2003. Through the years and milestones, they continue to exceed their mission of providing memorable and meaningful funerals to each family. ■

### Those Other Voices Chiming in:

"Now that we are getting older, we are realizing how much our dad truly embodies what it means to be an Irish American. While he always manages to put his family first, he is also fully dedicated to his job and the different committees and projects he finds on his plate on any given day."

"No matter how busy he is, he still finds ways to make it out to the Irish American Club for board meetings, up to the local pub to listen to an Irish band and makes it to church on a Saturday evening. Sometimes we wonder how he does it all."

"Dad has instilled in us how important it is to be proud of our culture and has embodied the true meaning of giving back to those before us who made such great sacrifices to give us the lives we live today. We are so lucky to see first-hand how our dad does it, so that maybe someday we can be half the Irish American he is."

- Daniel III, Fiona, Emmett, Ronan, and Bridget Chambers

"Danny Chambers is an institution in the Irish American community. He is well known and loved by people of every age group. His steady and strong leadership of Chamber's Funeral Homes, as well as his involvement at the WSIA puts him in the public eye and he always conducts himself with kindness, decency and respect for others.

- Eileen Chambers O'Malley and Brendan O'Malley

"He's been the man of the year in our family for thirty years."

- Bill and Mollie Chambers

"Dan Chambers is the definition of servant leadership in his profession and everyday life. He serves so many grieving families. He works tirelessly in giving back of his time and talents to so many organizations, especially the WSIA."

- Brian and Fiona Chambers

"Danny took it upon himself to carry on a tradition of involvement in the Irish community after his father passed away. Over the course of the last thirty+ years, he has continued to show a dedication and commitment to further the Irish tradition and sense of community throughout Greater Cleveland."

- Connor & Bridget Chambers

"We are elated that Danny Chambers has been selected for this well-deserved honor. We have known him to be a well-respected and decent man who has been an upstanding member of our family for over 25 years. We knew his parents well and know that they would also be proud of the man he has become."

- Mary & Eddie Campbell

"Congratulations to Danny on this honor! He is very deserving of this award as he selflessly gives back to the Irish community in so many ways.

"Danny has always been a man of character, integrity, with a hard work ethic. These values are evident in the wonderful family he and his wife Kathleen have raised and the success of Chambers Funeral Homes.

"We are honored to call him not only our brother-in-law and uncle, but also a very good friend."

- Brian, Maureen and Eamon Carr

"Congratulations on your well-deserved recognition Danny! Thank you for always being there for our family, no matter what the circumstance.

"Your dedication to the things that matter most (family, funeral home, faith and Irish heritage) is inspiring to witness day in and day out.

"If Danny is not working, he can be seen watching any/all sports (except soccer) and attending the many sporting events of his children throughout the years. Nothing makes him prouder than seeing the accomplishments and successes of all his children.

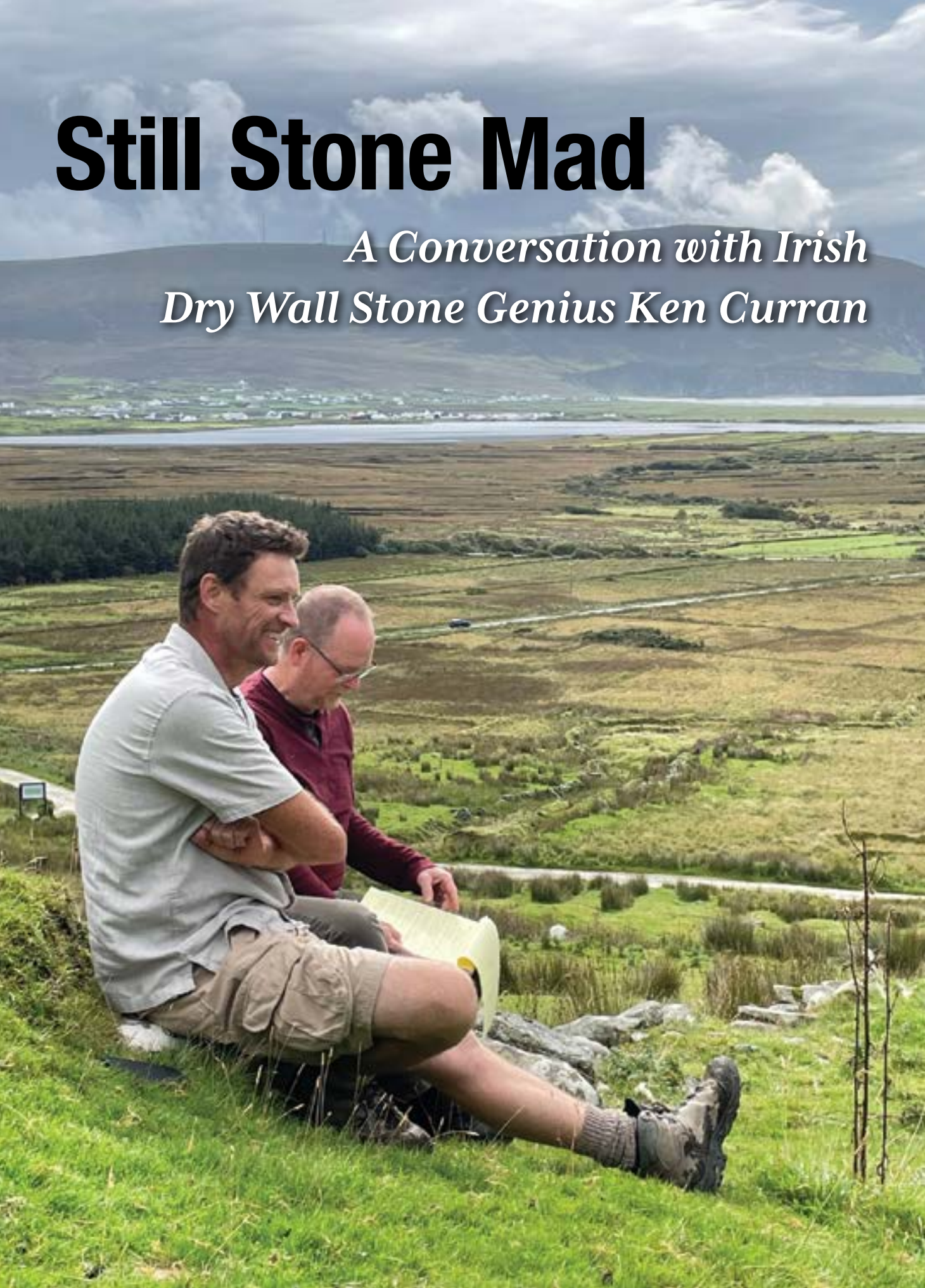
"If our children are half as kind as you are, they will go very far in life; I am honored you are my man every day!

"I Love You." - Kathleen Campbell Chambers



# Still Stone Mad

*A Conversation with Irish  
Dry Wall Stone Genius Ken Curran*



## Our Cultural Heritage Lives within the Stone

by John Digney

For many of you familiar with my Stone Mad columns, you are aware of my growing passion for our Irish history and just about anything related to stone work and stone structures. My wife calls it being obsessed; I call it being driven: driven by a need to make a difference for the Irish American community, and driven to enhance our understanding of the shared cultural heritage that lives within the stone walls and stone structures throughout Ireland.

We spent a day with Ken Curran, founding member of the Dry Stone Wall Association of Ireland (DSWAI), where we had the opportunity to visit Achill Island and talk about our ongoing collaboration and the conservation of structures throughout Ireland. We talked about many topics that I hope will provide you an understanding and appreciation of our stone-built heritage and the work being done by the DSWAI. Here are just a few:

**JD:** Ken, what would you like our Irish American community in the United States to know about the dry-stone wall association?

**KC:** Most importantly, the association is here to be a means of promoting the preservation of the craft of drystone construction and the structures, to accumulate knowledge and share it with people, but also, to grow our membership nationally and internationally. To embrace our shared interests beyond just the craft, science and the history of our stone heritage.

**JD:** Beyond growing membership internationally, where would you like to see DSWAI in the next, three, five, maybe ten years?

**KC:** Obviously more members, more training and workshops around Ireland, and more collaborations internationally. In addition to increasing members, some core funding, donations from the states and local sponsorships to help us with future development. But really, for more membership and then more active engagement of the mem-



bership in coming forward with ideas and projects that they want to do, that they can engage with and take ownership off. I mean, that's probably, the essence of the next five to ten years.

**JD:** Aside from the training and workshops that you're always working on, I know of one project that DSWAI has been involved with; The application to UNESCO/ICH to have the activity of dry stone building listed and designated as an Intangible Cultural Heritage for Ireland. Can you talk a little bit about that and the importance of that application for listing?

**KC:** It's about our culture, our heritage and it's hugely important. It's only one part, but it's the cultural part of dry

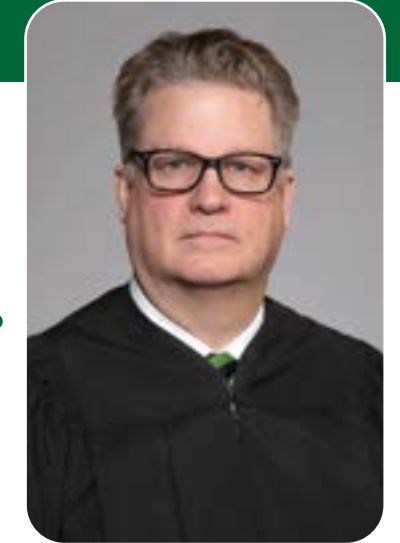
stone. It's the intangible that we hope is included and listed with UNESCO. It's something that, it's not the material, but it's the human understanding of how to work with the material and the collective act of coming together.

We've already added it to our Irish inventory of intangible cultural heritage. That's fundamentally part of our cultural identity. It also provides the opportunity for us to safeguard the craft.

There are currently eight countries who were inscribed by UNESCO. They are European countries. Since we applied to join, there has been at least another five or six also come forward. It

*Continued on page 21*

## Happy St. Patrick's Day!



**RETAIN  
Cornelius J.  
O'Sullivan, Jr.**

**Judge on the 8th District  
Court of Appeals**

*Judge O'Sullivan is currently serving the people of Cuyahoga County as a Judge on the Eighth District Court of Appeals.*

**Judge Cornelius J.  
O'Sullivan, Jr.**

**Judge O'Sullivan** has more than 30 years of legal experience with over 25 years in civil litigation. He routinely handled large loss matters and has tried over 40 cases as the first chair attorney. His practice areas included catastrophic claims, general commercial liability, wrongful death, construction defect, professional liability, long term care, trucking and UM/UIM litigation. In 2015 he was named a Premier 100 Trial Attorney by the American Academy of Trial Attorneys. In 2020, Judge O'Sullivan was trained and certified by The Cleveland Mediation Center and became a Professional Mediator.

Judge O'Sullivan worked to establish the MacBride Principles in Cuyahoga County. He also served on the board of the Irish Music Academy of Cleveland.

Judge O'Sullivan currently serves as Director of the Flock Community Meals in Lakewood; an organization that prepares and serves 200 plus meals a month at two locations. He is a past-president of the Cleveland Association of Civil Trial Attorneys and was recognized by an international organization, DRI, for his exceptional service. In 2021, Judge O'Sullivan was named to the DRI Construction Law Steering Committee. The father of four Eagle Scouts, he is a Scout Leader in BSA Troop 287 in Lakewood, Ohio.

**Judge O'Sullivan will be running in the  
November 2022 election and asks for your support!**

***In November, vote to retain  
Cornelius J. O'Sullivan, Jr. Judge for  
the 8th District Court of Appeals***

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### Still Stone Mad Continued from page 19

creates a connection with those countries, right? For all of us, and then from that, you have a sharing of knowledge. You may have more travel over and back, between these countries, more volunteering exchanges, and then the craft starts to be reinforced on an international level.

UNESCO highlights that, "the art of dry stone walling" consists of staking the stones one on another, without using other materials, except, in some cases, dry soil. This practical knowledge is preserved and handed down in rural communities, where they have deep roots, and among professionals in the construction sector. Structures with dry walls are used as shelters, for agriculture or livestock, and testify to the methods used, from prehistory to the present day, to organise life and workspaces by optimising the local human and natural resources. These constructions demonstrate the harmonious relationship between man and nature and at the same time play a vital

role in preventing landslides, floods, and avalanches, but also combat soil erosion and desertification.

**JD:** That sounds like an incredible initiative and one that will help preserve the craft for many years. Another topic I wanted to explore has more to do with what we're seeing here in terms of construction techniques. It looks like on the entranceway, there are holes in the side, on both sides of the opening. What are those for?

**KC:** Oh yeah, they are for putting the door frame in place, a kind of timber plug called a 'noggin' would be placed in there and then they fix the doorframe onto that afterwards.

**JD:** I understand, it's for securing the door framing because we're talking about early 19th century. On this other side, I see this mortar type material. What is that mortar made of?

**KC:** That's an earth-lime mortar. If you look closely, it has a white flecks in there, that's quick lime, and there are three interesting things about it. This is probably made up of soil or clay mixed with sand, maybe one part soil, three

parts sand, but to get it to stabilize and to stay together, make it more durable they would need quick lime.

In a place like this, where all the geology is granite and quartzite, they probably would have collected oyster shells at the beach, which has calcium carbonate in it. They burn that in a kiln with some peat because they have all the turf in the world.

They would get that up to 900 degrees and produce quick lime. They would have mixed a small amount of quick lime with the sand and clay mix to make the mortar. Perhaps only 10% of the yield.

The quicklime heats up a lot. It slakes when mixed with the water in the damp yield and stabilizes and sets within the stone walls. Secondly, the quick lime has a real benefit for soil enrichment as well. So, it was often used as a fertilizer.

Lastly, our ancestors would make lime washes, which are good for sterilization. So, if a family were fortunate to have animals, they would often regularly whitewash half of the building where the animals are to keep it disinfected.

Space is always a consideration. Look for Part 2 in the coming months, when we'll talk more of our surroundings and visit an old homesite with connections to some of our local Irish American family.

To read about our work with the DSWAI, see [www.dswai.ie](http://www.dswai.ie). We will continue to bring you insights, stories and instructional videos in the coming months, published here in *iIrish* as well as at [www.iIrish.us](http://www.iIrish.us). ■

*John Digney is an Artist /Designer who received his BFA in Industrial Design from the Cleveland Institute of Art. He was raised in the Cleveland neighborhood of Westpark near Kamm's Corner, and he and his wife Kathleen, and daughters Eileen and Megan, now reside in Greenville, SC. John looks forward to the day when he can devote more time to his family, art and passions. John can be reached at [jdigney59@gmail.com](mailto:jdigney59@gmail.com)*

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**MADIGAN  
MUSES**

By Marilyn Madigan

## A Grand Celebration, at Last

On Saturday February 5, the Ancient Order of Hibernians Boland Berry Division and the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians Our Lady of the Rosary Division hosted the Celebration of St. Brigid and St. Patrick. The Abbey and Madison Rooms of the West Side Irish American Club hosted the Mass for St. Brigid, celebrated by Fr. Ryan Duns SJ, the National Chaplain of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Fr. Ryan is proud of his Cleveland Irish Community roots which was demonstrated in his very enjoyable homily. He recognized the United Irish Societies Honorees and their contributions to the preservation of Irish music, dance and culture. He gave a special recognition of how Fr. Tom Mahoney

has served the spiritual needs of many members of the community in happy and sad times.

