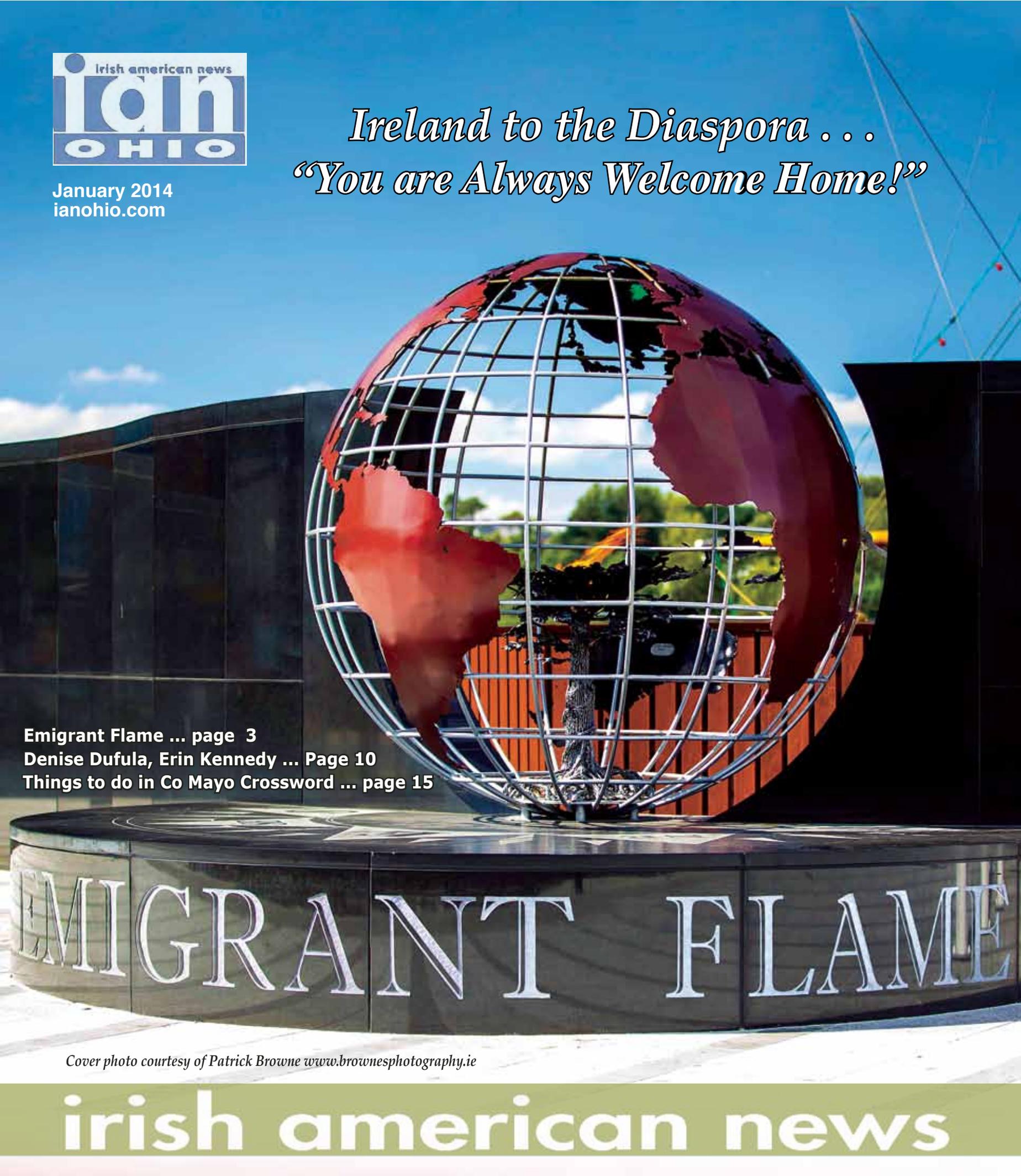


*Ireland to the Diaspora . . .
“You are Always Welcome Home!”*

Emigrant Flame ... page 3
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EMIGRANT FLAME

Cover photo courtesy of Patrick Browne www.brownesphotography.ie

Editor's Corner

By John O'Brien Jr.

We hope you had a Merry Christmas. Janie Mac we're seven! This issue marks our 7th Anniversary. The journey to date has been both surprising and gratifying. From our group of great writers to our advertisers, we have been able to grow and expand because of the quality of our content and the quality of our advertisers. We now have thirteen regular columnists

and are available at over 240 locations in Ohio, plus in six states (New York, Indiana, Michigan, Kentucky, Illinois and Pennsylvania). West Virginia, Here we come!

