



January 2013
ianohio.com

Famine Ship Replica in County Mayo



Rose of Tralee 5
Owens Sports 12
Out and About Ohio . . . 14

Cover photo: National Famine Memorial in County Mayo, Ireland *photo by Cliff Carlson*

Irish American News

About the Cover

Irish National Famine Memorial



Murrisk is the site of Ireland's National Famine Memorial, designed by Irish artist John Behan, which abstractly resembles a coffin ship filled with dying people. The monument was unveiled in July 1997 by President Mary Robinson. Murrisk is at the foot of Croagh Patrick and is the usual location for the beginning of the ascent of Croagh Patrick. The monument is opposite the car park.

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I was preparing the outline for this month. For the first time, I wrote 2013. It has been 6 years since I first wrote to you from the Editor's Corner. Six years sounds like a long time, it has not passed that way.



Christmas is here, children are being buried in Newtown, alongside Christ. Like Him, I believe they will rise again. In online discussion, I was asked where was Jesus, when the children were killed? Why was God not in the school? God is not allowed in school.

I asked back, where were you? Did you bow to the pressure or did you fight to stop the next "random" act of violence?

I work for the Sheriff's Office - I see it every day, I work to stop it every day - in all its blood and anguish filled parents, brothers, sisters, in its children. Teachers are dying alongside their students. And our world stares in shocked wonder.

There are justifications and excuses and blame shifters. Fact is, it is easy to get a gun. Licensed or not, legal or

not, in anger or in fear. Irish history is riddled with examples, so is America, except here, we don't have to go back in history, it is here every day; in Aurora, in Chardon, in Chicago, in Columbine and on street corners behind the locked doors and peaking curtains of America, it is present. Turning the other cheek doesn't mean ignoring the problem.

We are 6 years old with this issue, the age of many of the 20 children who died December 14, 2012. America has been very good to the Irish, and very good to the Ohio Irish American News. Our Blood is Green White and Orange; it is Red, White and Blue, but today, it mostly runs in sorrow. Only through our combined efforts, will it be a Happy New Year.

Imagine if the Irish Harbor we have offered to generations of immigrants coming to our shores, coming to every shore, were the same harbor

we offered to our next door neighbor?

Imagine if the hope of tomorrow, were realized, today?

No more waiting, no more talking about tomorrow - today, teach your children, hug your neighbor, old school the passion for protection and promotion we offer to every cousin coming to our shore

to those already here. The enemy is within, so is the solution.

"Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation."

- John F. Kennedy

Happy Anniversary, and may we see many more!

John O'Brien



John O'Brien, Jr.

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John M. Lusk, Owner

Merry Ploughboys Fundraiser for The Little Sisters of the Poor

Come February 1st, it will only be 45 days to the biggest day of the year, St Patrick's Day. What better way to get yourself in the mood than attending the 11th Annual Merry Ploughboys Concert in aid of the Little Sisters of the Poor? In what has become a yearly extravaganza, the Dublin-based band donates their time each year to play an amazing gig to help raise funds for this wonderful organization. The Little Sisters of the Poor first arrived in Cleveland on May 20, 1870, at the request of the Bishop Amadeus Rappe of Cleveland. Due to the increase in immigrant population at that time, there was an urgent need to care for the elderly poor. The Home for the Aged, provided for

them by the bishop was located adjacent to the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist.

Cleveland was the ninth home established by the Little Sisters in the United States. Formed in small and humble beginnings, the Little Sisters of the Poor follow the example of their foundress, Saint Jeanne Jugan, by providing a loving home-like atmosphere where residents can live out their days in peace and comfort. Their mission today is the same as it was in 1870 - to serve the needy elderly men and women of northeast Ohio.

So who are the Merry Ploughboys and how does a Dublin based traditional Irish music group come into the picture every February in Cleveland? Tom Arbezniak, the founding father of the event, gave me insight.

What is more intriguing is his (Slovenian) last name is as Irish as the Queen, although it is through his mother (nee O'Shaughnessy), where he gets his Irish-ness from.

Tom puts the reason for the event down to a Blues Brother type mission-from-God idea. After seeing the 'Boys' play in Dublin, he approached Liam and invited them to Cleveland to play but had to make it worthwhile. This is where the Little Sisters of the Poor came into play. Tom's God-mother was a Sister there and thought it would be a great to do a fundraiser for them.

Over the years the show has been held in The Powerhouse, Gray's Armory and Brennan's Party Centre, but for the last five years, I has been held at Windows on the

River, where it has found a wonderful home.

The Ploughboys have been playing Irish music together since 1989. In 2006, the band made a lifelong dream become a reality when they purchased the 'Merry Ploughboy Irish Music Pub' in Rathfarnham, which is approximately seven miles outside of Dublin City centre. It is the 1st and only Irish music pub in Ireland that is actually owned and run by the musicians themselves. For more information on the band and the pub, I encourage you to visit www.merry-ploughboys.com and www.mpbpub.com.

The show On February 1st starts at 8pm, with light snacks and a cash bar. For Tickets call the Little Sisters of the Poor at 216-378-4739. There will also be a drawing on the night for a trip for 2 to Ireland, those tickets cost only \$10 each.



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By Susan Mangan



Father Time

My children Irish danced for the residents at a local assisted-living care facility. The dancers often perform for them during the St. Patrick's Day season, but this year the children helped spread some Christmas joy to the residents. A week after this holiday performance, my three children and I delivered a Christmas wreath bearing tidings of Good News that the students at their parish school had made for the residents.

My youngest son recognized many of the faces of the elderly folk for whom he had danced. Normally a reserved child, he walked right over to the patients' wheelchairs and shook their hands, commenting how he Irish danced for them at a recent show. Their eyes did not light up in recognition, but they smiled kindly at him with wrinkled grins and nodded their heads.

As we were saying our good-byes to the administrator at the facility, my oldest and youngest child sat down on a nearby couch with two elderly ladies. They visited with them and offered some of the candy canes that they were given as a treat. The ladies held their hands and talked with the children. My daughter told me her lady was waiting for her husband to pick her up. They were going to a fancy steak dinner for their anniversary. The woman's face was filled with longing and animation.

My youngest son motioned for me to join him and politely whispered in my ear, "Mom, she thinks my name is Henry. Should I tell her my real name?" I simply explained to him, to the lady, he was her nephew, cousin, brother, or even son, Henry. "For now, Henry you will be," I whispered.