### THE FEAST OF ST. PATRICK

Following the Mass, the beginning of Celebrations for the Feast of St. Patrick began with the dinner and program to honor the 2022 United Irish Societies Honorees, the 2022 Hibernian of the Year and to recognize the 2020 Honorees. All of these Honorees have contributed their time, talent and treasure to our Irish Community for many years.

The Main Ballroom of the West Side Irish American Club was full of those wishing to honor: Fr. Tom Mahoney, Hibernian of the Year; Rita Lally, Irish Mother; Patricia Coleman Lavelle and Eileen Mangan Stull, Parade Co-Chairs. We also recognize the 2020 United Irish Societies that did not have the opportunity to attend the 2020 Parade and Banquet due to the pandemic.

A special recognition to those individuals: Tom Scanlon, Grand Marshal; Kathleen Mangan, Irish Mother; Chris Cooper and Maureen Mohny, Parade Co-Chairs. We were also honored that many Past Hibernians of the Year and United Irish Societies Honorees were present. It is always nice to see individuals honored in the past recognize the new group of Honorees.

The hall was beautifully decorated by the Hibernian Committee. It was so nice to see the hall packed and people



Hibernian of the Year  
Fr. Thomas Mahoney

on the dance floor. A special thank you to the West Side Irish American Club, Brennan's Catering, our emcee Steve Lavelle, vocalist Mary Agnes Kennedy, piper Kevin Kelly and our entertainment by Auld Pitch. A good time was held by all.

Many compliments have been stated on how this celebration is a great way to start the season. The pandemic has caused us all to look at new ways. What a great start to new celebrations.

See you at many other upcoming events for St. Patrick's Day. Looking

forward to the Celebration of St. Brigid and St. Patrick 2023. ■

*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.*

**GET MORE TO THE STORY**  
More pics, and larger print too!  
@www.ilrish.us

Photo by John O'Brien, Jr



Members of the Cleveland Hibernians East and West Side Divisions unite for a scholarship drive for seminary students.

## We Get Letters

Greetings Sue,

Luckily my local library carries your Irish publication, and I've been meaning to write you to tell you how much I enjoyed your December article. Then I just read your January story and loved it even more--especially because you mentioned your dear springer spaniel Lucy and the spirit of dogs. I too have a springer spaniel, 3-year-old Nellie, who is my best friend and full of fun (will attach photos). She also loves the snow and gets me out multiple times a day to enjoy the outdoors and nature. She also helps me feed the birds.



Nellie

It's so fun to see the dogs leaping through the deep snow. Thank you for reminding us how much we can learn from the spirit of dogs, staying joyful and full of gratitude for each day! I also loved your story of skiing and skating with your father. I was tempted to get my old skates or cross country skis out but the snow is a bit too deep right now!

I look forward to reading more of your musings!

Thanks and warm wishes,

Nancy Grossman

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# WHAT'S THE CRAIC? OUT & ABOUT IRISH

## OHIO

### BROOKLYN

#### HOOLEY HOUSE!

1-The Other Brothers (Fat Tuesday Party), 4-Custard Pie, 11-Faction, 25-Flannel Planet. 10310 Cascade Crossing, Brooklyn 216-362-7700. [1FunPub.com](http://1FunPub.com)

### CLEVELAND

#### 5 POINTS COFFEE & TEA

3600 West Park Road. Cleveland, Oh 44111 [5pointscfe.com](http://5pointscfe.com)

#### THE HARP

4408 Detroit Road, 44113 [the-harp.com](http://the-harp.com)

#### FLAT IRON CAFÉ

4th- No Strangers Here 7-10pm; 11th- Donegal Doggs, 6:30-10pm; 17th- Open @ 7am for Kegs & Eggs, free shuttle service to Parade, Cleveland Firefighter Pipes & Drums live post parade, live music from Donal O'Shaughnessy from 11am til the Guinness runs out!, 18th- Cats On Holiday 6:30-9:30pm; 25th- Chad Hoffman 7-10pm.. 1114 Center St. Cleveland 44113-2406 216. 696.6968. [flatironcafe.com](http://flatironcafe.com)

#### TREEHOUSE

820 College Avenue, Cleveland, 44113 [treehousecleveland.com](http://treehousecleveland.com)

#### PJ MCINTYRE'S

4th- Pat Shepard 8PM, Guinness Pint Glass customized; 12th - Green Mile Bar Crawl 2-6, sponsored by Miller Lite & Tullamore Dew/Titos; 16th - St. Practice Day, Music by Half Craic'd (From Craic Brothers); 17th - Happy St. Patrick's Day: Open @7am First 100 People get an authentic Collector's Item T-Shirt: 15 Year Tradition! (Voted Best Place to Spend Your Holiday!) Music, Pipers, Dancers, Irish Breakfast, .... 18th - Hair of the Dog Party: Live Music w Mossy Moran 5:30pm. Followed BY U2 Cover Band Zoo Station.

**Win A Trip For 2 To Ireland or Trip for to Cancun or \$1k in Cash!!! Free Trip to Ireland Drawing @7pm Must Be Present to Win the Sweepstakes!!!!**

19th - St. Stephen's Day: Make Up Party. w Kilroy's Ceili Band 5:30pm. Starting Ash Wednesday, 3/2, then Lenten Fish Fry Every Friday in Lent.

**Voted #1 Fish Fry Menu in Cleveland!**

Book Parties & Events in our Bridget Ned's Irish Parlor Party Room. 17119 Lorain Road, 44111. [pjmcin-tyres.com](http://pjmcin-tyres.com)



## The Parades are Back!

[tyres.com](http://tyres.com) 216-941-9311.

#### MUSIC BOX SUPPER CLUB

1148 Main Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44113. [musicboxcle.com](http://musicboxcle.com)

#### FLANNERY'S PUB

323 East Prospect, Cleveland 44115 216.781.7782 [flannerycle.com](http://flannerycle.com)

### AVON LAKE

#### AHERN BANQUET CENTER

Ahern Banquet Center is booking weddings and special events. Call Tony Ahern / Lucy Balsler @ 440-933-9500. 726 Avon Belden Rd, Avon Lake 44012. [aherncatering.com](http://aherncatering.com)

### BAY VILLAGE

#### GREENISLAND

17th - St. Patrick's Day - Big Slate is

Back, 3pm-6pm. Open @7am for Kegs & Eggs

9th & 23rd - Trivia Nights start @7 (every other Wednesday). 25517 Eaton Way. Bay Village, OH 44140 440.445.9086 [greenisland.pub](http://greenisland.pub)

### EUCLID

#### IRISH AMERICAN CLUB

##### EAST SIDE

4th, 11th, 25th - Fish Fry, 6th - Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner w Crawley & Sofranko, 12th - Guinness & Harp Night w Dreams of Freedom, 13th - Family Day w DJ Nick McGill @1:00 & Ballinloch @5:30, 14th - Club Membership Mtg, 16th - Irish Coffee Night w New Barleycorn, 17th - Mass at Sts.. Robert and William, DJ Nick McGill 2:00, Ballinloch 6:30. PUB: 7:30 -

Photo courtesy of Cleveland's St. Patricks Day Parade non profit org.

10:30. IACES 22770 Lake Shore Blvd. Euclid, 44123. 216.731.4003 [eastsideirish.org](http://eastsideirish.org)

### LAKESIDE

#### PLANK ROAD TAVERN

Happy Hour: M-F 4-7, Sat 12-6. Open Sessiún Every Thursday 7-10, ½ Off Wings, \$1 off drinks. \$3 Guinness and Jamieson. 16719 Detroit Avenue, 44107 [plankroadtavern.com](http://plankroadtavern.com)

### MEDINA / MONTROSE

#### SULLY'S

4 - Crawley & Sofranko, 5 - Du-lahan, 11 - Dreams of Freedom, 12 - The Other Brothers, 17 - Loch Erie, 18 - The New Barleycorn, 19 - Smug Saints, 25 - Roadhouse Jr and Sr Acoustic Show, 26 - The Music Men (Music Trivia). 117 West Liberty Medina, 44256 [sullymedina.com](http://sullymedina.com).

#### HOOLEY HOUSE MONTROSE

17th -The Flyin' J's 3-8pm. 145 Montrose West Avenue Copley, Oh 44321 (234) 466-0060 [1funpub.com](http://1funpub.com)

#### CLEVELAND CELTIC

##### ENSEMBLE

27th - 2:30 pm - United Church of Christ Congregational, Medina. 2:30 p.m. Tickets & more info: [ClevelandCelticEnsemble.com](http://ClevelandCelticEnsemble.com)

### MENTOR

#### HOOLEY HOUSE

1-Vince Menti & Friends (Fat Tuesday Party), 5-Country Redford, 11-Abbey Rodeo, 17th - No Strangers Here 5-8pm, 25-Disco Inferno. 7861 Reynolds Rd Mentor [1funpub.com](http://1funpub.com) (440) 942-6611.

### OLMSTED TWP

#### WEST SIDE

#### IRISH AMERICAN CLUB

4th, 11th, 18th, 25th - Lenten Fish Fry & Entertainment; 6th -Marching Practice; 10th -Forever Young Luncheon 1:00P, Mary Ellen Grealis 440-235-4164; 11th, 12th, 13th - G.O.A.T Greatest CLE Irish Weekend of All Time Celebration: Food & Entertainment all weekend; 17th - St. Patrick's Day: Mass @St. Colman's, Parade, Food & Entertainment at the IA after parade; 24th -General Meeting 7:00P; 26th - Steak Shoot 7:00p, Helen 216-251-4075. Great live music and food in The Pub every Friday. WSIA Club 8559 Jennings Rd. 44138 [wsia-club.org](http://wsia-club.org). 440-235-5868.

### ROCKY RIVER

#### GORMLEY'S

**HAPPY HOUR: Monday Thru Friday 2pm - 7pm! \$2 off drafts / \$2 off liquor**

*Continued on page 26*



## IRISH RADIO

### IRISH'S SONGS, STORIES & SHENANIGANS PODCAST

#### TUESDAY

6pm-8pm: *All Things Irish* WOBC-FM 91.5 w/Anita Lock

#### WEDNESDAY

1:30pm-3pm: *Dianne Byrnes* WEDO 810 AM and simulcast on Sundays 12:30 - 2:00 pm

Posted every second Friday @ [iIRISH.us](http://iIRISH.us) and archived forever!

#### SATURDAY

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

#### SUNDAY

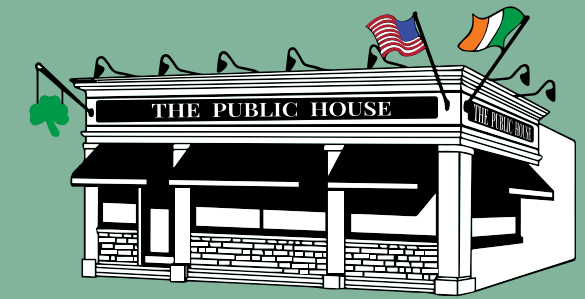
7am-9am: *Sweeney Astray* WCSB-FM 89.3  
10am-12pm: *Gerry Quinn's Irish Hours* WHK-AM 1420 w/ Colleen Corrigan Day & Eddie Fitzpatrick

#### SATURDAY & SUNDAY

12-6pm ET/9am-3pm PT on SiriusXM *Classic Vinyl*, channel 26.

11:30am-1:30pm: *Echoes of Erin* WCWA-AM 1230 w/John Connolly  
6pm-7pm: *Songs of Britain & Ireland* WCPN-FM 90.3

Congratulations to Dan Chambers on being recognized Irish Person of the Year!



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Opening Set by Thorne Musica

WED MAR 16

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THU MAR 17

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Cleveland Stories

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## WHAT'S THE CRAIC? OUT & ABOUT IRISH

Continued from page 25

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**Casey's Irish Imports**  
440-33-8383. 19626 Center Ridge Road [caseyirishimports.com](http://caseyirishimports.com)

## VALLEY CITY

### GANDALF'S

Join us for Brunch EVERY SUNDAY. Great food, atmosphere, staff and fun. 6757 Center Road Valley City, 44280 [gandalfpub.com](http://gandalfpub.com).

## WESTLAKE

### HOOLEY HOUSE

1-Twin B Project (Fat Tuesday Party), 4-The Sloppy Joe Band, 11-New Barleycorn, 12-The Feedbacks, 25-Billy Morris & Sunset Strip. 24940 Sperry Dr Westlake 44145. [IFunPub.com](http://IFunPub.com) (440) 835-2890

## TRADITIONAL IRISH SOCIAL DANCE OPPORTUNITIES:

**Tuesdays 8-10 pm,**  
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North Olmsted

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**Thursdays,  
September 3, 10, 24,**  
7-9 pm, West Side  
Irish American Club

**Ceili Mor!  
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for information, contact CeiliClub-  
Cleveland@gmail.com

## COLUMBUS

### SHAMROCK CLUB EVENTS

3 - Paul Byrom; 4 - Fish Fry, McLans; 6 - Mass & General Meeting; 11 - Proclamation Day, Fish Fry, Mossy Moran; 13 - DOE Irish Breakfast, Mass & General Meeting; 14 - Irishman of the Year Party @ Byrne's Pub; 17 - Mass @ St. Patrick Church, St. Patrick's Day Parade, Irish Family Reunion in Battelle Hall, Fialla at the Shamrock Club; 18 - Fish Fry; 20 - Low Cost Pet Vaccination Clinic; 25 - Fish Fry. Happy Hour every Friday from 5-7pm! 60 W. Castle Rd. Columbus 43207 614-491-4449 [shamrockclubofcolumbus.com](http://shamrockclubofcolumbus.com)

**Submit news, events, releases, memories, milestones, ads and pics for inclusion in the Irish Out & About Monthly Events List, blurb features or the Coming Next Month Save the Dates List.**

**Due date is ALWAYS the 10th of this month, for the following month.**

### TARA HALL

11<sup>th</sup> - Proclamation Day: The Hooligans and Fialla, Queens Table food truck, \$5 cover, doors open 2pm; 17<sup>th</sup> - Mad Maudlin and the Hooligans, \$5 cover, doors open 2pm. Traditional Irish music w General Guinness Band & Friends 2nd Friday 8:00 - 11:00pm. No Cover. Tara Hall 274 E. Innis Ave. Columbus, 43207 614.444.5949.

**Toledo Irish American Club**  
Great music & Craic. 601 Monroe Street, Toledo 43604 [ToledoIrishAmericanClub.com](http://ToledoIrishAmericanClub.com)

## INDIANA

### FIDDLER'S HEARTH

Mon: Open Irish Music Session 7ish; Tue: Open Old Timey Music Session 7ish; Wed: Open Mic - 7:30pm - 9:30pm, sign-up 6:30pm. 127 North Main Street South Bend, IN. 44601. 574.232.2853 [FiddlersHearth.com](http://FiddlersHearth.com)  
Hotels open near us.