Sincerest of thank yous to our advertisers, who continue to support our endeavors with great enthusiasm and actively talk up the OhIAN to their customers and equally importantly, to other potential advertisers. You are at the heart of what we do and OUR best ambassadors!

In very tough times, your continued support is priceless.

The usual and unusual buffet of offerings are included in this issue, with book reviews, puzzle, Milestone, Illuminations of Irish history, Sports and recipes. We have a new column premiering this month on Press



John O'Brien, Jr.

and Policy Makers making an impact in the Northeast Ohio community, kicked off with profiles on Denise Dufala and Erin Kennedy. Dan Coughlin's update on St. Colman's, a Letter from Ireland's tour of Dublin, a few insights and perspectives on Christmas and of course, Out & Abut Ohio events going on in January are opportunities to support the locals, hear great music or make new friends.

Thanks to Mary French and the folks at The Emigrant Flame in New Ross, Co.

Wexford for our cover photo. A story about the monument that beckons the past and the present emigrant all over the world is inside. Looking forward to Joanie Madden's 3rd Annual Folk n Irish Cruise of the Western Caribbean in February (see inside for details of the 60+ Irish bands performing on the cruise), and of course, the green season that follows, in March.

If your organization has honorees for St. Pat's, please send a bio & pic on to us, we'd love to honor them in the Ohio Irish American News too. Just remember, Patrick was a mighty man; if you must shorten it, it's Paddy, not Patty.

We have much to celebrate, every day of the year. This Thanksgiving to Christmas to St. Pat's season is especially poignant and present. I believe and pray that 2014 will be a most prosperous and blessed one for us, we will work hard to make it so.

Athbhliain faoi shéan agus faoi shona duit ~
A prosperous and Happy New Year to you!

John

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Our Cover: The Emigrant Flame

The Emigrant Flame is on the quayside in the picturesque and traditional Irish town of New Ross, Co. Wexford. Located in the south east of Ireland, The Emigrant Flame sits alongside the Dunbrody Famine Ship Experience, which has been recounting the Irish Famine Emigrant story since it first opened in 2001. The Emigrant Flame was unveiled in June 2013, during the JFK50 cel-

graveside and brought it to New Ross as a Gathering Torch to light the Emigrant Flame. The journey was to fulfil, at least symbolically, President Kennedy's promise "to return to Ireland in the spring-time".

The occasion was solemn, with a sombre hush amongst the gathered crowd. A colour party from the Irish Army was matched by a similar presence



Michael Londra on the escalator of success!

brations. The Emigrant Flame is a symbol of hope and inspiration for all Irish emigrants and diaspora around the world. The story behind The Emigrant Flame is also an inspiring one.

On June 18th 2013, with warm rain descending, a gathering formed at the graveside of President John F Kennedy in Arlington Cemetery, Virginia. They took a light from the eternal flame at President Kennedy's

from the US Defence Forces and a lone piper played a lament on the hillside. The Irish National Anthem was sung by Michael Londra. Anthony Kearns gave a stirring rendition of the Star Spangled Banner. The Gathering Flame arrived in Dublin Airport and was transferred to the Irish Navy Vessel MV Orla, for transport by sea to New Ross. Michael Flatley narrated the journey of the flame along the quayside and



Anthony Kearns sings for President Obama.

the American Spiritual Ensemble from Kentucky sang.

Caroline Kennedy and Jean Kennedy Smith, accompanied by the Taoiseach Enda Kenny, lit the Emigrant Flame from the three torches presented by Special Olympic athletes. Judy Collins sang Amazing Grace, the Air Corp performed a flyover and Jack Schlossberg, the grandson of President Kennedy, made his maiden speech on the same quayside where his grandfather had spoken to the New Ross crowd 50 years before.

The Emigrant Flame gives our nation an iconic symbol to serve as a permanent reminder to all our diaspora around the world that Ireland remembers and values them while we wait to welcome them home.

Over one quarter of Irish households have seen a close family member emigrate in the past two years, according to a survey commissioned by the National Youth Council of

Ireland earlier this year. Half of those aged between 18 and 24 have considered emigrating; a further four out of ten adults aged between 25 and 34 have also considered leaving the country. In the past four years, over 300,000 people have emigrated from Ireland; 40% were aged between 15 and 24. Emigration is not just affecting Ireland's youth as more than a quarter of those aged between 35 and 54 have also considered moving abroad.