The older lady had tears of laughter in her eyes as she recounted her and Henry's days

on their farm, running with the sheep, enjoying Mother's Swedish bread. Then the woman would lapse into the same story again.

When at last we left, the children were filled with questions. "Mom, it was so nice sitting with that cute old lady. When do you think her husband will come? She is all dressed up and ready to go," said my daughter. I gently explained that he would never come.

"Mom, did I look like a Henry? What does Henry look like?" questioned my youngest son. "Henry must have been a handsome boy just like you for your lady to remember him all these years." I went on to explain that sometimes our memories of the present leave us. We are left with special pockets of time that encase us in a happy moment where we stay until our journey on earth is over. You helped bring these folks back to that place of peace, if only for a moment.

In this hectic world, it is necessary for me to have moments of solitude that are not measured by the hands or digits on a clock. There is a walking path in a wood not far from my house that skirts along the shores of Lake Erie. This is where I go to contemplate and compose.

This place is a dichotomy. In the years that I have walked there, new homes are always being built on this choice property. The new homes are vast, some even palatial. Upon completion, there will be more space in those homes than a modern family would ever need. Alongside these sites are small, white clapboard historic homes that date to the early to mid 1800s. Residing next to one of the perfectly appointed new homes is a very old, but well-kept, graveyard. An angel keeps watch over Lake Erie. The names on the headstones sound as old as time, "Louisa Foote, Ezekial Mahon."

When a child is born, we always look for the faces of those we love in this new

creation. Perhaps we are comforted by the familiarity that a new baby's eyes are shaped like his grandfather's. It gives us a sense of confidence, a feeling that "I can do this! You will turn out fine!"

This past fall, we lost a dear old Irishman. His life was wrought with tests and hardships, but he always had a kind greeting for his visitors and a story to tell. I so enjoyed sitting with him on our visits to Ireland and listening to his misadventures during the days of dance halls and the jokes he shared with the ladies. During these stories, the man's eyes would light up, impossibly blue, and random tears of laughter would fall onto his cheeks.

Because of his thick accent, I could not always understand every word he said, but my presence and attention seemed enough. One time he tried to bring his grandson and my children for a ride on their donkey. The donkey wasn't keen on this idea and made his opinion known with a back kick into the wind. With concern, the man said, "nother time, right." For a minute, you could see the disappointment and defeat of a young boy trapped within his weathered face.

My father recently turned eighty years old. It sounds old when I write the words, but in body and spirit, my dad is like a man twenty years his junior. It is easy to see the young man in my father's face. His brown eyes gleam with mischief as he shares a joke he heard in town. My family and I love to hear his stories of the Chicago of his youth. A place in time where a bottle of Coca-Cola cost a nickel and bands of boys clad in mud-stained knickers scoured the streets looking for adventure.

Recently, my father rediscovered his favorite poem, "The Skater of Ghost Lake." In this ballad by William Rose Benet, young Jeremy Randall skates with the "moon for a candle, maid for a mate." The poem reminds my dad of his boyhood. His neighbor, an old German man named Ernst Jaeger, taught my father how to speed skate. Alone, my dad would trek to Portage Park and practice skating with swift feet. The city seemed quiet, moonlit during the darkness of the weeknight. All my father could hear was the occasional cry of an owl and the sharp whoosh of his blades as they cut through the frozen pond.

My dad taught me to skate on this pond. He had given me double-bladed beginner skates. The frost would get caught between the blades and slow me down. But it was enough, to enjoy the pristine coldness of the night and to see the face of the child reflected in my father's eyes.

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



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Publishers

John O'Brien Jr. / Cliff Carlson

Editor John O'Brien Jr.

Website-Cathy Curry

Columnists

Blowin' In ... Susan Mangan

Behind the Hedge ... John O'Brien, Jr.

Crossword Puzzle..Linda Fulton Burke

Illuminations ... J. Michael Finn

Inner View ... John O'Brien, Jr.

Letter From Ireland ... Cathal Liam

Off the Shelf ... Terry Kenneally

On This Day in Irish History..

Terry Kenneally

Out of the Mailbag John O'Brien, Jr.

Owens Sports ... Mark Owens

Real Ireland ...Rachel Gaffney

Terry From Derry ... Terry Boyle

Ireland Past and Present ...

Niamh O'Sullivan

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Contact: IAN Ohio Inc.

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or mail to: IAN OHIO INC

PO Box 7, Zion IL 60099

847-872-0700

e-mail: editor@ianohio.com

Subscriptions: subs@ianohio.com

On the Internet

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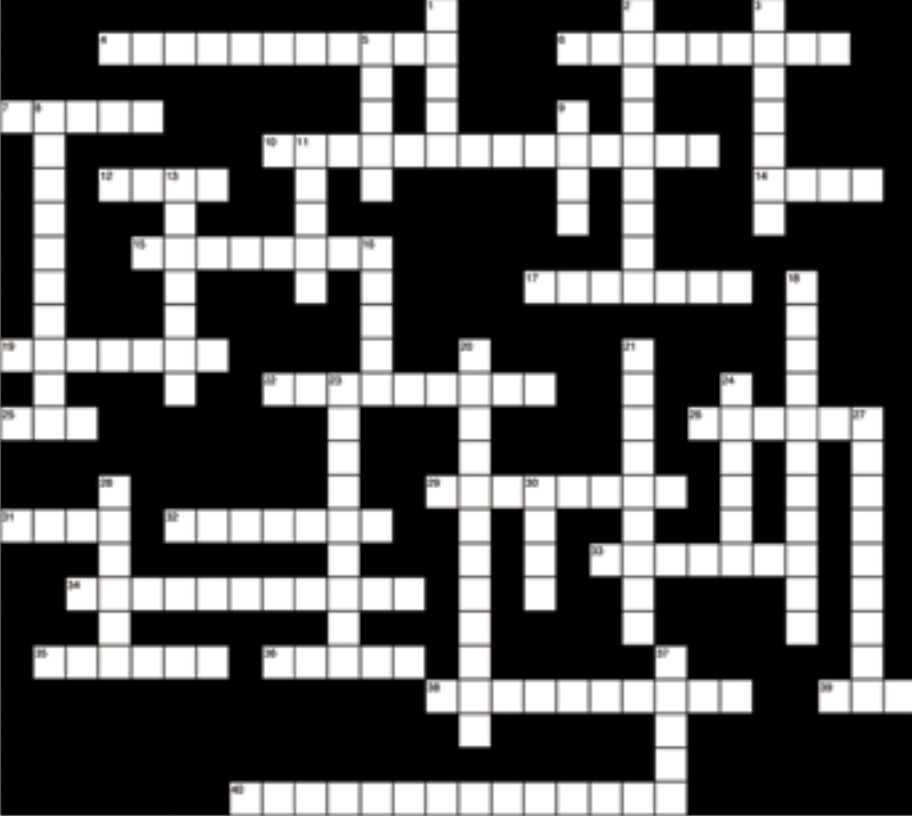
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Apply to be the Next Rose of Tralee

The Northern Ohio Rose Centre is accepting applications for its 2013 "Northern Ohio Rose Selection Celebration." This year's weekend event includes three days of preliminary judging, judging and other events from April 19-21, 2013.