## PENNSYLVANIA

## PITTSBURGH

### PICT CLASSIC THEATRE

Season Subscriptions & Single tickets for all of our shows are now on sale: ONLINE: [PICTTheatre.org](http://PICTTheatre.org); PHONE: 412-561-6000 x207; MAIL: PO Box 8168, Pittsburgh, PA 15217. [Tickethelp@picttheatre.org](mailto:Tickethelp@picttheatre.org) 5<sup>th</sup> - Teamsters 249 Union Hall, 4701 Butler Street Pittsburgh, 15201 Doors open at 6:30, dinner served @7:00, catered by Cooked Goose. Beer, wine, soda, water available

### GAELIC ARTS SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

[pghgaelicarts@gmail.com](mailto:pghgaelicarts@gmail.com)



## ONGOING TRADITIONAL IRISH SESSIÚNS

BRING YOUR INSTRUMENTS AND PLAY ALONG!

- **1035 Bridge Street upstairs**, Ashtabula. 1st Saturday of the month 1-3.
- **Bardic Circle @The Shamrock Club** of Columbus Beginner - friendly, intermediate level Irish session meeting every other Thursdays 8:00 pm - 11:00 pm
- **The Harp** - 1st Friday of every month, 9pm. 4408 Detroit, Cleveland
- **Logan's Irish Pub** - 3rd Wednesday of the month, 414 S. Main St., Findlay, 7:30 pm
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## HEALTH MATTERS

By Dr. Alok Jain

## Understanding Your Options

Colorectal cancer is the fourth most common cancer, but the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in men and women. Screening for colorectal cancer could help save your life, but it is possible that you may be confused on what option is best.

Screening tools are important prevention and early detection offerings that can find precancerous polyps — abnormal growths in the colon or rectum — that can be removed before they turn into cancer. Screenings can also detect cancer early, which is best for treatment options.

Recent data shows that colon cancer is impacting patients at younger ages than seen before, which is why anyone at average risk for colon cancer should begin regular screenings at forty-five years old. It is also important for those who have a family history of colorectal cancer or colon polyps to have regular screenings. Individuals may also be at higher for colon cancer if they have an inflammatory bowel disease or if they have certain genetic syndromes.

Chances are you've seen television ads for at-home colon cancer screening kits or maybe you've been putting off scheduling your regular colonoscopy. With so many changing technologies and at-home options, it can be overwhelming to know and understand which screening option is best for you.

### COLONOSCOPIES

are the gold standard when it comes to screening for colorectal cancer. This procedure uses a long tube to check for polyps or cancer inside the rectum and the entire colon. Patients should have a regular colonoscopy every ten years starting at age forty-five, unless your doctor says that

it should be done sooner, based on your medical history. Colonoscopies are also used as follow up tests if anything unusual is found during other types of screenings.

What about at-home screening options? There are various kits you can use in the comfort of your own home to screen for colorectal cancer. High-sensitivity fecal occult blood testing (FOBT) and stool DNA tests check for blood or cancer cells in your stool using various testing techniques. If you've seen ads for Cologuard while watching your favorite TV show, this is one such screening kit that examines stool DNA to detect DNA and blood cells in the sample you provide. If you were to choose one of these screenings, they are recommended every three years following a negative result.

Additional screening options include flexible sigmoidoscopies (flex sig), double contrast barium enemas and virtual colonoscopies. Flex sig screenings, which lack sensitivity and specificity in comparison to colonoscopies, use a short, thin, flexible, lighted tube to check for polyps or cancer in the rectum and lower third of the colon, whereas patients who opt for a double contrast barium enema receive both a liquid and air enema, so the doctor can see the outline of their colon on an x-ray. Virtual colonoscopies also use x-rays and computers to produce images of the entire colon. You will not receive these if a colonoscopy or Cologuard is available to you.

If it's time for your regular screening and you're unsure about which option might be best for you, it's important that you talk to your doctor. Together, you can discuss each of these screenings and which would be optimal based on your medical history.

### INSURANCE

As is the case with any procedure, insurance plans may or may not cover various screening options, based on the coverage they offer. Before setting up your screening, be sure to check your plan to know what is covered.

It is also important that you can recognize the symptoms of colorectal cancer if you're in between screenings or not yet forty-five years old. People who have polyps or colon cancer may not have symptoms at first and someone could have it and not even

know it – which is why screenings are so important.

### SYMPTOMS

Those who do experience symptoms sometimes have blood in or on their stool after a bowel movement, stomach aches, pains or cramps that won't go away, or unexplained weight loss. If you have any of these symptoms, it's important that you talk to your doctor right away. Of course, these symptoms could be caused by something other than cancer, but seeing your doctor is the only way to find out what might be causing them.

No matter what option you choose for your next screening, what matters most is that you're getting it done.

Screenings save lives. ■

*Alok Jain, MD, is a gastroenterologist with Mercy Health – Lorain Gastroenterology. Dr. Jain graduated from Bangalore Medical College Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences and completed his residency and fellowship at MetroHealth Medical Center. He completed his advanced endoscopy fellowship at Geisinger Medical Center in Pennsylvania. He is board certified in AB Internal Medicine-Gastroenterology.*

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## TAKING THE FIELDS OF GLORY

By Vincent Beach

## Midwest Gaelic Athletic Association

### CLEVELAND NEWS

The Cleveland St. Pat's - St. Jarlath's Gaelic Athletic Association held their annual general meeting in early February (after delayed attempts), at the Flat Iron Café in the Flats. The meeting was well attended by over thirty players, coaches, officers, and supporters. After officer reports and discussions on advancing Gaelic games in the ever-growing club, elections were held for the board.

Chairperson will be Vincent Beach, along with Secretary Jake Altman. Jake restarted his GAA career last season in goal for the footballers and in the middle for the hurlers. Jake takes over for Amelia Kaylor, who stepped down after three great years as secretary.

In the Treasurer's position, Dan Kampman also turned the reigns over to longtime club member, John Kernan. Dan Murray, footballer - hurler - ladies' football coach - club S&C trainer, said he needed more to do and stepped in as Public Relations Officer. Dan takes over for Annie Coyne, who coordinated the many social media faces of the club and established the monthly club e-newsletter.

In the Registrar's position, Cory Berry was elected to his first board position. Cory starred on last year's hurling team and was eager to get more involved in the GAA. Cory takes over for Tom Beach, longtime secretary and registrar for Cleveland.

Peter Dietz was elected as Youth Officer. Peter is father to three youth players (Mia, Adam, and Lucy), is husband to footballer and camóg - Angie, plays football and hurling himself, and has helped coach the youth both indoors and outdoors for several seasons.



**2022 Executive Board: (Left to Right): Evan Berry - Hurling & Camogie Manager; Vincent Beach - Chairperson; Cory Berry - Registrar; Jake Altman - Secretary; John Kernan - Treasurer; Dan Murray - Public Relations Officer; Peter Dietz - Youth Officer; Jim Coyne - Football Manager.**

Jim Coyne was elected for the retitled position of Football Manager and will head up a committee to coordinate the team activities and recruitment. Evan Berry was also elected in the retitled position of Hurling & Camogie Manager to lead a committee in the same manner for specific activities and recruitment.

Thank you so much to our outgoing board officers - buy them a pop when you see them, and good luck to our new officers. There will be plenty of opportunities on the team and other committees.

### CAMOGIE

Did you catch that above, Hurling and Camogie Manager? Cleveland has committed to fielding a camogie team for the 2022 season. Through the past two years of hurling recruitment, many women have stepped forward looking to compete in the unique and fast sport. Now, they have the numbers and energy to field a whole team, but of course are always looking for new members.

### MIDWEST EXPANSION

The Midwest Division received registrations and commitments from a few new teams this season including Buffalo Fenians Ladies Football, Buffalo Na-Fianna Hurling, Pittsburgh Camogie, and Cleveland St. Pat's - St. Jarlath's Camogie. With the growth in camogie, Divisional Chair Paul Mulcaire has asked John Young of Pittsburgh to be the Camogie Development Officer.

We will have more to come on the development plans and Midwest progression in future weeks. The Buffalo Ladies and Hurling are prepared at the

developmental level and are ready for friendly matches while they build to full-sided strength.

### MARCH APRIL MAY

The Cleveland GAA will once again be down at the St. Malachi Church Race the Saturday before St. Patrick's Day. Wear your St. Pat's - St. Jarlath's gear or your favorite GAA jersey and meet us near the photo stand. We will be doing both the 2 miler and the 5 milers.

Youth are encouraged to join us with their families. Cleveland GAA will also be marching in the long-awaited St. Patrick's Day Parade.

### NEW PLAYER NIGHT

On Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at the Rocky River Force, the Ladies' and Men's football team will hold a New Player Night, from 8:30PM to 9:30PM. Skills will be taught for anyone interested. Men should be eighteen and over, Ladies fifteen and over.

In April as the weather breaks, both codes (football hurling/camogie) will begin to hit the outdoor field, but there will likely be some group conditioning sessions ahead of time. Please see the Club's website or social media. May will seriously kick-off the GAA season in Cleveland with the club's Night at the Races, co-hosted by the WSIA on the 14<sup>th</sup>. The following weekend, the Cleveland Memorial 7's will also take place at the WSIA club, with team coming from around the Midwest, Heartland, and Central Divisions to compete in men's and ladies' Gaelic football.

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

Continued on facing page



## TOLEDO IRISH

By Molly McHugh

## The Luck of the Irish

When we finally make it to the month of March, it feels as though we're out of the winter darkness; spring and longer days are on the horizon; March Madness exudes excitement through our TVs. To top it all off, we get to celebrate St. Patrick's Day - how lucky are we? And how often is the phrase, "Luck of the Irish," associated with the 17<sup>th</sup>? Pretty often!

It got me thinking: The luck of the Irish! Is there really such a thing? The leading theory behind the phrase, "Luck of the Irish," is rooted in US history. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, many Irish immigrants landed in the US to escape the dire straits of the famine; and many ended up finding work within the mining industry.

At the same time, the U.S. was experiencing the Gold Rush. As it turns out, many of the Irish immigrants working in the mines were becoming much more successful than the Americans at find-

ing gold and silver. Because of that, the Americans thought there could only be one reason for this: It must be the luck of the Irish! Certainly, they were not more skilled!

The phrase, while initially derogatory in nature, stayed with the Irish throughout the U.S. over the years. Eventually, however, it was recognized that Irish success really did come from hard work as opposed to chance; and the phrase became much friendlier in connotation. Luckily (no pun intended), today any mention of the phrase is only positive and one of good fortune.

One Irish person we know who does not need any luck is Irish golfer Leona Maguire. I wrote about Leona back in September, when she not only participated, but stole the show, in the Solheim Cup here in Toledo.

After rocking the Solheim Cup, it was her skill, talent and determination that led her to become the first Irish woman to win an LPGA tournament. On February 6, 2022, she won the LPGA Drive On Championship in Ft. Myers, Florida, and took home a purse of \$225,000!

According to Maguire, "It's huge for Irish golf. There was never an Irish player on the tour, let alone a winner. Hopefully, there is a lot of people watching at home tonight with big smiles on their faces and little girls watching knowing they can do that, too." The win was so big for the country that even the President of Ireland, Michael Higgins, gave her a shout-out on Twitter.



### USGAA

Continued from previous page

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 Cleveland and emigrant of Michigan. He joined the St. Pat's Gaelic Football Club in 1999 and, with much help, is the current caretaker of the Cleveland GAA.

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Luckily, Toledo will be home to the 2027 U.S. Women's Open, and we will welcome Leona back with open arms.

So maybe Leona doesn't need any luck, but how about the rest of us? We could all use a lucky charm occasionally, right? Well, we will get to see many of those "lucky charms" on St. Patrick's Day with the abundance of shamrocks floating around. The shamrock, of course, was used by St. Patrick to describe the Holy

Trinity, with the leaves of the three-leaf clover representing the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. So, while the phrase, "Luck of the Irish," may not actually be rooted in any luck, we still have St. Patrick on our side; and I, for one, still like to think I'm lucky to be Irish! ■

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## CLEVELAND IRISH

By Francis McGarry

# Dear John Francis

Grandpa, I was processing the 1940 Census data for the city wards near St. Aloysius, really I was, and I saw you. There you were at 25 years old just two weeks into your job at the grocery store, a lodger on East 95<sup>th</sup> Street.

Back in your day, they counted everyone, so it is not a surprise. I knew you were in Cleveland in 1940, but it is still exciting to find you in the census.

Now, don't get me wrong. I will still be out to All Soul's on the 16<sup>th</sup> to have a taste and talk to you and

Grandma Grace. But, there are a few things that I am wondering that Grace may not want to hear, so you get a letter with your flowers.

It is not about your drinking, although Grace was not a fan. Some of my nurse friends said cirrhosis is not a bad way to go, all things considered. They don't work for Cleveland Clinic, but I trust their medical opinions anyway.

It gave me a sense of ease that you chose a good way to go. What you gonna do? It is a game we play when we belly up to the bar. Some days you win and some days the whiskey does; but, hell, even the '64 Browns had three losses and they were called Champions.

Aunt Irene always said, "Whiskey never solved anything, but then again neither did milk." I am pretty sure that was not originally her saying, but you know how arguing with her goes. Either way, JF, I don't judge.

Grandpa, the story as it was told to me, was that you dropped out of high school after your first year to work at the oil refinery with your father, James. You stayed at home and sounds like you saved some money. Ten years of that



John Francis

few blocks from St. Philomena's. I don't know if the store that sells mice traps and bibles was on the corner back then. Seems like a sustainable business plan.

Kathleen's daughter, Mimi, was at our Hibernian Raffle this past weekend. Mimi was telling me stories about the Bishop and the family. Mike Murphy was there as well; he went to St. Joe's with Dennis. You might not remember him, but you had to have drinks with his father at the Bucket of Blood.

I was able to have a nip with his son Chris and Hanratty when we finished calling the numbers, Hibernians, JF. I trust you have had a chance to see Uncle Dennis, good old DeeJay Paints. They tore down your apartment building across from St. Joe Collinwood, by the way. The first property of McGarry Real Estate.

It was a great day to be Irish, as some attempt to say. We announced an annual scholarship for your brother, the Bishop Urban McGarry Scholarship. It is through our Foundation, Bluestone Hibernian Charities. More families have now committed to funding a scholarship named for their people, RIP Chuck Arth.

I know you were not too fond of the Irish west of the river, but they were at the raffle too.

Good folks, grandpa, once you get to know them, Hibernians, JF. I do find the air over there hard, to breathe at times; but, as you know, we live in altitude.

Plus, you went to the fish fries at St. Malachi to meet Grace's family and

your uncle Michael, who lived on West 65<sup>th</sup>, so that is what it is. The 43<sup>rd</sup> annual St. Malachi Run is on March 12<sup>th</sup>, after your time I know. You can rest easy that the race heads to the Eastside as fast as they can.

While I was looking at your records, Grandpa, I found your sister Jane's cemetery record. She is buried at Mount Saint Mary Cemetery in Queens. It is about twenty-thirty minutes from TJ in Upper Manhattan. He went to visit, small world. Speaking of that, your grandma Jane McNally's father Walter McNally has a name sake who is also a Hibernian. Most call him Mickey, but he has answered to McGurk.