The winner of the 2013 Northern Ohio Rose title receives an expense-paid trip to join other "Roses" from Rose Centres worldwide to compete in the Rose of Tralee Regional Festival held in Portlaoise, Ireland May 29-June 2, 2013. Contestants who advance from the Regional Finals convene in Tralee, Ireland for the Rose of Tralee International Festival held August 14-20, 2013.

Former contestants who have participated in the Regional Festival and the International Festival typically

describe having the "experience of a lifetime" and walk away with warm memories and, in some cases, long-term international friendships.

Young women of Irish heritage age from 18 to 28 are encouraged to apply. More information regarding this time-honored festival dating back to 1959 can be found at www.roseoftralee.ie the official festival web site where eligibility requirements and applications for Ohio can be downloaded from the "Centres" tab, "USA," "Ohio."

Businesses and organizations interested in sponsoring a 2013 Rose contestant, which can be a fun activity for patrons, clientele and/or membership may express their interest by e-mailing: inquiries@NorthernOhioRose.com.

The Northern Ohio Rose Selection Celebration is currently the major annual fund-raising event for Westlake World Partners Co., which is a 501(c)(3) non-profit group established to help promote cultural, educational, and civic exchange for Westlake's Sister Cities Program.

This year's Event Executive is Ms. Denise McConville who is both a Westlake resident and native of Tralee, Ireland.

ACROSS DOWN

- 4 Grace O'Malley's nickname was the _____.
- 6 The other imain ingredient in champ with potatoes is _____.
- 7 Wicklow is _____ of Dublin.
- 10 The fictional TV village, _____, was filmed in Avoca.
- 12 Monaghan is known for producing this delicate material.
- 14 The county capital of Kildare is _____.
- 15 Crubeens are _____' _____.
- 17 Michael Collins' fiancée was Kitty _____.
- 19 Michael _____, Irish dancing superstars was born in USA.
- 22 Where are the Knockmealsowns?
- 25 Father _____ was the subject of a sitcom.
- 26 John Boyd _____ developed the pneumatic tire.
- 29 Dublin's Rotunda Hospital pioneered the training of _____.
- 31 Edmund Ignatius _____ formed the Brothers of the Christian Schools.
- 32 "Erin Go Bragh" means Ireland _____.
- 33 Alan _____ played the part of Eamon de Valera in the 1995 film "Michael Collins".
- 34 The Irish House of Representatives is called the _____.
- 35 Mary McAleese was a Professor at _____' in Belfast.
- 36 Oldbridge was the site of the Battle of the _____.
- 38 The Irish newspaper first published on Sept. 5, 1931 is the _____.
- 39 A small island north of Howth, C Dublin is known as Ireland's _____.
- 40 Molly Malone sold _____ and _____.

- 1 Pope John Paul II visited _____, Mayo in 1979.
- 2 St. Brendan is known as the _____.
- 3 Paul Rankin would most likely be _____ on TV.
- 5 The most popular girl's name in Ireland in 2011 was _____.
- 8 The last words of _____ were: "Either thia wallpaper goes or I do?"
- 9 The most popular boy's name in Ireland in 2011 was _____.
- 11 The _____ Theatre is located in Dublin.
- 13 Alcock and Brown landed in _____ after their trans-Atlantic flight from Newfoundland.
- 16 The number of leaves on a shamrock is _____.
- 18 Niall O'Brien, an Irish Columban priest, spent 5 months in jail in the _____ during 1984
- 20 Bord Failte is the name of the Irish _____.
- 21 St. Patrick proclaimed the arrival of Christianity at _____ in 453.
- 23 _____ is known as the Golden Vale.
- 24 The Dept. of the Environment is located in the _____ House.
- 27 St. Patrick's _____ is on Station Island in Lough Derg.
- 28 Seanad Eireann is the Irish _____.
- 30 A celebration of lthe life of the deceased is a _____.
- 37 Poet W.B. _____ was born in Sligo.



By J. Michael Finn

Mary MacSwiney

Mary MacSwiney was an educator, politician, orator and one of the leading republican women of her era. Mary was born on March 27, 1872 in Surry, England, the eldest of nine children born to John MacSwiney and Mary Ann Wilkinson (the name MacSwiney is pronounced the same as the name MacSweeney).

When Mary was nine, the family relocated to Ireland and took up residence in Cork, where her father began a small tobacco factory. This business failed when she was fifteen, and her father left for Australia to seek opportunities there; his wife and children remained in Cork. Mary's mother opened a small corner shop that supported the family. Unfortunately, John never returned from Australia; he died there in October 1895.

As a youngster, Mary spent over a year in the hospital due to a severe foot infection. Her foot had to be amputated and she had to wear a surgical boot the rest of her life. As we will see, this handicap did not slow her down.

She received her early education at St. Angela's Ursuline High School in Cork. In 1892, at the age of twenty, she secured a job teaching at a private school in England. After receiving a loan from the Students' Aid Society in Ireland, she studied for a teaching degree at Cambridge University. At Cambridge she was one of only a few women in her class.

She worked at Hillside Convent in Farnborough and considered becoming a nun. She began a one-year novitiate with the Oblates of St. Benedict. When her mother died in 1904, she left the convent and returned to Cork to care for the younger members of her family. There she took a teaching job at St. Angela's, where she had been a student.

Mary became interested in the women's suffrage movement and attended the first meeting of the Munster Women's Franchise

League, becoming a committee member. Mary objected to the militancy within the Irish suffrage movement and her nationalist views often irritated the other members. She left the suffrage movement and began a commit-



ment to Irish nationalism.

Influenced by her younger brother Terence MacSwiney's staunch Irish republicanism, she joined the Gaelic League and Inghinidhe na nÉireann (Daughters of Erin). She was a founding member of Cumann na mBan when it was formed in 1914 in Cork and soon became its national vice-president.

In 1916 she was arrested and imprisoned following the Easter Rising. She was dismissed from her teaching position for her republican activities. Several months later, after being released from prison, she and her sister Eithne founded Scoil Íte, (St. Ita's School for girls) which was modeled on Patrick Pearse's St. Enda's School, and she remained involved with the school for the rest of her life.

Her brother, Terence (whose story will be the topic of a future

article) was elected the Lord Mayor of Cork in March 1920, as a representative of Sinn Féin. He was a committed republican and was arrested on many occasions. His final arrest came in August 1920. He was transported to Brixton Prison, where he died in October 1920, after seventy-four days on hunger strike. After her brother's death, Mary was elected to the Second Dáil Éireann in 1921 as the Sinn Féin representative to the Cork Borough constituency. Her republican philosophy, like her brother's, has been called "uncompromising." She became a lecturer, defender and eloquent spokesperson for the republican movement.

Eamon de Valera convinced Mary to travel to America to argue for the recognition of the Irish Republic and to continue fund raising efforts. The trip was to be under the auspices of the American Association for the Recognition of the Irish Republic (AARIR). Mary traveled initially with Muriel MacSwiney, Terence's widow.

Mary's first assignment in December 1920 was to testify before the American Commission on Conditions in Ireland, in Washington, D.C. She gave extensive testimony before the commission, which constituted a good history of the Irish independence struggle. Following her testimony, Mary began a grand tour of the United States, almost following in the footsteps of De Valera's 1920 tour. Between January and August 1921, Mary visited fifty-eight cities and spoke at more than 300 meetings.

In Columbus, Ohio she met with Governor Davis, and she addressed a joint session of the Ohio General Assembly. She spoke to large crowds of Irish Americans in Akron, Cleveland, Youngstown, Columbus, Cincinnati and Portsmouth. Following her speech in

Cleveland, the Cleveland Plain Dealer devoted a whole page to her speech.

At most of her stops her reception was enthusiastic. Her message was basically the same in each - British tyranny in Ireland and the necessity of recognition of the Irish Republic. She also reminded her listeners of the ideals proclaimed by America as they entered World War I. She said, "You said that you entered the war for the freedom of all peoples, everywhere, for the liberty and self-determination and the undictated development of every nation, great and small, to make the world safe for democracy. If you had carried out your ideals, Ireland would be free today."

Mary returned to Ireland on August 12, 1921, where she took her seat in the Second Dáil. In December 1921 she strongly opposed the Anglo-Irish Treaty, preferring to resume the war. On December 2, 1921, she spoke in the Dáil for three hours, criticizing the agreement. During and after the Irish Civil War she was interned and went on hunger strike twice. She kept her seat in the 1923 general election and along with other Sinn Féin members she refused to enter the Dáil. Mary lost the seat in the 1927 general election, at that time she was vice-president of Sinn Féin and Cumann na mBan.

Throughout her remaining life Mary refused to recognize the

legitimacy of the Irish Free State. She refused to follow De Valera when he split with Sinn Féin to form the Fianna Fáil party in 1927. She held the view that the Second Dáil was the only legitimate government of the Irish Republic. In 1938, Mary and a group of seven people who had been elected to the Second Dáil in 1921 met with the IRA Army Council. At the meeting, they signed over what they believed was the authority of the Government of Dáil Éireann to the Army Council.

In 1932, Mary's health began to decline. Her several hunger strikes had damaged her health and she suffered from digestion and kidney problems. She died on March 8, 1942 at the age of 70, and is buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Cork.

Mary MacSwiney was first and foremost a republican. She never abandoned or compromised her principles and she remained committed to her belief in the ultimate success of the Irish Republic.

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

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Real Ireland



By Rachel Gaffney



I have yet to see bruised fruit displayed as a centerpiece in someone's home. Yesterday my husband asked me if I was keeping rotten pears for a reason. They were not rotten, they were bruised. Bruised fruit is delicious fruit. Once I peeled them, the juicy flesh oozed between my fingers. Growing up, nothing ever went to waste in our home and to this day I cook and bake with the same eager frugality as my mother and grandmother. Quite some time ago I had found a recipe in 'Bon Appetit' magazine for Apple Spiced Cake. It was time to make some substitutions and these pears would foot the bill.

INGREDIENTS

3 cups all purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
3/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
1/4 teaspoon allspice
4 pears, peeled & chopped
1 1/2 cups unsalted butter
(I always use Kerrygold)
2 cups soft brown sugar
3 large eggs

Preheat Oven to 325 degrees F. If you are using loaf pans, spray them or grease them with melted butter and flour. I purchased 4 disposable loaf pan cartons and they did not need to be prepared.

Sift flour and next 6 ingredients into bowl. In an electric mixer cream the butter and sugar. Beat in eggs one at a time. Next add flour mixture. Mix in chopped pears. I added some Mexican Chocolate pieces to my loaf but this is, of course, optional. Pour your batter into prepared pans and bake for 1 hour or

until tester comes out clean. Using brown paper and ribbons, you can decorate as you like and deliver to friends... I hope you enjoy!

You can now watch Rachel online on AT&T UVERSE, 'The Irish Kitchen'
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Cincinnati's Irish Heritage Center Home to Award-Winning Theater

by Mary Meier

Usher, Danny DeVito, Vanessa Williams, Peter Frampton and Eddie Murphy. Did you know a local Cincinnati taught dance to the children of these celebrities during the 1980s and 90s? Maureen Kennedy, Director of the Irish Heritage Center in Columbia-Tusculum founded The Art of the Dance Academy in North Hollywood in 1983 and also helped develop the NOHO Arts District. Today, the tenacious Kennedy has wholeheartedly jumped into a

new venture of bringing Irish culture, history, the arts, literature, dance and hospitality to Cincinnati by founding the Irish Heritage Center (IHC) with husband Kent Covey.

When Kennedy moved to Cincinnati in 2001, she was surprised to learn that Cincinnati, a community where 30% of the population has Irish roots, had no Irish heritage or cultural center. "I believe in Ireland – the essence of it – the people and its hospitality," Kennedy explains.

Over the next few years, she founded the Irish American Theater Company, and remembers how those early years were somewhat crazy: "I taught drama and dance classes at the Kennedy Heights Art Center, on my back porch and in parking lots. The theater performed at the Celtic Festival at Old Coney, at the Cincinnati Museum Center and at Thomas More College," she recalled.