So, Grandpa, this might not make sense to you, but when you export the census data to Excel, the format allows you a new lens. In the original census forms, you are last on the page, number 80 on the form. Well, in Excel, it is clear to see that Fred and Pauline Marquardt had two lodgers, not just you.

Elizabeth Walters was also living there, a divorced secretary who had moved in about six months before you. This you know; I did not. After some

investigation, I discovered Elizabeth was from Warren PA. as well. I am not casting aspersions JF, just interested in the narrative.

When I asked me Ma, she said, "Oh, Libby." Maybe you were just friends or maybe Grace wasn't your first love. You're only allowed three great ones in a lifetime. Me? I had my three when I was 16; that happens, what you gonna do, that's the way it goes.

Whatever the story is, it actually gives a vitality to the census and it apparently got Grandma Grace fired up. Sometimes the past gets trapped, as if it was never alive. If the family tree is no longer alive, it was alive and should be appreciated as such.

When I inquired more from me Ma, she transitioned to how you and Grace would take her and Dennis down to The Parade. That soon digressed into stories of Notre Dame College girls at Pat Joyce's. To use her own saying, "At her age all she can remember is the past."

Well, JF, looking forward to hearing the story. I will be heading down the hill on St. Patrick's Day with my Hibernian Brothers and will be marching

because of you. No yesterdays are ever wasted if they give forth today. Thank you for my today, Grandpa. ■

*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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and you were off to Cleveland to live near Uncle Pat. That much I know.

Your room on 95<sup>th</sup> was about two miles from Uncle Pat, Aunt Delia, Patrick Jr., Kathleen, Margaret and her husband Keith McCrone. There is a Nemo's Liquor Store across from what was their backyard in East Cleveland, just a

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**SPEAK IRISH**

By Bob Carney

@BobCarneyGTR

**Celebrations**

Lá fhéile Pádraig sona dhaoibh! Happy St. Patrick's Day, celebrations are a big part of our lives whether they are holidays or just spending time with family and friends. Food and drink are often at the center of these special times. If you're lucky enough to find yourself in the gaeltacht I hope you use some of this month's vocabulary and phrases at your next celebration. New languages come slowly to most adults, we all have so many other things that require our time, but if we keep our approach simple, a word or two at a time, soon we will have amassed enough to carry on a conversation with others.

**VOCABULARY**

**DEOCHANNA** (jahk-ahnn-ah) drinks  
 beoir/ an bheoir (byohr / ahn vyore) beer / the beer There are two types of vowel groupings, broad and slender. A, O, and U, are broad, E and I are slender. A broad vowel would cause the lenited bh to be pronounced as a w, while a slender vowel cause a v sound.  
 leann (lawhn) ale or beer  
 leann dubh (lawhn duv) stout or porter  
 pionta (pyunta) a pint  
 pionta beorach (pyunta byor-ach) a pint of beer  
 beoir mhór (byohr wore) a large beer  
 fion / an fion (fee-un /ahn fee-un) wine /the wine  
 buidéal fiona (boo-dale fee-un-ah) a bottle of wine  
 gloine fiona (glawn-ya fee-un-ah) a glass of wine  
 fion dearg/ fion bán (fee-un jer-ug/ fee-un bahn) red wine/ white wine  
 uisce (ish-ka) water  
 uisce sóide (ish-ka sowdja) soda water  
 uisce beatha (ish-ka bah-ha) water of life, whiskey  
 cupán tae (kup-un tay) a cup of tea

caife (kah- fay) coffee  
 bainne (bahn-ya) milk  
 siúcra (shoo-kra) sugar  
 caife Éireannach (kah-fay ayrin-nach) Irish coffee  
 caife dubh mór (kah-fay duv more) a large black coffee  
 caife dubh beag (kah-fay duv byug) a small black coffee

**PREPOSITIONAL PRONOUNS**

In Irish we usually say something is with us or on us, when the word for with, le (leh) is used with a pronoun, or the word for on, ar (air) is used we call that a prepositional pronoun.  
 liom (lyum) with me leat (lyat) with you  
 leis (lesh) with him léi (lay-ih) with her  
 linn (lynn(g)) with us libh (liv) with y'all  
 leo (lyo) with them  
 orm (or-um) on me ort (ort) on you air (air) on him uirthi (ur-hee) on her orainn (or-een) on us oraibh (or-iv) on y'all  
 orthu (or-huh) on them  
 BIA (bee-uh) food  
 práta (prah-ta) potato briosca (brish-ka) biscuit or cookie  
 arán (a-rawn) bread im (imm) butter stobhach (sto-ukh) stew sicín (shick-eeen) chicken  
 sicín rósta (shickeen rows-ta) roast chicken feoil (fee-oil) meat  
 súlach (soo-lahk) gravy brúitín (brootch-eeen) mashed potatoes\*  
 glasraí (gloss-ree) vegetables cabáiste (ca-bash-ta) cabbage  
 trátaí (traw-tee) tomatoes meacan (makan) root vegetable  
 bricfeasta (brik-fesh-tuh) breakfast lón (lahn) lunch  
 suipéar (sup-air) supper  
 \*Brúitín is most commonly associated with a dish known as champ, a potato dish made with scallions, traditionally served at Samhain. In some families it was customary to leave a bowl under a bush for the fairies. Dinneen's Dictionary has page upon page of words relating to the potato, in all of it's forms.

**PHRASES IN IRISH**

ceart go leor (kyart guh lore) OK  
 Go mo  
 Tá tart orm. (taw tart or-um) I'm thirsty  
 Tá ocras orm. (taw ohk-rus or-um) I'm hungry  
 Cad ba mhaith leat? (kahd ba wah lyat) What would you like?

Ba mhaith liom (ba wah lee-um) I would like  
 Pionta Guinness le do thoil. (pyunta guinness lay duh hull) A pint of Guinness please

Ba mhaith liom pionta Guinness le do thoil. (ba wah lee-um pyunta guinness lay duh hull) I would like a pint of Guinness please.

Go raibh maith agat (guh rah mah ah-gut) Thank you  
 Gabh mo leithscéal (guh muh lesh-skale) excuse me

Ar mhaith leat ithe? (ar wah lyat ih-ha) Would you like to eat?

Cinnté (kinn-ta) certainly  
 Cén áit ar mhaith leat a ithe? (kayn aht ar wah lyat a ih-ha) Where would you like to eat?

Cathain ar mhaith leat a ithe? (ka-hinn ar wah lyat a ih-ha) When would you like to eat?

Anois (ah-nesh) now  
 Ní anois (nee ah-nesh) not now  
 An ólfá deoch? (ahn ol-fa jawhk) Will you have a drink?

Ar mhaith leat rud éigin a ithe? (ar wah lyat rud a-ginn ah ih-ha) Would you like something to eat?

Ar mhaith leat rud éigin a ól? (ar wah lyat rud a-gjnn ah ol) Would you like something to drink?

Ba mhaith (ba wah) I would  
 Níor mhaith (neer wah) I would not  
 Is maith liom (iss mah lee-um) I like  
 Is maith liom Guinness. (iss mah lee-um guinness) I like Guinness

An mhaith leat Guinness? (ahn mah lyat guinness) Do you like Guinness?  
 Comhghairdeas (ka-vor-dess) congratulations

Breithlá shona (bray-la ho-na) happy birthday  
 Teaghlach (tchai lahk) family  
 Cara (kara) friend  
 Cairde (kardj-uh) friends  
 Sláinte (slawn-cha) health  
 Slán Go Foill! ■

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

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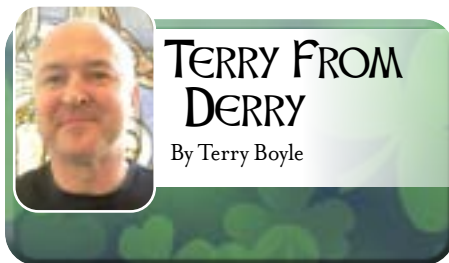
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## TERRY FROM DERRY

By Terry Boyle

# Blood Boyles

*You got gangsters in power and lawbreakers making rules.*  
- Bob Dylan

I've been going through a phase of watching back-to-back period shows that highlight the class differences in England. It still fascinates me how the randomness of birth could and still does determine a person's life. And, while we may not live in a society that judges someone by their class, we certainly believe that money gives you more than an unfair advantage over everyone else.

Archaic notions of good breeding and proper standing have given way to

wealth and prosperity. It never ceases to amaze me how the rich can manipulate and control supposed democracies. It's so easy look back to the bad old days of a rigid class system and pat ourselves on the back for the changes we've made, when in fact, nothing much has changed.

Bob Dylan wrote: *You got gangsters in power and lawbreakers making rules.* If there is ever a time when those words ring true, it is now. The 45<sup>th</sup> president of the United States has, since his defeat, been exposed as a liar, cheat, and egotist and still, despite his obvious crimes, manages to elude justice, because he has money. His wealth makes it almost impossible for the courts to prosecute him.

When someone sues, he countersues, and it's a case of whose got the most money. Can you imagine the ordinary person on the street getting away with such blatant disregard for law and order? The Trump dynasty is as duplicitous and obnoxious as any of the worst aristocrats.

Donald Jr. sacrifices the truth every time he makes some claim about his father. Ivanka with her consort, Jared, are desperately trying to keep out of the limelight for fear that their avarice be exposed. Together, this band of frauds, have, collectively, used their

wealth to their own advantage.

They are perfect role models for Dylan's insightful lyric. But what is so bewildering is why we let them get away with it. His presidency has laid bare what we always knew, if you have money, you can do what you want.

Through Trump's presidency, we have become acclimated to a rhetoric that is not based on fact, which is largely anti-scientific, and racially biased. Trump did not invent these things, but he brazenly paraded them as if they were virtues to be proud of, and people loved him for it.

His bizarre antics, then and now, were endorsed by his enablers, Mitch McConnell and Lindsay Graham. For these men, Trump could do no wrong because

they saw him as a way to gain greater political power. McConnell and Graham are pragmatists without conscience who are prepared to accept any deviant who can keep them in power.

I can imagine future generations watching endless period shows about us and wondering how could they have abided such obvious hypocrisy, and nothing is done about it? We will be judged harshly for our excusing the rich and powerful, and rightfully so since we have done little to change the status quo. Since we have legitimized the bigotry and gross manipulation of control by powerful men, there has been any number of lesser minions who have dominated our headlines with stupid and foolish rants.

Marjorie Taylor Greene, Jim Jordan and Kristi Noem come to mind when I think of how far we've fallen into the trap of believing the spiel of the door-to-door salesperson. They don't have to support anything they say with facts. It's simply a matter of saying what they like with little or no consequence.

They are products of the Trump era and they will continue to repopulate themselves with other idiot clones, if we let them. The rock group Green Day were prophetic in their song American Idiot when writing, 'I'm not a part of the red neck agenda/nobody do the propaganda.' The American idiot is led by those who don't research the facts, who endorse

racial discrimination and lend credibility to lying to get what you want. The red neck agenda is not a slight towards those of the working classes, but those who believe in white privilege and who are not smart enough to realize they are being duped by those in power.

I remember when Trump came into power. Lines were drawn. The racial divide was gaping. Discussion between parties became impossible since power sharing was considered weak and unworkable. Any hope of ever bridging the poverty gap was lost.

Those who had money had greater access to exploit those in their employment. Access to healthcare, parodied as Obamacare, was and still is under attack. Those who suffer most for this movement away from defending the poor and weak of society are those who benefit most from a more accessible healthcare and higher wages. The American idiot shoots themselves in the foot by voting for those who want to take away the very things that make their lives easier.

When I sit and watch English shows, particularly around the Victorian era - the golden era of prosperity and wealth, I think to myself why the working classes would continue to vote for these men who are so opposed to bettering conditions for their constituents. There is no clear answer in my mind, since the problem still remains.

People, blinded by a false sense of patriotism, still cast their vote to someone who cares little or nothing about their voters. These voters will stick by their party even if the party tricks them into believing the hype and not the truth.

I remember when Trump lost the election. I overheard a couple of my neighbours discuss the need to clean their guns. While this talk of guns was not serious, it did make me think of how seriously deluded people were by the previous administration. When I see the worst horrors of injustice by the English aristocrat being repeated by the Trump dynasty and the money people of our day, I wonder if we've learned anything, anything at all, from the past. ■

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## COOKING UP A HOOLEY

By Katie Gagne

# Little Leprechauns

My love of everything Irish definitely came from my mom and dad; no holiday was more special than St. Patrick's Day. The traditions, the music, the clothes, the friends and family, and of course, the food. Irish food for the general population is an acquired taste, especially for the wee ones. Here are several kid friendly recipes with some Irish flair that are tasty, quick, and fun for everyone to make.

### POT 'O GOLD DIPPERS

Using green soft flour tortillas and a shamrock-shaped cookie cutter, you can make and bake these little guys in no time. Lay out the tortilla and press the cookie cutter into it, cutting around the edges to make sure it comes out easily. Spray a baking sheet with Pam and place the shamrock tortillas on the sheet and bake in a preheated 400\* oven for 10 minutes, flipping them over halfway through.

Make sure you watch them, so they don't brown too much. Remove from the oven, sprinkle with salt, and serve with your favorite salsa or dip. Using a cheese dip looks like a pot of gold.

### IRISH FLAG ROLLUPS

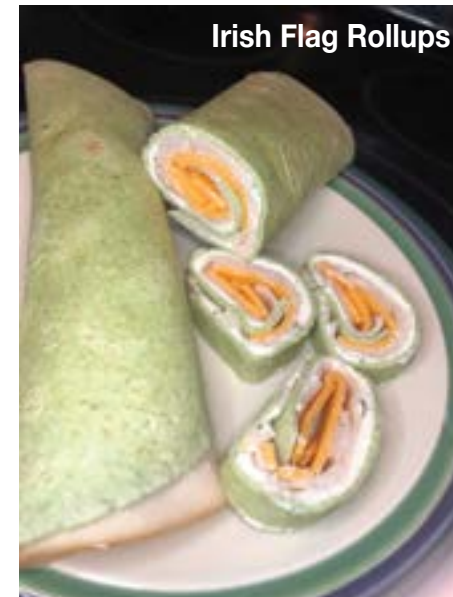
Mix together one brick of cream cheese, one packet of Hidden Valley Ranch Mix, and one cup of sour cream. Spread the mixture on a green tortilla, top with two slices of deli turkey meat and two slices of orange cheddar cheese.

Start at one end and roll up the tortilla. Wrap tightly and refrigerate for at least one hour. Unwrap and slice into rounds.

### RAINBOW FRUIT CUPS

Use a plastic disposable tumbler with a lid, 12oz. is a perfect size. Layer each glass with cut-up fruit in the order of the colors of the rainbow. You can change up the fruit to others of a similar color.

Strawberries - Red



Irish Flag Rollups

Mandarin Oranges - Orange  
Pineapple - Yellow  
Grapes - Green  
Blueberries - Blue  
Blackberries - Purple

This is a perfect take and go snack.

### LUCKY CHARMS MARSHMALLOW TREATS

Making your own marshmallow treats is easy and so fun for little ones to do. This time of year, you can always find some fun varieties of Lucky Charms cereal.

Place six cups of cereal in a large bowl. I also add a half of a bag of small marshmallows.