In 2009, after significant bumps and hurdles, viewing 100 different properties, and negotiating with Cincinnati Public Schools, Kennedy and Covey purchased the 1876 historical McKinley School,

situated on Eastern Avenue in Columbia-Tusculum. In the spring of 2010, the doors of the Irish Heritage Center (IHC) opened to rave reviews for the play, *Moll*, written by John B. Keane.

Since then, the Irish American Theater has performed *Blood, What Happened*, *Brid-*

Supporting Actor and has won top prizes twice for Best Actress and once for Best Supporting Actor.

The IHC has also presented other theater productions, reenactments and special events, such as Bloomsday, the Easter Rising, the City of Immigrants, *The Quiet Man* and fabulous

throughout the year.

By helping to establish the Tusculum "arts corridor," Kennedy and the local Community Council are making space for more arts groups to locate in the C-T corridor area. The IHC offers a wide range of classes & events, and participates in the C-T Home Tour and Macy's Arts Wave Sampler, both of which promote the arts in Cincinnati. Upcoming events in January include *Mick and Friends "Irish Pub Night"* on Thursday January 17th, Celtic Women International meeting January 24th and "Discover Your Roots", a tribute to your family ancestry, on January 23rd.

The American Celtic Artists Exhibit is ongoing: Saturdays through January. Call us for admission hours.

The IHC is offering an Ireland Getaway raffle: Tickets are \$20 each or 3 for \$50 - The winner will enjoy a weekend stay at Waterford Castle dinner for 2, breakfast both days, golf, and a \$1,000 travel allowance. visit www.irish-centerofcincinnati.com or call 513-533-0100..



Kent Covey, Maureen Kennedy, and Consul General of Ireland, Aidan Cronin.

gie Cleary? and *A Couple of Blaguards*. It performs around the world, has been nominated at three consecutive appearances in the Acting Irish International Theater Festivals in Chicago, Calgary and Dublin, Ireland, for the categories of Best Show, Best Actress, Best Actor and Best

St Patrick's Day & St Patrick's Parade day celebrations. Special performances with musical groups & exhibits brought in from Ireland are scheduled

On This Day in Irish History Irish Trivia

January 2013

January 13, 1941 - James Joyce, writer, died in Zurich from a duodenal ulcer.

January 20, 1961 - John Fitzgerald Kennedy was inaugurated 35th President of the United States.

January 20, 1894 - Death of Captain Robert Halpin, 57, Wexford-born master mariner. Halpin was first officer of the *Great Eastern* when she laid the first transatlantic cable in 1866, from Valentia to Newfoundland.

January 23, 1861 - Birth of Katherine Tynan, author of over 160 volumes of poetry and prose, and central figure in the Literary Revival, in Dublin.

January 25, 1627 - Robert Boyle, a natural philosopher, was born in Lismore Castle, Co. Waterford.

January 30, 1661 - Oliver Cromwell, the former Lord Protector of England, was formally executed, more than two years after his death.



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Middle Shelf

Worth a read or a listen if this particular subject/area/person is of interest to you.

One Hundred Names

By Cecilia Ahern 2012

Harper Collins Publishing
ISBN 978-0-00735046-9 pp. 329

Cecilia Ahern, the author of the immensely popular book/movie, PS, I Love You, and a bestselling "chick lit" writer, has written a book about a journalist, Kitty Logan, whose career has been destroyed by a scandal, which resulted from her failing to thoroughly check out sources before writing a story which ruined the reputation of a teacher. Crestfallen, Kitty then faces losing her mentor, who really believes in her abilities and who taught her everything she knows. At her bedside, as her friend lays dying, Kitty asks her what is the one story she always wanted to write but didn't. Her friend's reply is that it is to be found in a file at her home. Before Kitty is a able



to retrieve the file, her friend dies. Kitty finds the file, but it only contains a single sheet of paper with one hundred names on it. Not having had the opportunity to ask her friend the significance of the names, Kitty sets out to find out herself.



With this intriguing premise set up, Ahern weaves a story which, while starting out slowly, builds to a conclusion which is surprising yet heartwarming. Ahern possesses some Maeve Binchy characteristics in her writing including love, community, and all turning out well.

While "chick lit" novels are not this reviewer's favorite genre, the book has enough of a plot which keeps it going. I rate it a TOP SHELF read.

An Irish Country Wedding

New York Times bestselling author Patrick Taylor's brilliant continuation of the trials and tribulations of Dr. Fingal Flahertie O'Reilly and his young colleague Barry Lavery, M.B. in the Ulster village of Ballybucklebo. Dr. O'Reilly has finally proposed to his sweetheart, Kitty O'Halloran.

The wedding plans share the spotlight with the eccentric people and machinations of the village, including O'Reilly's long-time housekeeper Kincy Kincaid.

Mr. Taylor is a natural storyteller who's characters are vivid and familiar throughout the easy pace of the book. Taylor's writing style and character development is remi-



niscient of The Irish RM series by Edith Somerville and Violet Florence Martin, writing under the name Martin Ross.

Taylor has published nine books of creative writing, all set in Northern Ireland. He wrote a short story collection entitled Only Wounded:

Ulster Stories, the novel Pray for Us Sinners and its sequel Now and in the Hour of Our Death, and The Apprenticeship of Doctor Laverty (short listed for the BC Book awards fiction prize 2005). In 2007 Tom Doherty and Associates republished 'The Apprenticeship of Doctor Laverty' in hardcover as 'An Irish Country Doctor'. It was 'Book of the Month Club's' Novel of the Month in March 2007. It reached the New York Times bestseller list and achieved Canadian bestseller status after trade paperback release in 2008. It has currently been translated into thirteen other languages. Four sequels--An Irish Country Village (March 2008), An Irish Country Christmas (October 2008), An Irish Country Girl (October 2009), and An Irish Country Courtship (October 2010)--have appeared. All have achieved Canadian bestseller status. When An Irish Country Christmas appeared in mass market paperback in 2010 it reached No 17 on the New York Times and 86 on the USA Today bestseller lists. The prequel A Dublin Student Doctor was published in October 2011 and An Irish Country Wedding was published in October 2012.

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Northern Ohio Rose Centre

Coming the weekend of April 19-21: Westlake World Partners Co's
2013 Rose Selection Celebration in Westlake, Ohio

We are seeking Rose applicants along with community organizations and businesses who are interested in hosting their own pre-selection event to choose a Rose contestant as they celebrate Irish heritage and take advantage of an opportunity to attract interest, increase visibility and support a good cause.*

The young lady selected as the 2013 Northern Ohio Rose wins an expense-paid trip to Portlaoise, Ireland for the Rose of Tralee Regional Festival to be held May 29 to June 2, 2013 where she will be recognized as the "Ohio Rose" and compete for advancement to the Rose of Tralee International Festival in Tralee, Ireland, that takes place August 14-20, 2013.

Roses who advance to the International Festival receive another expense-paid trip to represent Ohio in this time-honored celebration of young women of Irish heritage.

Potential Rose applicants should visit the Rose of Tralee International Festivals web site, open the "Centres" tab and click on "Ohio" (Contact Us) to download a copy of the application. Potential applicants and sponsors should also indicate their interest to the Northern Ohio Rose Centre by e-mailing: inquiries@northernohiorose.com

* Limited to the first 25 applicants who meet the both the Rose of Tralee International Festival's and the Ohio Rose Centre's eligibility requirements, both of which are detailed on the respective application forms that can be found at www.roseoftralee.ie Westlake World Partners Co., reserves the right to adjust the application deadline. Sponsorship fees are \$100/contestant in addition to a nominal personal application fee that is to be born by the applicant. Please e-mail inquiries@northernohiorose.com with any questions. Westlake World Partners Co. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded to support educational, cultural, and civic exchange in Westlake, OH. The City of Westlake is a Sister City (Twin Town) of Tralee, Ireland, and Kingsville, Canada.

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GAA and Soccer

Just a few months after leading his beloved county of Donegal to well-deserved All-Ireland football title, Donegal manager Jim McGuinness confirmed ongoing rumors that he is joining football giant Celtic FC in Scotland as a performance consultant. The 39-year-old, who has enjoyed great success with Donegal, will be based at Lennoxton and will help in the development of the Scottish Premier League club's young players. And by the sounds of things the former Donegal player is indeed relishing the new challenge.

"It's a fantastic opportunity for me on an individual level and I'm very thankful to Neil Lennon (Celtic manager) for giving me this chance and bringing me into the club," he said. "Obviously, I work in amateur sport and the opportunity to work in professional sport in any capacity is a wonderful chance for me and one I'm very looking forward to. My role will be based on developing the younger players in the club, development and Academy players that are U20 and that level. We will hopefully look at every single player as an individual project and move them forward as best we can ... so they can put their best foot forward in making the ultimate step up to first-team football."

Neil Lennon has been an admirer of what the coach has achieved at Donegal, leading to the pair fostering a strong professional relationship. The Celtic manager said: "We are absolutely delighted that Jim has agreed to join us. He is a first-class coach and manager and a high-quality individual who has achieved so much already in sport. We feel he will add real value to the Club in terms of moving our young players forward and in making sure they develop in the right way for the benefit of the Club."

The Glenties man was an accomplished football player before his career in management, and was part of the Donegal side that won the All-Ireland Senior Football Championship in 1992. Having retired from the game as a player, McGuinness went on to work as a fitness coach and a sports

psychologist in the North West Regional College, Limavady. McGuinness' success with the Donegal team is largely credited to his creation and development of a defensive, smothering style of football - entitled The System by GAA media. The System landed Donegal the Ulster Senior Football Championship in 2011 and 2012, as well as the All-Ireland title in 2012.

The Donegal boss is only two years into a four-year contract with his county, and it is believed that he spoke to the Donegal County Board first regarding the possibility of maintaining his role with Donegal and working concurrently with Celtic. Aodh Mairtin Ó Fearraigh, the Donegal County Board secretary, said: "As far as we're concerned, Jim McGuinness is still the manager of the Donegal senior team."

GOLF - RORY MCILROY PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy was named as the PGA Tour Player of the Year for 2012, capping an outstanding



season for the world's number one golfer. It was really a shock to nobody that the 23-year-old was the popular choice for the annual Jack Nicklaus Award, decided by a vote from eligible tour players, becoming the youngest recipient since Tiger Woods in 1998.

In 2012 McIlroy won four PGA Tour titles, including the PGA Championship by a record eight strokes. Jack Nicklaus had held the previous record margin for the last major on the golfing calendar, winning the 1980 PGA Championship by seven.

"It's always nice to get recognition from your peers, the guys that you're trying to beat week in, week out," McIlroy

said, adding "I guess it's just a great way to end what has been a great year and my best season so far."

McIlroy also won the Honda Classic, Deutsche Bank Championship and BMW Championship and the Vardon Trophy for the lowest scoring average. He won the money lists for the PGA and European Tours, making his selection a formality on a final ballot that included Jason Dufner, Brandt Snedeker, Bubba Watson and Woods. "It's no surprise that Rory McIlroy was voted by the players and his peers as the best Player of the Year."

MIDWEST GAA ANNUAL MEETING

Last month, the Midwest Gaelic Athletic Association held its annual Convention at the West Side Irish American Club in Cleveland. The Division has grown quickly over the course of the past 4-5 years, in both the number of clubs participating in Gaelic Games and in stature into overall quality of play, at both a divisional and national level.

It was a great opportunity for clubs across the region to get together to share ideas, get advice and work on growing the Games together. 2013 marks a very significant year for the Division, in that it is the host for the North American County Board Finals being held in Cleveland over Labor Day weekend this year. Go to www.gaacleland.com for more details.

The 2013 Midwest Board was elected on the day as follows: Chairman, Mark Owens (Cleveland St Pat's Gaelic Football Club); Vice-Chairman, Eric Amsden (Akron Hurling); Secretary, David Slevin (Buffalo Fenians); Registrar, Jamison Blose (Akron Hurling); Treasurer, Fergal Finnian (Pittsburgh Gaelic Athletic Association); Youth Office, Paul Mulcaire (Buffalo Fenians); and Public Relations Officer, Brian Royer (Cleveland St Pat's GFC).

The current division is men's football teams in Detroit (Wolfetone's), Cleveland (St Pat's and St Jarlath's), Pittsburgh (Celtics), Columbus (Naghten Street), Rochester (Erin Isles), Buffalo (Fenians), Albany (Rebels) and Syracuse. There are ladies football teams from Detroit (St Anne's) and Pittsburgh (Banshee's). Hurling clubs are from Pittsburgh Hurling club and the Akron Celtic Guards.

Also present at the meeting this year was TJ Lonergan, from the Cincinnati Irish Cultural Center, who have set a goal of starting both hurling and football clubs in the next year or two. If anyone in the Cincinnati area is interested in getting involved, please contact TJ at t.lonergan@irishcenterofcincinnati.com.