In a saucepan on medium heat, melt six tablespoons of unsalted butter and a 10oz. bag of small marshmallows until smooth. Stir in 1-2 tablespoons of vanilla extract.

Pour the marshmallow mixture over the cereal and stir until coated.

Press into a 9 x13 pan. Let set and cool. Cut into squares.

Sprinkle some gold sanding sugar or gold dust on top for a bit of sparkle.

### CHOCOLATE CHIP SHAMROCK PANCAKES

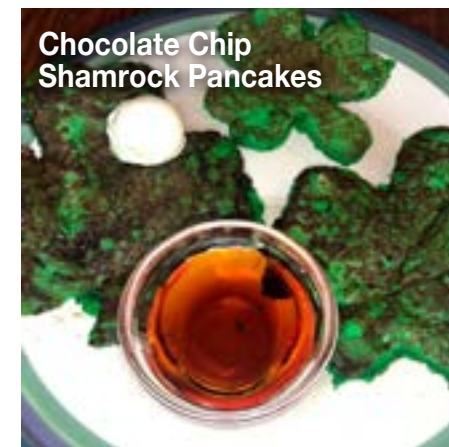
Using your favorite pancake mix and shamrock or Irish themed cookie cutters, you can make these fun breakfast treats.

Prepare the pancake mix and add a few drops of green food coloring and 1 cup of chocolate chips. Stir to combine. Spray your griddle or pan with cooking spray, use a ¼ cup scoop for the batter.

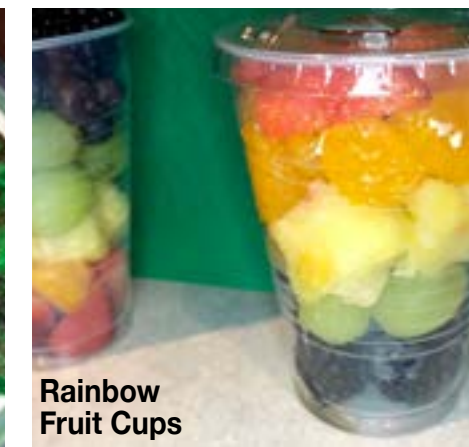
You can do these two ways: Put the cookie cutter on the pan or griddle and pour the batter into it. Allow the pancake to cook on one side



Lucky Charms Marshmallow Treats



Chocolate Chip Shamrock Pancakes



Rainbow Fruit Cups

and then carefully remove the cutter. Flip the pancake and cook the second side.

Make a regular size pancake and cook on both side. Remove from the heat and place on plate or cutting board and use the cookie cutter to cut out the shamrock shape.

You can make these all shapes and sizes. Serve with butter and syrup.

While these treats aren't authentically Irish, they are whimsical and sure to help make some wonderful

memories. 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, at [mkbbluebows@aol.com](mailto:mkbbluebows@aol.com), or on Facebook at [@sassysweetsandmore](https://www.facebook.com/sassysweetsandmore).

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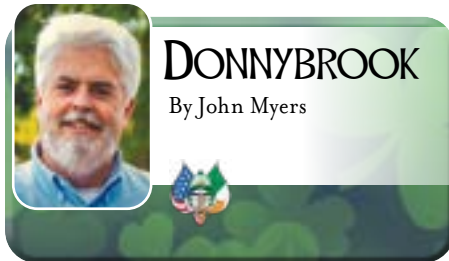
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## DONNYBROOK

By John Myers



Belfast

## Belfast Garner Seven Oscar Nominations

Kenneth Branagh's semi-auto biographical movie set in Belfast at the beginning of The Troubles has been nominated for seven (7) different Oscar's, including Best Picture and Best Director, as well as Van Morrison nominated for best original song. The 94<sup>th</sup> Oscar's ceremony will take place on Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and broadcast on ABC. If you have not caught it yet, check it out streaming to your family room.

### MIAMI SHOWBAND

While no Oscar nominations, another streaming option worth checking out is,

"The Miami Showband Massacre." This Documentary came out in 2019, but a recent court ruling this past December prompts one to add it to your COVID winter viewing. The Miami Showband was one of the most popular cabaret acts in Ireland in the 60s and 70s; they were known as the "Irish Beatles." The Band was comprised of both Catholics and Protestants, with large followings in both the Nationalist and Loyalist communities, North and South.

In the early morning hours of a July night in 1975, the band was headed back to Dublin after a concert in Coun-

ty Down, along the River Bann in the Six Counties. The band's minibus was stopped by men in British Army uniforms and forced to exit their vehicle. The band members fully complied.

In the ensuing moments, the band's minibus exploded with the men in British Army uniforms shooting at the band members. It was later determined that while the band members were being questioned on the roadway, two Ulster Volunteer Force members were attempting to place a time bomb on the band's minibus to later explode, once they crossed the border into the Republic of Ireland.

The two UVF members were inadvertently blown up by their own bomb. The three band members killed were shot by the loyalists to cover up the botched plan; two band members survived by pretending to be dead. The British "justice" system focused on the two UVF members blown up but refused to explore the overwhelming evidence of collusion between these UVF members and the British security establishment.

Just this Past December 2021, her majesties government settled with some of the survivors and families of the victims. Much evidence was produced documenting that The British Intelligence Services,

The British Army, the Northern Ireland Police, and the Ulster Volunteer Force collaborated on carrying out a British Army plan to pull the band over, plant the British bomb on their vehicle and let them drive away to their death.

It was hoped that this bombing would falsely implicate the popular cross community band as working with the IRA and force the Republic of Ireland to seal the border with the Six Counties. While it took over forty-five years, the band leader, Stephen Travers, who was severely wounded and survived by pretending to be dead, remarked about the recent settlement that, "at the end of the day it was an acknowledgment of collusion" with the British Army.

### RIVERDANCE BACK AGAIN

The remarkable, high energy, Riverdance, is scheduled to be back on the road again this spring, with stops in Pittsburgh; Washington, D.C.; Midland, MI; Milwaukee, WI; Toledo, OH. and a dozen other cities. Check the iIrish calendar for dates near you.

### BOJO GOGO?

While U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson was elected in a landslide just two years ago, he is now facing calls for his resignation from the opposition, as well

as some members of his own Tory Party. Frustration with some of Bojo's COVID response, and dismay over his acceptance of significant private funds to lavishly redo the private residence portions of 10 Downing Street, and lately, a COVID scandal implicating his ruling government key staff of having alcohol laden parties at the PM's 10 Downing Street residence, parties contrary to COVID mandates he was imposing on the rest of the nation. The double standard exhibited by the boorish Eton & Oxford educated elite is dragging his government down.

At the moment, he is protected by his large eighty seat majority in Parliament. It would take over fifty members of his own Tory Party to request a vote of no-confidence, and even then, would take a majority of his own (approximately 360) Tory members of parliament to remove him from Office. This is possible, but not likely, unless more missteps are taken.

### PLAYING POOTSIE

The Northern Ireland Minister for Agriculture, a member of the Democratic Unionist Party, has indicated that he would stop inspecting the various food and agricultural products crossing the Irish Sea from the U.K. to the North

of Ireland. This action is threatened to exhibit the DUP's frustration with the Northern Ireland Protocols.

The European Union has declared that any such action would be considered a violation of International Law and the Brexit Treaty. Time will tell if there will be follow through with this threat. Westminster had no comment.

### GIVAN AND TAKE

Northern Ireland First Minister, Mr. Paul Givan, representing the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), resigned early last month, expressing his ongoing dismay with the Irish Sea Border imposed by the portion of the Brexit Agreement known as the Northern Ireland Protocols. Sir Jeffrey Donaldson has described the Protocols as an "existential threat" to Northern Ireland.

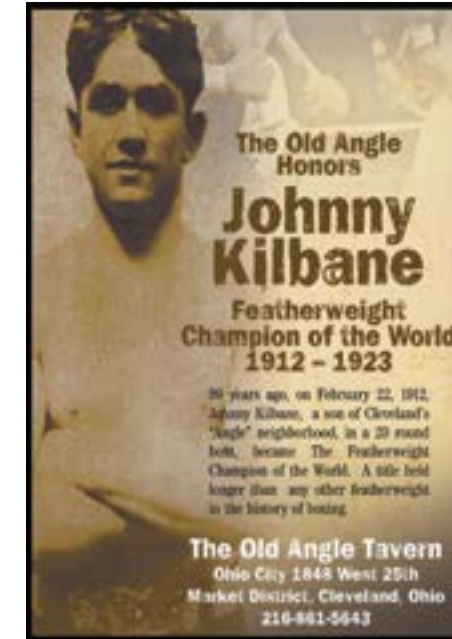
The DUP Leader did not explain how the Protocols, which was a part of the Brexit Treaty he advocated for, and pursuant to the Terms his Party negotiated, are so threatening. Sir Donaldson was likely not heartened by the PM Boris Johnson's statement that the PM only anticipated a twenty to thirty percent chance of the Protocols being modified in a manner more to the DUP's liking.


And that PM Johnson would not commit to unilateral UK action to modify or abandon the Protocols should negotiations with the European Union break down.

Northern Ireland elections are already scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022. It is not clear if Givan's resignation will move

that date forward. The DUP was already despondent from early polls showing the nationalist Party, Sinn Fein, in position to win the most seats.


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## Pudding

Some silly moments stick with you. Several years ago, I was sitting at a table in Ireland with some girlfriends while warm, napkin-wrapped lumps were passed under the table to land purposefully in my lap. That evening, the man of the house had been in charge of dinner, and he did as a man often does when providing nourishment, he relied on a strong belief in meaty goodness to save the day.

If his success was evidenced in the number of empty plates, this meal was a winner. What he didn't know was that I was the only person who would eat the food. Childish but polite, the ladies decided to pass the offensive meat under the table to me while I gamely did my best to eat those puddings.

No, this is not the cold creamy Jell-O product, nor is it the euphemism that the upper crust Brits use for dessert. This pudding is the rolling coils of meaty stuff that are served sliced and fried as part of any proper Irish "fry."

### A FRY IN IRELAND

A Fry is both a verb and a noun. The noun in Ireland clearly originated with the products synonymous with



Black Pudding on Salad

the appearance of a frying pan, the traditional Irish breakfast. A person going into a restaurant and requesting a fry will be served two rashers, two sausages, a black pudding disk, a white pudding disk, and one fried egg. Toast, brown bread and tea are included and don't be surprised to see a bonus of a halved fried tomato and or fried button mushrooms.

Surprising to many, potatoes are not part of breakfast in Ireland, but they make up for that later. If you are thinking that the fry is kind of a lot for first thing in the morning, you are not alone. You also are not alone if you are thinking that you should hide that plate from your arteries, because this meal is boldly defiant against modern concepts like eating light and cholesterol avoidance.

As with many food traditions, the roots of the fry go deep into farm country. Since a farmer's day starts early and involves a lot of physical labor, caloric energy is important. A fry is not usually eaten first thing in the morning anyway, but as a mid-morning snack, after a few chores. It is the needed sustenance to tide a person over to lunch, called dinner, and eaten between one and two.

However, the fry is still standard fare at Bed & Breakfasts in Ireland. It is a big breakfast, but many tourists appreciate the generous start to the day since it will sustain a person for hours and minimize the need to stop again to eat.

Outside of the tourism industry, the fry is too much for every day for most people. Sitting at a desk and typing emails does not support that kind of eating. But people like the food so many restaurants have incorporated



the fry as an "anytime" entree.

Since the fry is eaten more selectively, its elements have gained in individual stature. Like many of the traditional foods, black and white puddings are showing up as appetizers and main dishes in upscale eateries. The new puddings are being made like the old, by hand in artisanal, farm-to-table settings.

There are plenty of recipes for both black and white pudding. The differ-

ence between black and white puddings can be nothing more than the inclusion of animal blood. I know it is tempting to wince here but move on.

### IRISH SAUSAGE

OK, so besides the blood thing, puddings are essentially sausages. They are made of mixed spices like allspice and pepper, onions, a mix of bready things; barley, crumbs or oats, and meat and or fat from an animal, pig or cow or both.

The ingredients are combined, boiled and put into casings.

Like everything else, this recipe is a product of a culture that had a solid belief in using all parts of an animal that was slaughtered for food. Whether or not the philosophy came from poverty or the respect for the animal, it is the basis of good cooking in all cultures. The weirder bits are where good cooks show their skill. Anyone can grill a steak.

These little sausages have to be bad for you right? Not so fast on that one. The black pudding is hailed as some circles as the new super food. Low in carbohydrates and high in protein, a serving of black pudding, about four sliced disks, contains fifteen grams of protein. Take that Greek yogurt.

In addition to protein, black pudding is also iron rich, you can guess why. It also is rich in zinc, vitamin B12 and vitamin D. Even with all these important nutrients, it is not something that should be eaten every day. Like all sausage, fat is both ingredient and cooking agent, so moderation is key. Along with moderation, look for the homemade and less processed. The small batch black puddings are a completely different thing from the more processed ones.

I cannot be a big hypocrite and pretend that I always embraced different foods with a sense of adventure. Nope, I was a Diet Coke drinking, cheese doodle popping Yank whose nose lifted at anything strange. However, I was raised to be polite, and I knew then as I know more certainly now, that you eat what is put in front of you, especially when you are in the home of the preparer.

It feels rude to find yourself in conversations with people looking to travel who make judgements about things that they have not experienced. People who happily scarf food products that sound more like science experiments, feel at

liberty to cock their noses and "ew" at the Irish breakfast, especially those puddings, especially the black pudding. The rule that I was taught to remember is that you should not eat anything that contains ingredients that you can't pronounce or that your grandmother would not recognize as food.

### BURNS NIGHT

Every Burns' Night, January 25<sup>th</sup>, I inevitably reach for my copy of "Address to a Haggis." It is, in my opinion, a very funny poem written in salute of the Scots version of pudding, the haggis, another much-maligned food that I have eaten. The haggis that I have experienced is more like oatly white pudding.

What bears mentioning in the poem is that Burns brags about the power that the "rustic" native receives from eating his traditional haggis, being empowered to cut off heads like thistle tops after consumption. Traditions do give strength, whether literally, metaphorically or both.

You can go through the world with Ranch dressing in your suitcase, seeking McDonald's at every turn. Or you can travel with a heart open enough to let a place leave its mark on you. ■

*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](mailto:olisa07@icloud.com).*

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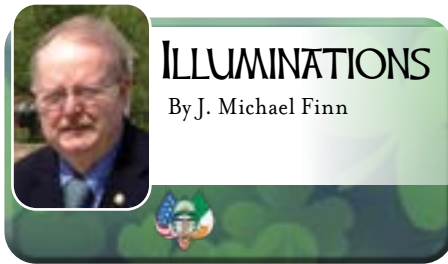
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## St. Patrick Illuminated

The day was March 17, 1874, a seemingly ordinary St. Patrick's Day in Columbus, Ohio. The celebration that was held in 1874 at St. Patrick's Church turned out to be a little more than ordinary.

Father John Andrew Casella was the pastor of St. Patrick's Church in 1874. What little is known about his early life is that he was born on the island of Corsica. His birth date and the names of his parents are unknown. He is most often referred to as being French, despite his Italian last name. Corsica had been part of France since 1768, but it still retained a distinct Italian culture.

Father Casella was ordained in Rome, Italy in 1856 and served as a pastor in Paris, France before coming to the United States in 1863. At that time, he joined the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York. Records for the Diocese of Brooklyn confirm that his first assignment was as pastor of St. Patrick Church, on Kent Avenue in Brooklyn, where he served until 1864. His assignments from 1865 until 1868 were not recorded.

From 1868 until 1870, he was pastor of St. Peter Church, on Warren Street in Brooklyn. In 1869 he became the first resident pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Riverhead, Long Island, New York where he erected the church and laid out the Catholic cemetery. He remained there until 1872, when he transferred to the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio.

He arrived in Columbus in July 1873. Upon his arrival, he was assigned to St. Joseph Cathedral for a brief time. Later that year Father Casella was appointed as pastor of St. Patrick Church in Columbus, replacing Father Jeremiah A. Murray.

### ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

Father Casella's parishioners at St.



Patrick's were mostly Irish and numbered about two thousand. Father Casella was loved and respected by his parishioners. He served with distinction and became one of St. Patrick's most beloved and respected pastors.

March 17<sup>th</sup> in 1874 earned the pastor even more respect in the hearts of all. The entire day's festivities, including the Mass, church decorations and parade, were planned by Father Casella, with help from the St. Patrick's Total Abstinence and Benevolent Society.

Flowers were everywhere in the church. Evergreen wreaths adorned the columns, and two evergreen harps sat on either side of the tabernacle surrounded, by sixty-six candles. Father Casella worked with what was described as "highly commendable zeal."

At 9:00 a.m., all the Catholic Societies assembled at St. Patrick's School and processed to the church. At 10:00 a.m., a delegation from the St. Patrick's School Society marched into the church and occupied reserved seats in the front.

The St. Patrick's Total Abstinence and Benevolent Society followed them and occupied seats immediately opposite. The St. Joseph Mutual Benefit Society followed and occupied their assigned seats. The remaining seats in the church were taken up by the people, many arriving early in the morning to secure seats.

The streets and sidewalk in front of the building and the grounds around St. Patrick's School were densely crowded with people. The congregation that morning was claimed to be the largest that ever assembled in and around the church.

The solemn High Mass began shortly after 10:00 am. Father Casella was

preceded up the aisle by twelve members of the clergy and twenty-four altar boys. Columbus Bishop Sylvester H. Rosecrans was last in the procession.

When it was time for the sermon, Bishop Rosecrans rose to address the attendees, saying, "Societies from abroad, societies from our city, and all present, I welcome you on the return of this, the day of Ireland's great apostle, St. Patrick."

Delivering his sermon on the life of St. Patrick he said, "When St. Patrick went forth to carry the light of faith to the Irish people, he found them ready to open their hearts to the truths of divine revelation. Not for a day, or for the time that St. Patrick was among them, did this faith last, but for fourteen hundred years have the Irish people preserved the faith preached by St. Patrick before Tara."

### ST. PATRICK

At the conclusion of the bishop's sermon came a single event that was one of the most unique and unusual in the history of the Columbus Irish. As a surprise to the Bishop and the parishioners, Father Casella had designed a life-size image of St. Patrick.

The image was constructed of slender gas tubes, and it had been set up over the tabernacle. The tubes that made up the framework were perforated by thousands of tiny holes for the release of natural gas. At that point in the Mass, a signal was given to an altar boy behind the tabernacle who controlled the release of the gas.

A lighted candle on the end of a long pole was touched to the feet of the image and the features and the whole frame shot out and illuminated the image of St. Patrick. As represented in the image, St. Patrick held an open book with a cross on it in his left hand; in his right hand he held a staff; and at each foot was a serpent.

The image was over five feet in height and about three feet across. It was claimed by the newspaper that, "This was the first gas illumination of St. Patrick that was ever made in the United States." The illumination,

designed by Father Casella, was constructed in New York.

Father Casella's parishioners, and those assembled for Mass, were surprised and delighted at the illumination. This was another example of Father Casella's regard for the history and heritage of his parishioners. The newspaper reported, "The Irish who were in St. Patrick's Church on that day would never forget Father Casella's St. Patrick's Day surprise and his hard work on behalf of the patron saint of Ireland."

Following the Mass, a parade formed about 2:00 pm, and included all of the Catholic Societies at St. Patrick's. Music was provided by Hemmersbach's Band. The chief parade marshal was Irish-born Father Henry Anderson, assistant pastor at St. Patrick's. The parade wound its way through the major streets of the city and then returned to St. Patrick's Church.

In July 1876, it was reported that Father Casella had resigned as pastor in Columbus and was returning, "... to his native land, France, where he intends to remain." Unclear from the reports is why he made such a sudden departure. To date, no further record of Father John Andrew Casella can be located. When and where he died is unknown.

Also lost in time is the actual illuminated St. Patrick. Its use was reported in March 1875, and was likely used again in 1876, but there were no reports that it was used by St. Patrick's Church after that. ■

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

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## AN EEJIT ABROAD

By Conor Makem

# Cruises: The good, the Bad and the 'Rona

As I start this column, the snow outside my window is falling at a rate of three inches an hour. So, I do what any sane person does: I curse myself for living in New England and let my mind wander back to memories of cruising around tropical islands and sipping on margaritas by the pool in the shade under a blistering sun.

The truth is that I have a love-hate relationship when it comes to cruises, but more on that later. First, we need to deal with the elephant in the room.

### THE 'RONA

Is it safe to cruise? According to the Centers for Disease Control, the answer is no. They recommend that everyone should avoid cruise travel, even if vaccinated and boosted, because of the Coronavirus. Cruises are hotbeds of virus outbreaks even during normal times.

In their defense, cruise lines seem to be doing everything they can to make things safe. Almost all are requiring people over a certain age to be vaccinated and they all require a negative Covid test from everyone prior to boarding. Unfortunately, you'll need to check with your chosen line before booking because some are allowing exceptions.

I've also read about some passengers ignoring the mask policies, so be forewarned. And, of course, make your decision based upon your risk and the risk for anyone you come in contact with.

Note that if you have been exempted from receiving a vaccine, countries often will not allow you in unless you are on a cruise ship specific tour bubble. There is also often a travel insurance requirement if you are unvaccinated. In fact, I'd recommend travel insurance for any cruise-goer nowadays. If there's ever been a time it's needed, that time is now.



Be prepared to do a little walking. You'll find the best anywhere has to offer will be found when your feet are on the ground.

Keep in mind, there is a lot of close contact on board cruises, but how stuffed the ship is depends on the cruise line. A line like Carnival Cruises tends to focus on keeping it economical, so they try to fit in more passengers, whereas companies like Crystal and Celebrity are less crowded, but are also generally more expensive.

And as the price goes up, so too oftentimes does the average age. In other words, if you want a party, a cheaper line might be perfect for you, but if you want a relaxing vacation, you might need to spend a little more.

### THE GOOD

My top suggestion would be to spend the extra money and get a room with a veranda. One of my favorite times in life is sitting on my private deck before bed, a glass of wine in hand, the starry sky glimmering above and the open ocean coursing by. Obviously, it will cost more, but you won't remember that a few years down the road while reliving your cruise.

Possibly the most incredible part of cruising is waking up every day in a new port. The Caribbean, for example, is filled with island countries and territories. One day you're dining in the Cayman Islands and the next snorkeling in Belize. No new hotel to book into. You just bring your key card with you and it gets you into the country and back on the ship.

Make sure to take a walk around (always research the safety of the area), stop into a pub or restaurant, but get away from the port. There is often real life just beyond the closest proximity to your ship.

It's as good a time as any to point out that your room card is absolutely everything. It's your charge card onboard and

generally your passport as well (the line will, of course, require a passport before boarding you onto an international cruise, but you can put it away afterward).

Convenience is a pretty big selling point too. There is almost always food and drink available. Even after all of the restaurants and bars close up, you can order room service. Most of the food is free and easily accessible.

Sitting by the pool? Take a few steps over to the burger or taco bar and nosh away. Feel like making it an extra special night? Many cruises offer more upscale restaurants, where you will find gourmet selections at a much cheaper cost than you'd find on land. It might be \$15 to upgrade to a steakhouse restaurant over the free fare and it is really good.

### THE BAD

During these dark Covid times, you'll need to be prepared for the possibility that there'll be an outbreak on the ship and in such a case, an island or country is unlikely to let the ship disembark passengers. Also, you're going to need to prepare to part with some Benjamins.

You can do this whole cruising thing for the cost of getting there and the cruise but be prepared to spend more, otherwise it won't be that experience you're hoping for. Just about everything costs more money. "Free drinks" might just include coffee, water and unsweetened tea, not soft drinks and most certainly not alcohol.

Do you want to go see that Mayan temple? You can make your way there on your own (cheapest), you can look for an excursion company not affiliated with the cruise line (cheaper than the cruise's, but it can be a crap

shoot), or you can pony up and be just about guaranteed a good tour with the ship's (most expensive). To be sure, the surprise bill you will inevitably rack up during your vacation is always a hoot (insert bulging eyes here) when you see it at the end of the week.

I'm going to put entertainment pretty high up on the list of things I don't like on cruises. I've probably been on seven or eight cruises, but the entertainment can be quite plastic, glossy and stiff, especially for the big productions, which have reminded me of cheap Vegas drivel. Though I'm admittedly not saying this is always the case.

A little research will help here. Smaller piano bars and poolside island-style music can also be exceptions, and you might well luck out with particularly personable musicians and singers.

While one of the truly amazing experiences is stepping off the ship and into a new land, there is many a port not near anything resembling a vacation, I'm talking a working port, where containers are being loaded and unloaded. Any town is miles away. This means paying for a cab there and back.

### INTERESTED?

There are Irish themed cruises depending on your musical taste, and while I dissed the cruise lines' entertainment, these ones are exempt. Joanie Madden is offering a Mediterranean cruise filled with trad and folk music in September ([www.joaniemaddencruise.com](http://www.joaniemaddencruise.com)); Debbie Casey is bringing folks around the Mediterranean on her folk music cruise ([www.irishmusiccruises.com](http://www.irishmusiccruises.com)); and Gertrude Byrne, who features a show band-style lineup, has already sailed for 2022, but better luck next year ([www.gertrudebyrnepromotions.com](http://www.gertrudebyrnepromotions.com)). ■

*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](https://www.instagram.com/cb.makem). Visit [cbmakem.com](http://cbmakem.com) or email [contact@cbmakem.com](mailto:contact@cbmakem.com).*

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## THE FITNESS DOCTOR

By Dr. Frederick Peters

# Eat & Exercise Like the Fitness Doctor

To promote cardiovascular health, I have decided to share my personal dietary and exercise choices!

Oatmeal is a whole-grain powerhouse that has been packing serious nutrition and hearty flavor into breakfast for generations. To get the most out of this superfood, be a bit picky. Some packets of instant oatmeal, for example, are loaded with sugar -- as much as eight teaspoons per serving -- and high in sodium. Always check the label to see what you're getting.

Great oatmeal starts with plain rolled oats, or steel-cut oats, cooked in a little water or milk, and topped with whole-

some ingredients. It's a feel-good start to the day, and if you make it a habit, it can do your health some favors.

### OATMEAL BENEFITS

Oatmeal's claim to fame is its proven ability to lower bad (LDL) cholesterol. Chalk that up to a type of soluble fiber called beta glucan. Eating oats is linked to an average drop of 7% in LDL cholesterol, research shows. Many other things also affect your heart's health (like what else you eat, how active you are, and whether you smoke), but oatmeal is a simple heart-smart start. **Oatmeal also:** Lowers blood sugar levels, Provides antioxidants, Promotes healthy bacteria in your gut, Helps you to feel full to manage your weight, Eases constipation, Relieves skin itching and irritation, Lowers your chance of colon cancer

### THE FITNESS DOCTOR WAY

Add chia, hemp, and flax seed, almond milk, walnuts, cinnamon, tart cherries, goji berries, pumpkin seeds, and fresh blueberries.

### LEAFY GREENS

It's time to load up on spinach, kale, collard greens and other dark, leafy greens. Dark leafy greens are a powerhouse of beneficial nutrients, including fiber, micronutrients and bioactive plant com-

pounds known as phytochemicals. These nutrients presumably protect against cardiovascular disease by various mechanisms, including altering gene expression, regulating blood pressure, and lowering inflammation in the body.

### OLIVE OIL

Olive oil consumption, specifically the extra-virgin, is associated with reduced risks of cardiovascular disease and mortality in individuals at high cardiovascular risk. Olive oil is rich in healthful antioxidants, polyphenols, and vitamins, and is a good source of heart-healthy monounsaturated fats. To get the most benefits from olive oil, avoid heating the oil and instead use it in a salad or add it to a homemade hummus!

### BERRIES AND AVOCADOS

Berries and avocados are high in fiber, antioxidants, and phytonutrients, all of which work to lower oxidative stress and inflammation in the body. These processes improve blood pressure, vascular function, and fight free radical formation. Avocados are high in monounsaturated fats. Monounsaturated fats increase our LDL ('bad' cholesterol) clearance rate, meaning our body gets rid of them faster. Higher LDL levels can be detrimental because LDL brings cholesterol to the heart.

### BEANS

Beans are a heart healthy food which consist of fiber and a variety of vitamins, minerals, and phytochemicals. They improve the risk of heart disease by lowering cholesterol, blood pressure, inflammation, and promoting digestive wellness. Beans are rich in soluble fiber, which acts as food to beneficial gut bacteria to promote a healthy gut flora.

### SALMON

Salmon contains omega-3 fats, which have been shown to significantly reduce the risk for sudden death caused by cardiac arrhythmias and all-cause mortality in patients with known coronary heart disease. These essential fats help by reducing inflammation in the body. You may get the same benefits from a supplement based on a meta-analysis that found fish oil omega-3 supplements lowered risk for heart attack and death from coronary heart disease.

### WHAT TO EAT IF YOU ARE HUNGRY BEFORE BED

In an ideal world, we would all eat a hearty, healthy dinner. It would be followed by something small and sweet, like a square of dark chocolate (see above) and then a few hours later, we would curl up

in bed and sleep all night, our stomachs perfectly full until the next day.

The reality is more complicated. Whether we stay up later than we should, eat a small dinner or we're hungry without a good reason (it happens), a lot of us end up craving a bedtime snack.

Although we've long heard that eating before bed is associated with weight gain, this is (thankfully) mostly a myth. What you choose to eat before bed could impact your weight over time, along with your ability to sleep soundly. So, if you know that skipping a bedtime snack will leave your stomach rumbling, what should you reach for?

### WALNUTS

The nutritional profile of a walnut is plentiful, contributing to calcium, magnesium, vitamin B, protein, and heart healthy fats like plant-based omega-3s. Because walnuts hit on so many helpful nutrients, research has found that consuming walnuts can help stave off Type 2 diabetes and other cardiometabolic risk factors.

### GREEK YOGURT WITH ALMONDS AND BERRIES

This is a great option because it has a balance of protein, carbohydrates and fat. Having something carb-based, something protein-based, and something fat-based before bed helps to keep blood sugar balanced and keeps your body from waking during the night due to the need for glucose.

### RICE CAKE WITH PEANUT BUTTER

Peanut butter has protein and fat, and rice cakes have carbs. As mentioned above, that trio is great for keeping blood sugar balanced throughout the night. Just do your best to skip the sugary peanut butter options.