TRIVIA

First last month's question: Derry City recently won their 5th FAI Cup when they defeated Dublin side St Patrick's Athletic in an exciting final at the Aviva Stadium - but was the stadium called before this? The answer is Lansdowne Road. It is built on the site of the former stadium, which was demolished in 2007, and home to its chief tenants: the Irish rugby union team and the Republic of Ireland football team. The decision to redevelop the stadium came after plans for both Stadium Ireland and Eircom Park fell through. The Aviva Group signed a 10-year deal for the naming rights in 2009.

This month's question: Donegal are the current All-Ireland Football Champions, having won the prestigious Sam Maguire Trophy this past September. But who did they beat in the final to win it all last year?

*Mark Owens is originally from Derry City, Ireland and has resided in the Cleveland area since 2001 where he is employed by State Farm Insurance Companies. Mark is the Chairman of the 2013 North American Gaelic Games Finals to be held in Cleveland. Send questions, comments or suggestions for future articles to Mark at: markfromderry@gmail.com

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So here's to all of you... May 2013 be a fine one filled with good health, a warm hearth and the love of family and friends all around. In my toast to the New Year I say, "Now here's to those who are dead and gone, and those alive and well; and here's to us and those like us, God bless us one and all; so raise your glass and lift your cup and fill your heart with song, and let's enjoy this time together, before we travel on."

Such a kindness I recently enjoyed when an e-mail acquaintance posted me a copy of a story by Fergal Keane. It'd recently appeared in the Melbourne Sunday Herald Sun under the heading, "A city painted in loving words."

Keane is a Dubliner now living in London. Recently, the man, who works as a part-time BBC correspondent, took time to reminisce about his hometown, a city he both knows and loves. In his piece, he notes that Louis MacNeice, a Protestant, Northern-Irish poet, also fell under his hometown's spell. Despite that fact, MacNeice, who said he could never bring himself to love the city, still couldn't deny the magic of Dublin's past.

Yes, I too know exactly of what both men felt. I've experienced the city's allure as well.

In his poignant reflection, Keane notes, "At that time of day when the light is fading and the streets are filled with home-

bound commuters, a special Dublin emerges. For an hour or so it becomes haunted by dead rebels and forgotten kings—the most melancholy and seductive city in which to walk through the twilight." So whether you're a blow-in from somewhere else or a local, it's hard not to submit to the magic charm woven by this old city on the Liffey.

Patrick Kavanagh, one of Ireland's greatest poets and writers, certainly did. Born of humble beginnings in rural Co. Monaghan, he moved to Dublin in 1939, at age thirty-five, and began writing seriously. In one of his most famous poems, "On Raglan Road, later turned into a popular ballad, Kavanagh speaks of unrequited love. "On Raglan Road on an autumn day I met her first and knew, that her dark hair would weave a snare that I might one day rue; I saw the danger, yet I walked along the enchanted way, and I said, let grief be a fallen leaf at the dawning of the day."

Ah yes, and if you're ever wandering along the Grand Canal, not far from Baggot Street Bridge, you can take a respite and sit awhile on one of two Kavanagh 'seats.' The first installed in 1968 is a simple one made of wood and granite hard by the Lock Gates on the south bank. The other and more famous memorial [1991] is on the north bank of the canal along Mespil Road. There you can pause next

to the man himself and ponder life while staring into the tranquil water.

Speaking of contemplation, last October, a wonderful new museum was dedicated at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT. Devoted to telling the story of Ireland's great famine, An Gorta Mór, its intended purpose is to stimulate reflection, inspire imagination and advance awareness of that great tragedy.

Then, just by coincidence I guess, Ireland's great historian, Tim Pat Coogan, had his newest book published only a few weeks later. Entitled, "The Famine Plot: England's Role in Ireland's Greatest Tragedy", it was surely one of the more dramatic launches in recent memory. Held in the Glasnevin Cemetery visitor's centre on the evening of the 21 November, the Minister for the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Jimmy Deenihan helped introduce Tim Pat's newest.

After the festivities concluded, the author revealed he'd been twice denied a visa by the American Embassy in Dublin for his long-scheduled US book tour. Needless to say, the curfuffle created an international stir when no explanation could be offered for the embarrassment to the 77-year-old author. Finally, ten days later, through the intercession of New York Senator Chuck Schumer, Coogan received his visa, this one good for ten years.

The NY politico proudly stated, "Mr. Coogan is an Irish treasure, a gifted author, a noted historian and a long standing supporter of the United States — our country should be rolling out the red carpet for him, not slamming the door in his face." I can only wonder if the turbulence stemmed from Coogan's sharp words about the role England played in Ireland's horrific famine.

Of the book, Kirkus Review reported, "During a biblical seven years in the middle of the nineteenth century, Ireland experienced the worst disaster a nation could suffer. Fully a quarter of its citizens...perished.... Tim Pat Coogan gives a fresh and comprehensive account of one of the darkest chapters in world history, arguing that Britain was

in large part responsible for the extent of the national tragedy...." My copy arrived today and I'm eager to begin reading.

One last word on new books. A friend and another fine contemporary Irish historian, T. Ryle Dwyer, has just had his newest book released. Titled "Michael Collins and the Civil War", Dwyer takes an intimate look at Collins during the beginning of this most hateful period in Irish history...a time when Irishmen and women turned against one another over the terms of a bitterly contentious treaty with England.

So with cold days and long nights in the offing, light the fire and curl up in your favou-

rite chair. With something warm in the old mug, crack open one of these wonderful new books and have a good read. God bless and may 2013 be a great one indeed. Abú, Cathal

*Cathal's newest novel, *A Fire on the Mountain*, is scheduled for release in mid-2013.

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6th - Rob Duskey, 13th - Chris Allen, 20th - River City Trouble, 27th - Leah Lou & Two Left Shoes. 820 College Avenue, Cleveland, 44113 www.treehousecleveland.com

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4th - New Barleycorn, 5th - Mary's Lane, 7th - NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP IRISH PARTY PACKAGE- \$25 All u can drink Jameson, Budweiser, Kona Beer & free appetizer buffet 8-12. 9th - Monthly Pub Quiz w Mike D, 11th - Abby Normal, 12th - Ace Molar, 18th - Carlos Jones, 19th - BOYS FROM THE COUNTY HELL, 24th - Craic Brothers, 25th - Sky's the Limit, 26th - Charlie in the Box. 17119 Lorain Avenue, 44111 www.pjmcintyres.com

West Park Station

1st - BCS Bowl Games Specials, 3rd - Jim & Eroc HH, 7th - BCS National Championship Football Specials, 10th - Austin Walkin' Cane HH. Hottest DJ Contest: 11th - DJ Jeff Lakes, 12th - DJ Gus, 26th - DJ Michael B. Monday: I Hate Mondays 2 Hour Extended Happy Hour & Trivia Night. Tuesday: Roll Call-



4th Samantha Fitzpatrick @ Mullarkeys,



Merry Ploughboys Jan 31@Sully's, Feb 1@Little Sisters of the Poor Fundraiser Windows on the River

discounted drinks 4 Fire, Police, Military & Med Professionals 9pm. Thursday: Ladies Night 9pm. Sunday: SIN Night 9pm. 17015 Lorain Avenue Cleveland 44111 www.westparkstation.com. (216) 476-2000.