### HOW TO AVOID BEDTIME HUNGER

While eating a bedtime snack is perfectly fine, if you don't love eating before bed, there's a lot you can do to prevent hunger from striking. I recommend consuming enough calories earlier in the day. Don't wait until dinner to eat two-thirds of your food. Aim to have 25-30 grams of protein at your main meals, and three to five servings of cruciferous or high-fiber vegetables at lunch and dinner.

### TIPS TO ENHANCE YOUR WORKOUT

Kneeling turns exercises like curls and shoulder presses into ab builders. You know all about crunches and sit-ups and planks, the typical ways to train your abs. But what if you could hone your six-pack

without ever doing a dedicated abs exercise at all?

### AB EXERCISES

Get ready for the ab workout you never saw coming. Meet the "kneeling" stances, a series of underrated positions that will help you carve your core and hone your posture, without ever forcing you to do a single sit-up -- or to even flex your abs, for that matter. Instead, they turn exercises like dumbbell curls and shoulder presses into workouts for your core, too, forcing you to be more conscious of body alignment than you've ever been.

Slight flaws often occur in your core, and they're almost impossible to avoid when you're using kneeling positions. Why? With your lower legs out of the equation, if your abs, glutes, and lower back muscles (just to name a few muscle groups) aren't firing correctly, you'll lose your balance.

### TALL KNEELING STANCE

The tall kneeling position is simple, sit on your shins, with your knees just wider than hips-width apart. Your thighs should be perpendicular to the ground. Simple right? Except when you're doing reps, of say, biceps curls from this posture, your abs, glutes, and hamstrings will have to continually fire to keep your torso from tipping back and forth. The tall kneeling stance is ideal for perfecting your biceps curl form.

### HALF-KNEELING STANCE

The half-kneeling stance is exactly like it sounds. Instead of kneeling on both shins, you kneel on one, with your other foot on the ground. Work to maintain a 90-degree angle at both knees in this stance, and fight for a vertical shin as well. You'll get plenty of core work, just as you do in tall kneeling stance, but now there's added focus on your glutes and smaller hip stabilizing muscles; these muscle groups must work overtime to help you stay level.

*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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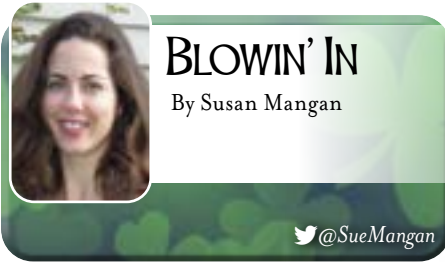
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Global Irish







## BLOWIN' IN

By Susan Mangan

@SueMangan

# An American in Ireland

*"Who will go with Fergus now . . .  
And dance upon the level shore?  
Young man, lift your russet brow . . .  
And brood on hopes and  
fears no more . . .  
For Fergus rules the brazen cars,  
And rules the shadows  
of the wood . . .  
And all the dishevelled  
wandering stars."*

*("Who Goes with Fergus?"  
By William Butler Yeats)*

Fergus, a mythical Irish king who leaves his throne to become a wandering poet, is a central figure in the poetry of William Butler Yeats. Like Fergus, Yeats gives voice to the Irish peasants and gods, druids and kings, fiddlers and milkmaids. He is the force behind the Irish Literary Revival, deemed the Irish Renaissance, of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

When I first discovered Yeats in college, I was spellbound by his imagery, the scope of his vision, his ability to bring the enchanting mysticism of Ireland's Celtic Twilight to life.

While I grew up in a predominantly Irish neighborhood in the northwest side of Chicago, I was familiar with the Clancy Brothers and my best friend's mother's clear Kerry brogue, but I never knew the wonder of Irish literature.

During my romantic college years, I embarked on a journey paved with all things Irish. I studied Irish poets, playwrights, and novelists. I met a young man with black Celtic hair and a wonderful family who later became my own. I wrote poetry and taught the short stories of James Joyce to a class of college freshman when I was a graduate assistant. I lived the dream of Fergus.

I was not alone in my love for the



Croaghnaun Mountain above  
Corrymore Lake Achill.

Irish. The early 1990s experienced an Irish Renaissance in culture, film, and music. From the mystical *Secret of Roan Inish* to the portrayal of contemporary drama within Irish American families in *The Brothers McMullen*, the Irish were in every restaurant, movie, play, novel, and resultingly, in the hearts of people everywhere. Some love affairs never fade.

For many Americans, it is only a dream to walk upon the land of their Irish ancestors. For others, it is a dream that manifests into reality, a movie set come to life.

Recently, I have talked with a young man who shared with me his current journey into the Celtic Twilight: a progressive expedition through the educational, business, and cultural world of Ireland in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Born and bred in Rocky River, Ohio, Patrick O'Donnell is a recent graduate of Ohio State University, and a young man who actualized his goal to study abroad as a post-graduate student.

Patrick always had the desire to follow this path as an undergraduate, however, changing majors in his field of study impacted this opportunity. Additionally, the COVID pandemic further doused the dream of study abroad for Patrick.

Despite these challenges, Patrick sought out a graduate degree program at University College Dublin: Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School in Blackrock, Ireland. Upon completing an intense 18-month program, Patrick will graduate with a Master's Degree in Aviation Finance. University College Dublin is renowned for this field and is

one of only a few colleges in the world to offer this niche area of study.

Having graduated from Ohio State University, a school amass with an enrollment of 50,000 and classes filled with upwards of 300 students, Patrick is enjoying not only the smaller class sizes, but also the global diversity present in 21<sup>st</sup> century Ireland.

Patrick's colleagues, and now friends, not only hail from Ireland, the UK, and America, but from all over the world: India, China, Jordan, and Mexico. Meeting new people with similar academic and professional interests is important to Patrick, and he is active in the university's Intercultural Development Programme.

This sensibility resonates with me as a teacher, writer, and seeker. In a world of disquiet and uncertainty, it gives me hope to see motivated young people reaching out to others and bravely forging global connections that will have a lasting impact on our future world.

Tall, handsome, and witty, Patrick possesses the grace and intelligence of a lead actor in one of Edward Burns' independent films of the early 1990s. When asked about the pub scene in suburban Blackrock, Patrick laughs about the difference between the revelers at the Ohio State bars and the four pubs that neighbor his school: "Mostly [the patrons are] aging Irish men seeking refuge from their wives." Despite his age and marital status, Patrick fits in quite well, catching up on the football scores or the status of the latest golf tournament, and partaking in a round of darts.

While COVID restrictions have put

a damper on some of Patrick's weekend travel excursions, he was able to visit Achill Island and Newport, County Mayo, and Galway. Additionally, a trek to Edinburgh, Scotland greeted him with tumblers of smooth scotch and plates of haggis. An experienced and avid golfer, Patrick's journey to St. Andrews was a pilgrimage of sorts, and is now his "favorite place on Earth."

Patrick enjoys the local food scene in Dublin. While he appreciates a proper Guinness and is on a quest to find the pub with the finest pour in all of Ireland, Patrick also enjoys the meals listed on the chalkboard in every establishment as well.

He quickly put to rest the unfair notion that Irish food has a reputation for being "unsavory," and regularly tucks into traditional dishes like lamb stew, bacon with cabbage, mussels, and rich soups. Additionally, the global influence has opened Ireland to a whole new world of ethnic cuisine. Patrick has eaten some of the best Indian and Middle Eastern food of his life.

I asked Patrick what he would take back, metaphorically, or literally, to America upon finishing his degree in Ireland: "I would bring back the Irish charm and friendliness of the people; the Irish 'I'll get to it eventually' philosophy."

Patrick has passed many the odd afternoon at his favorite pub, The Wicked Wolf, with local folks who truly care about his well-being and the quality of his experience in their beautiful country. Authenticity, hospitality, warmth, charm, and kindness, these are the traits of the Irish that will stay with Patrick long after his study abroad comes to an end.

To spend an hour or two in the intelligent company of Patrick O'Donnell, one realizes that the dream of the wandering Fergus can become a metaphor for a life well-lived and an assurance that our world will be in good hands with the mindful young adults of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. ■

*On-line sources consulted: Hu, Jane. "Irish Literary Revival." Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism. February 5, 2017.*

*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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By Megan Lardie

# KIDS CRAIC

## The Shamrock

The shamrock is a type of clover, but botanists (people who study plants) are not sure which type of species of clover is the "real" shamrock. After much research, the most common response is that the shamrock is from the *Trifolium dubium*, or lesser trefoil, (think Girl Scout cookie) species.

The word shamrock comes from the Gaelic word seamrog, which means "young clover". The shamrock is often confused with the four-leaf clover but it is the three-leaf clover that is the true symbol of Ireland. The shamrock has long been recognized as a traditional symbol of Ireland. It is believed that it was first used by Saint Patrick as a way to explain the Holy Trinity to Christians. He used it to show that God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit were three persons in one God.

Saint Patrick lived during the 5th century, but it was not until the late 1600s that there was a visible image that appeared on coins with Saint Patrick holding a shamrock. Some ancient priests would carry the three-leaf clover to help them see evil spirits. They also used the clovers in religious rituals to heal sick people. Irish Patriotism

It was during the Irish Rebellion of 1798 that the shamrock started to become a symbol of Irish patriotism (love

of your country). The United Irishmen began using the shamrock for their uniforms and their hat ribbons.

The song, *The Wearing of the Green*, was written about the group's causes and battles. The British authorities wanted to keep the Irish from rebelling and banned people from wearing the color green or shamrocks as a symbol of Irish identity. If people were caught wearing it, they could be killed.

In the 19th century, shamrocks grew in popularity. They began being seen on book covers and postcards, buildings, stained-glass windows in churches, monuments, lace, jewelry, glasses and dishes. Even some large organizations began using the shamrock as an emblem in their logo. Aer Lingus, the airline that flies to Ireland, still uses it today!

Several organizations outside of Ireland that have Irish connections also use the shamrock as part of their logo or uniform. Today, the shamrock is shown not only for its importance to Saint Patrick and his spread of Christianity, but also for all things Irish and for Ireland. So, this Saint Patrick's Day, wear your shamrocks proudly as a sign of your Irish patriotism!



## Kids in the Kitchen

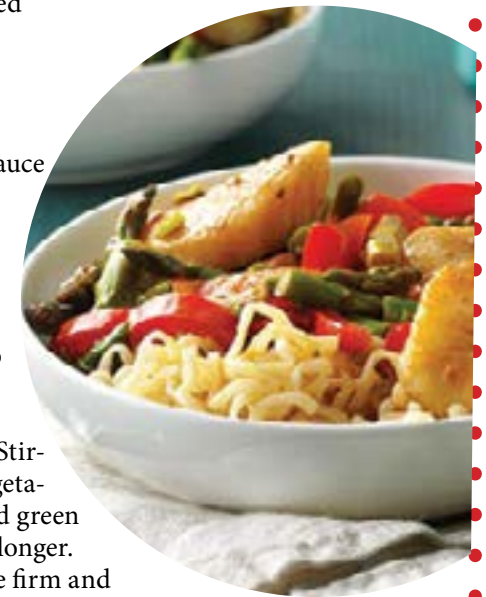
Try this quick and easy recipe on a Friday during Lent!  
Stir Fried Scallops and Asparagus (You substitute chicken if you do not care for scallops)

### Ingredients:

- 1 Tablespoon olive oil
- 1-pound fresh asparagus, trimmed and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 medium sweet red pepper, julienned
- 3 green onions, thinly sliced
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 pound sea scallops, cut in half
- 1 teaspoon lime juice
- 2 tablespoons reduced sodium soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon sesame oil
- ¼ - 1 teaspoon hot pepper sauce

### Directions:

- Discard seasoning package from ramen noodles or save for another use. Cook ramen noodles according to package directions; keep warm.
- Meanwhile, in a nonstick skillet or wok, heat oil over medium-high heat. Stir-fry asparagus and red pepper until vegetables are crisp-tender, two minutes. Add green onions and garlic, stir-fry one minute longer.
- Add scallops. Stir-fry until scallops are firm and opaque, three minutes.
- Combine the lime juice, soy sauce, sesame oil and hot pepper sauce; stir into skillet. Serve with ramen noodles.



## Book Nook

### Green Shamrocks by Eve Bunting

Rabbit is growing shamrocks so he can wear them to the St. Patrick's Day Parade. On the morning of the big day, he finds they are missing. Who would steal his shamrocks? He goes searching. Will he find them in time? For ages 4-8, 32 pages.



### Seeds and Trees: A children's book about the power of words by Brandon Walden

A young prince gathers both green and dark from all he encounters and gifts them forward. He plants and waters those seeds every day. Soon he realizes that the dark tress are harming the green trees.

With the help of his kind friend, he discovers that if he cuts down, uproots, and replaces the dark tress with green seeds, he will create a beautiful and vibrant garden. Words are powerful. They can hurt or they can heal. A great book for teaching kindness to all ages! For ages 6-12, 38 pages.







## The Irish Wolfhound

Of all the Irish breed dogs, the Irish Wolfhound is the most recognized ambassador of Ireland and Irish identity. They're a tall, handsome animal, with a gentle disposition; good natured, calm and very social. They love attention and are always ready to make new friends. This makes them a big hit at festivals and parades, but makes them poor guard dogs; they will protect their families but are not territorial so care little about protecting property.

Life with wolfhounds can have its challenges. A puppy at three or four months can weigh around sixty pounds, with all of the behaviors usual to any puppy.

Training requires patience and perseverance; they respond to positive training methods, praise for good behavior, as opposed to being reprimanded for undesirable acts.

Trying to dominate or force them to do something is a waste of time, they are Irish after all! Our first wolfhound, Cian, could be convinced to do many things with this approach, we could dress him up, put hats on his head, as long as we told him how pretty he looked, and he would pose for a photo. If you yelled at him or tried to force him do anything, he would dig in his heels and it would become a battle of wills, an Irish stand-off!

### IRISH MYTHOLOGY

Irish mythology ties the Irish Wolfhound, or "Cu" with a god-like tribe of people. Their hounds were known for their size, great strength and courage, and their loyalty to their masters. They were portrayed as companions and defenders of kings and queens in many of the ancient legends.

There is usually an element of truth in old tales. We know wolfhounds were kept by Irish Chieftains as castle dogs and were used in battle, strong and powerful enough to pull a man from horseback or out of a war chariot. When the Roman

Army attempted to conquer all of the British Isles, they were impressed enough to acquire wolfhounds for their own use in their campaigns.

### HERBERT HOOVER AND JFK

In the 1600s, the British had gained control of Ireland, causing many of the chieftains to flee with their families, subjects and their Irish Wolfhounds, many ending up in what is modern day France. The breed gained popularity due to its reputation and impressive presence. They were often presented as gifts to kings, emperors and noblemen throughout the world.

That practice has continued into modern times. After Herbert Hoover took up residence in the White House, his family was gifted an Irish Wolfhound named Cragwood Padraic; he was called Patrick by the Hoover family. President Kennedy also had a wolfhound. His hound was called Wolf, and was a gift from family friends in Ireland.

The breed became scarce because of this practice in the land of its origin, so rare, that Cromwell issued a decree banning the export of Irish Wolfhounds, fearing a resurgence in the wolf population. This view of the giant hounds would not last.

As the people of Ireland suffered in the following centuries under Penal Law, rebellion and famine, the English government altered their policies. Unmuzzled dogs of any type were destroyed and the once revered Irish Wolfhound had a bounty placed on its head, equal to that placed on the head of a priest.

Along with the extinction of the wolf in Ireland, the Irish Wolfhound was made obsolete, kept only by a few chieftains who managed to keep their hounds but very little else. The end of the Irish Wolfhound seemed all but inevitable.

**CAPTAIN GEORGE AGUSTUS GRAHAM**  
Born in Scotland in 1833, Captain George Augustus Graham became inter-



Rosemary Noland with Redmond and Mary Carney with Riian.

ested in the Scottish Deerhound. It was through that interest that he became aware of the old Irish wolf-dog, and in 1859, acquired his first "Irish Wolfhound", Faust. From that time on, he dedicated his life's work to the preservation of the breed. He believed that the wolfhound hadn't died out, but rather, had not been kept to its original standard due to its lack of prey; the size and strength no longer needed for what it was originally bred for. Captain Graham felt that the Scottish Deerhound was the Irish Wolfhound in all but that size and power, and with selective breeding, could be restored to its original standard.

There were other experts in the field that disagreed, arguing that the wolfhound was related more closely with the greyhound and that the Great Dane was nothing more than a heavier Irish wolfhound that had arrived in Europe with the exodus of the Irish chieftains centuries earlier. Little detail survives about Captain Graham's methods or the pedigrees of the dogs used in delivering the dog we have today that is recognized as the Irish Wolfhound.

### THE DOG OF KINGS

Faust had an unknown pedigree, but his size was recorded. He was 29 1/2 inches at the shoulder and weighed between 115-120lbs. For comparison, our two year old male Riian is 38 inches at the shoulder and is 180lbs. This is not overly large by

*Continued on facing page*



## Student Stories

By Michael (Mícheál) O'Brien

Is mise Mícheál agus ón t-ám a bhí mé i mo leanbh, bhí mé ag iarradh Gaeilge a fhoghlaim. Bhí an smaoineamh seo ag rith trí mo cheann i gconaí nuair a bhím ag fás suas. Ba aisling é do m'athair, uair amháin le linn a óige. Bhí dúil mór aige iarracht a dhéanamh eolas a chur ar an nGaeilge. Mar sin bhailigh sé leabhair agus téip, ach níor chabhraigh siad leis a spríoc a bhaint amach. O'Brien an sloinne atá orainn. Is Meiriceanach muid, ach bhí an-fonn orainn lenár bhfreamhacha a athcheangal. Is é mo thuairim gur fheidir linn athcheangal a dhéanamh leis trí theanga ár n-athaireacha. Is cuimhín liom go soineanta conas ar éistimis le ceoltóirí agus grúpaí a chan as Gaeilge mar Eithne agus Clannad. Ba fios agam i gconaí go raibh mé ag iarradh go raibh Gaeilge agam.

My name is Michael O'Brien and I'm a graduate student of Linguistics at the University of Pittsburgh. I've always had a fondness and affinity for languages. Since first being exposed to the odd German and Russian word in childhood (an experience I have thanks to my now late immigrant Grandmother Nina Jones—who grew up in post-war Germany to German and Russian parents), I began



my own language journey. In middle school, I began learning German, and in high school I started taking personal lessons in Russian. My grandmother had started to take ill, and I wanted to learn as much Russian (her first language) as I could, as a way of reconnecting with that part of my history.

I received my dual BA in German and Russian in 2016, and shortly after began a graduate program in Slavic studies, continuing to focus on Russian literature, film, and culture to become a Russian instructor. I added Polish as an additional Slavic language.

I soon realized that my desire to focus on language teaching and language acquisition made my previous graduate institution an ill fit, and soon found myself back in Pittsburgh, wondering how I might pivot. I then applied to the master's program in applied linguistics at my alma mater, and began studying linguistics as a way of complementing what I knew about my languages (German, Russian,

(who thinks he's a wolfhound) love to make new friends and represent just one of the great breeds of Irish dogs. ■

*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, hounds Riian and Aisling and terrier Doolin keep the house jumping. He can be reached at carneyspeakirish@gmail.com.*

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and Polish). Nó faoi dheireadh, finally, I would have the opportunity and access to study Irish!

D'fhioraigh mo bhrionglóid! Being able to enroll in Irish classes was a dream come true. Irish is so poetic, and it requires a different state of mind. But I felt like finally, having met Marie, I could go further and move quicker to really get a feel of Irish and how it works as a system. Suddenly all the songs I listened to growing up were starting to make sense and I could understand them on more than an intuitive level.

I always felt so discouraged trying to find the lyrics, to try to work through them, only to be met with the beast of Irish spelling (even post reforms!). I'm starting to understand forms and idioms and turns of phrases. You see, language

reflects culture and a way of viewing the world. I feel like my eyes have been opened finally to a world that I always wanted to be a part of.

I know that it might be *cringe* and I know that back home there's a mistrust of Americans who too quickly claim ownership of Irish identity. Yet all my life I've wanted nothing more than to connect with this culture that I inherited through my forefathers. I wish I could have been closer to it all, and I want to reclaim my Irish heritage. Being able to learn Irish and work with Marie and my classmates has been among the most rewarding experiences of my life. ■

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## OFF THE SHELF

By Terry Kenneally

### The Cursing Stone

By Tom Sigafoos  
ISBN 978-1-716-32529-8  
2021 368 pp.

This month's Off the Shelf selection is a work of historical fiction. The history behind the book came from an article which appeared in History Ireland, titled "The Wreck of HMS Wasp, 1884," by Tom Sigafoos. The wreck occurred at the foot of the Tory Island lighthouse on September 22, 1884.

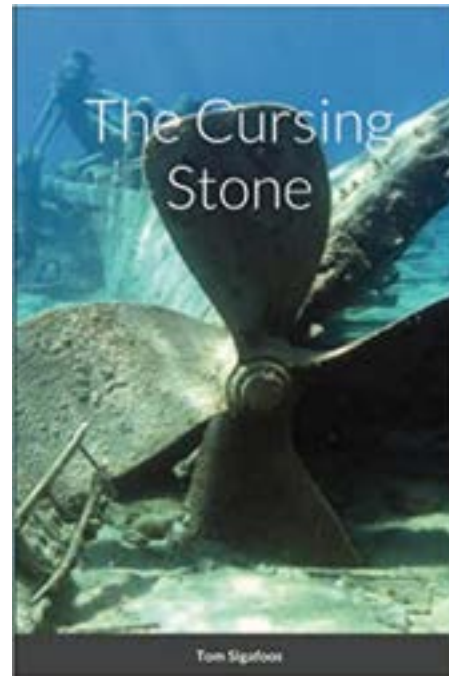
Tory Island is a small, inhabited island nine miles off the northwest coast of county Donegal. HMS Wasp, a gunboat of the Royal Navy, ran onto rocks, broke apart and sank. Forty-six crewmen and four officers perished. When the ship keeled over, five men scrambled up the mast to safety on land.

The ship was headed to Moville to assist the sheriff and deputies to forcibly evacuate Inishtrahull Island (north of Malin Head). At the time of the wreck, the ship was running under sail with an inexperienced young officer at the wheel. The engine-room fires had been banked so there was insufficient boiler pressure to maneuver off the rocks. A formal court martial dismissed the event as "navigational error" and the records of the inquiry disappeared.

Sigafoos's fictional account centers on Tory Island and a teenage boy named Ruairi (Rory) Mullan, whose family has lived on Tory Island all their lives. Handicapped with only one eye due to an incident with a hawk who scratched out the other eye, Ruairi was destined to become King of Tory Island before his mishap.

He is being raised by a psychic aunt. A smorgasbord of other main characters include a diminutive school teacher, an alcoholic priest, a fractious light house crew and a slew of men on board the naval vessel.

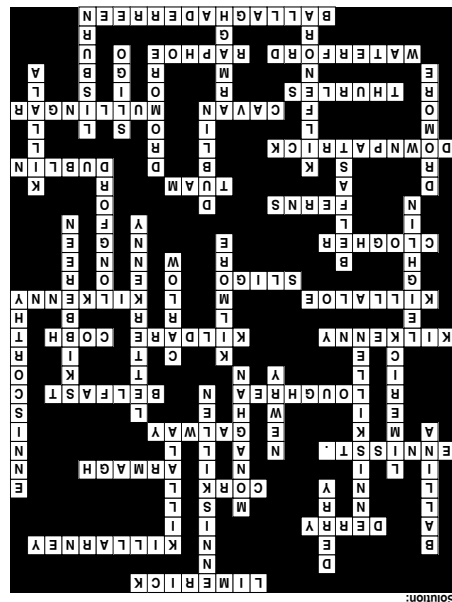
The title of the book refers to a rock believed by the seanchaí (storyteller)



to possess supernatural powers to influence events in the lives of the Tory islanders. The author does a wonderful job of interweaving the characters he created and the tragedy of the HMS Wasp. There exists a monument on Tory Island commemorating the sinking of the Wasp. I rate this historical fiction work a TOP SHELF read. ■

*Terrence J Kenneally is an attorney who owns Kenneally & Associates Law Firm in Rocky River, Ohio. He obtained his master's degree in Irish Studies from John Carroll University and has taught Irish History and Literature.*

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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

By Linda Fulton Burke

### ACROSS

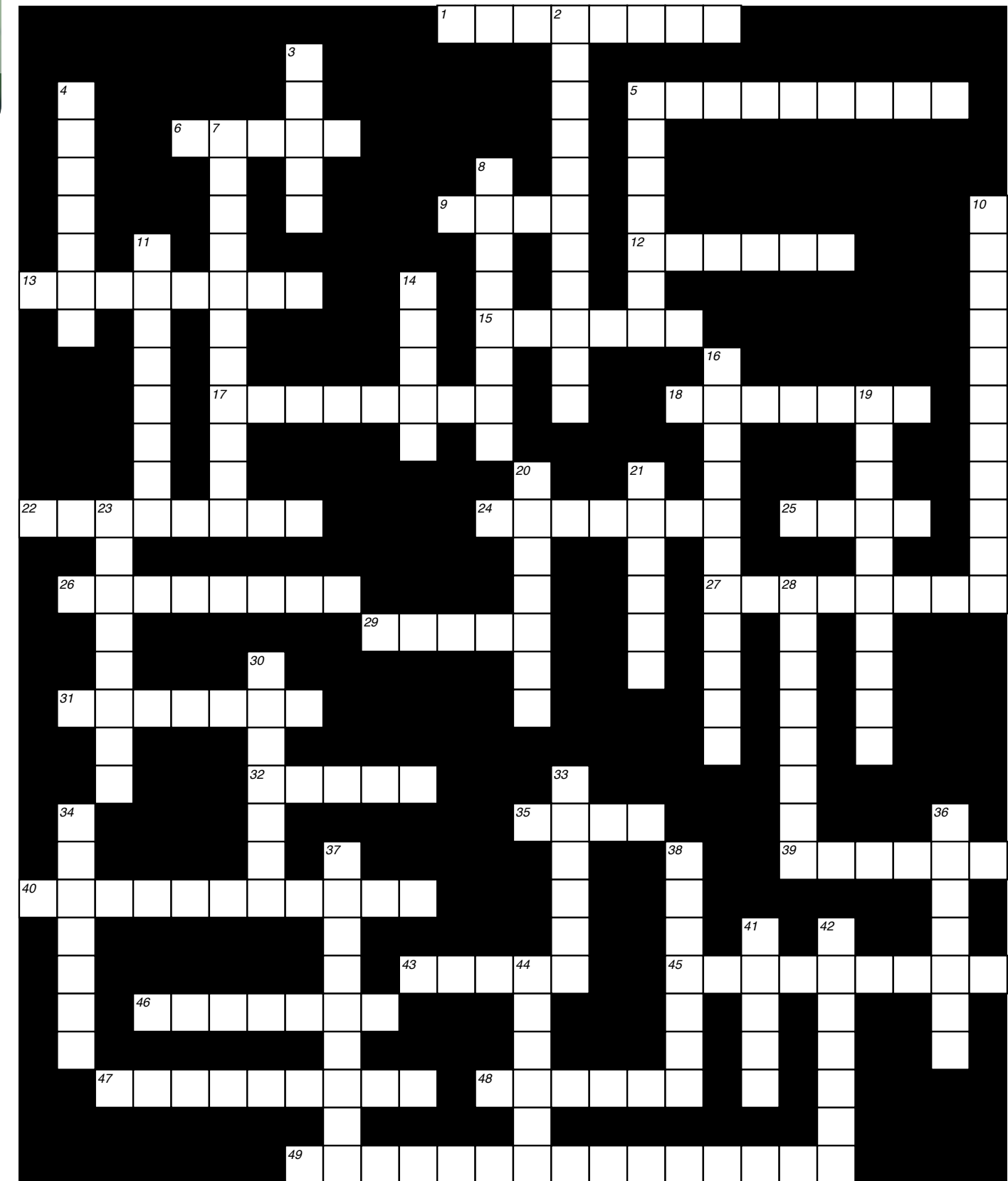
- 1 St. John the Baptist 1859
- 5 The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary 1855
- 6 St. Columb 1633
- 9 St. Mary and St. Anne 1869
- 12 St. Patrick 1870
- 13 Peter and St. Paul 1843
- 15 St. Nicholas and Our Lady Assumed into Heaven 1965
- 17 St. Brendan 1902
- 18 St. Peter 1866
- 22 The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary 1857
- 24 St. Brigid
- 25 St. Colman 1915
- 26 St. Flannan 12thC
- 27 St. Canice
- 29 The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary 1874
- 31 St. Macartan 1744
- 32 St. Edan
- 35 The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary 1837
- 39 The Holy Trinity aka Christ Church Cathedral
- 40 The Holy and Undivided Trinity 1818
- 43 St. Patrick and St. Feidlim 1942
- 45 Christ the King 1936
- 46 The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary 1879
- 47 The Most Holy Trinity 1796
- 48 St. Eunan 9th
- 49 The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary & St Nathy 1860

### DOWN

- 2 St. Macartan 1923
- 3 St. Eugene 1873
- 4 St Muredach 1892
- 5 St. Patrick 17thC
- 7 St. Macartan 1923
- 8 St. Macartan 1892
- 10 St. Aidan 1860
- 11 The Blessed Virgin Mary 1168
- 14 St. Patrick and St. Colman 1829
- 16 St. Eunan and St. Columba 1901
- 19 St. Patrick 1826
- 20 St. Fethlimidh 1860
- 21 The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary 1839
- 23 St. Lasherian
- 28 St. Mel 1840
- 30 St. Anne 1904

## Cathedrals in Ireland

By Linda Fulton Burke



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- 33 The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary 1825
- 34 Christ the Redeemer 1609
- 36 St. Patrick 17th
- 37 St. Fachtan c.1200
- 38 Christ the Redeemer 1609
- 41 St. Mary the Virgin and St. John the Baptist 1874
- 42 Christ Church 1662
- 44 The Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of St. Patrick 445

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