Flannery's Pub

4th - Rob Duresky, 5th & 11th - Bar Flies, 12th - Walking Cane, 18th - Claire Stuzynski, 19th - Big Leg Emma, 25th & 26th - New Barleycorn. 323 East Prospect, Cleveland 44115 216.781.7782 www.flannerys.com

Avon Lake

Ahern Banquet Center

Is booking weddings and special events. Call Tony Ahern/Lucy Balser @ 440-933-9500. 726 Avon Belden Rd, Avon Lake 44012 www.aherncatering.com

Euclid

Irish American Club East Side PUB: 7:30-10:30. 4th - One More Pint, 11th - Mad Macs, 18th - Mary Agnes Kennedy, 19th - 35th Anniversary Dance w/ McLean Avenue Band \$30 Admission (open bar, appetizers, door prizes), 25th - Wally Franz, 27th - Colors & Bottles Art Class 3:00-6:00 / Mossy Moran 6:30 - 9:30. IACES 22770 Lake Shore Blvd. Euclid, 44123. 216.731.4003 www.irishamericanclubeastside.org

Paddy's Pour House

922 East 222nd Street, Euclid, 44123 216.289.2569

Columbus

Shamrock Club Events

Happy Hour every Friday from 5-7pm! 60 W. Castle Rd. Columbus 43207 614-491-4449 www.shamrockclubofcolumbus.com

Findlay

Logan's Irish Pub

2414 South Main Street, Findlay 45840 419.420.3602 www.logansirishpubfindlay.com

Lakewood

Beck Center for the Arts

17801 Detroit Avenue Lakewood 44107 (216) 521-2540 www.beck-center.org

Medina

Sully's

11th - Donegal Doggs, 12th - High Strung Irish, 18th - Marys Lane, 19th - Mossy Moran, 25th - The Kreellers, 26th - Donal O'Shaughnessy, 31st - The Merry Plough Boys. Every Tuesday 6 - 8pm Magician Paul Gallagher performs tableside. 117 West Liberty Medina, 44256 www.sullysmedina.com



19th Boys From Co. Hell PJ McIntyres

Mentor

Hooley House

All starts @9:30: 4th - Dueling Pianos, 5th - Charlie in The Box, 11th - Carlos Jones, 18th - Almost Famous, 25th - Abbey Normal, 26th - Big Ship. Tuesdays - Open Mic w Nick Zuber, Wednesdays - Trivia Night. 7861 Reynolds Rd Mentor www.1funpub.com (440) 942-6611.

Olmsted Township

West Side Irish American Club

Great live music every Friday: 4th - Wally Franz, 11th - Bald Paul & the Irish Blues Band, 18th - Pub Quiz, 25th - Jack Hogue. Sundays - St. Patrick's Day Practice 12 - 7. WSIA Club 8559 Jennings Rd. 44138 www.wsia-club.org 440-235-5868.

Willoughby

Mullarkey's

4th - Samantha Fitzpatrick, 5th - Kevin McCarthy, 11 - Eric Butler Band, 12th - One More Pint, 18th - Foundation Band, 19th - Dan McCoy, 25th - Brendan Butler Band, 26th - Mossy Moran. Wednesdays - Karaoke, Thursdays Ladies Night w/ D.J. 4110 Erie Street www.mullarkeys.com
Croagh Patrick's
4857 Robinhood Drive Willoughby, 44094 (440) 946-8250. www.croaghpatrickspub.webs.com

Ongoing Trad Sessions

Bring your instruments and play along!

Akron Hibernian's Ceili Band Sessions, Wednesdays 7:30 pm. Mark Hefernan Div 2 Hall 2000 Brown St, Akron 330-724-2083. Beginner to intermediate Croagh Patrick's - 2nd Tuesday of every month 8 - 10pm

Bardic Circle @The Shamrock Club of Columbus Beginner - friendly, intermediate level Irish session meeting every other Thursdays 8:00 pm - 11:00 pm Wooster Street Center, 1124 E. Wooster St., Bowling Green 2nd & 4th Monday, 7:00 - 8:00

Stone Mad - 1st Sunday monthly Holleran Traditional Irish Session, 7pm The Harp - 1st Fri monthly, 9pm Logan's Irish Pub - 3rd Wednesday of the month, 7:30 pm

Oberlin's Traditional Irish Session - Sundays, 3 - 5 pm. Informal all experience welcome: www.oberlin.net/~irishsession Bibbins Hall, 77 West College Street, Oberlin 44074



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February 19th, 2013. The world-renowned supergroup – comprised of vocalists Emmet Cahill, Keith Harkin, Ryan Kelly, George Donaldson, Neil Byrne and Colm Keegan – continues to astonish audiences, traveling as easily across



the genres of folk, traditional Irish, adult contemporary, rock and classical crossover, as they travel the world, performing for an ever-growing number of fans.

Mythology presents the perfect blend of entertainment, ideology and Gaelic spirituality, providing a modern twist on the old Celtic storytelling tradition. The new show was produced by Sharon Browne; the *Mythology* album was produced by David Munro, Musical Director and Composer.

The release of *Mythology* will be

backed by a major North American tour, which will travel to 65 cities coast to coast in both Canada and the U.S. During the tour The Celtic Thunder Cruise will sail for five days throughout the Caribbean, departing Miami on November 2nd, 2013. In addition to the six main vocalists, the tour will also feature strings, guitar, percussion, whistles, pipes, guitars and more in the eight-piece Celtic Thunder band. The tour's musical director is David Munro, who also plays keyboards in the show.

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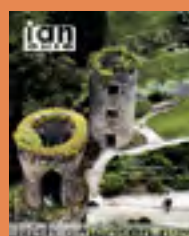
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