Mary French, Brand & Marketing Manager for the JFK Trust commented, "Our aim is to spread the message of The Emigrant Flame around the world so that all of our diaspora and indeed anyone who feels a connection with Ireland can take inspiration from this symbol of hope. Emigration once again affects every family in our society and The Emigrant Flame will give people a place to connect and be reunited, be it online or in person. The essential

point is that no one affected by emigration should feel isolated or disconnected from the Irish community."

The JFK Trust was formed in 1988 to commemorate the historic legacy of President John F Kennedy by involving itself in projects that would enrich the lives of the people of his ancestral home area of New Ross and its environs. 25 years later much has been achieved. The articles of association of the JFK Trust are broad in their remit, and pay particular reference to the cultural and environmental development of the town of New Ross and its environs.

For more information contact Mary French, Marketing and Brand Manager at the JFK Trust, 35 South Street, New Ross. Telephone 087 6632251. Email maryfrench@dunbrody.com www.facebook.com/the-emigrantflame Twitter: @emigrantflame



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Top O' The Towers Benefit 2-28

A benefit to expand residential Hospice care for terminally ill patients and their families in need

For nearly 45 years, St. Augustine Health Ministries has provided services and programs to thousands of Clevelanders including the sick, the poor and the dying. With the addition of Holy Family Home & Hospice in 2005, we have become stronger and the need for our services continues to grow. As a not-for-profit, faith-based organization, we are only able to fulfill these initiatives with the help of our community friends and partners.

Each year, we host our signature fund-raiser, the Top O' the Towers. Our need is simple; to provide a calm, peaceful, homelike environment for residents beginning their final journey, when they are unable to be cared for at home. Their families need amenities to enable them to be with their loved one at all times. Last year you helped raise an amazing \$150,000 toward a \$375,000 goal of expanding and enhancing our residential Hospice care. Today, I am writing to personally ask you to make a difference!

On Friday, February 28th, 2014

over 500 guests will join us for the 17th Annual Top O' the Towers Benefit Night at LaCentre Banquet Facility in Westlake, Ohio. This is an exciting evening of fabulous hors d'oeuvres, beer & wine, music by The New Barleycorn, and fantastic auctions and raffles. This year we are proud to recognize and thank Fr. Robert T. Begin, Pastor of St. Colman Parish, for his years of Ministry and outreach in our community.

Sponsorships begin at \$500. Our program book offers opportunities to place a tribute, memorial, or advertise a service or business. You can also help by donating something exciting toward the auction or raffles. And of course, event tickets are \$50 per person. Invite your family and friends!

Your involvement will help us raise the funds necessary to serve more people in need.

I look forward to hearing from you soon regarding a potential donation. I can be reached at info@st-aug.org or in the Development Office at 216-939-7602.



Daniel O'Donnell visiting Irish in Birmingham.

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to be marginalised or disadvantaged. Much of our work remains focussed on older isolated people who are socially excluded due to their myriad problems.

We are hoping that our friends in America will support our work via Charities Aid Foundation America and help us to continue this vital work with individuals who are in such great need.

<http://www.cafamerica.org/give-now/ways-to-give/> and don't forget to put "Irish in Birmingham" in the Organization Name field.

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Off the Shelf by Terry Kenneally
A TOP Shelf Selection

Stolen Child

by Suzanne Kelly Bottom
Dog Publishing ISBN 978-1-933964-75-1; 2013 ;331 pp.

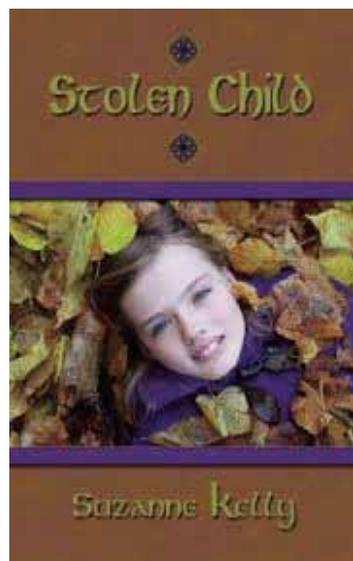
Stolen Child is a heart-warming period piece narrated by a delightful nine-year-old girl named Lucy Fahey. The story takes place in the summer of 1960, when John F. Kennedy was campaigning to become President of the United States, and the first Catholic president. I was only 3 years older than Lucy and still vividly remember the excitement my Irish family experienced as we nervously awaited the results of the presidential election that Fall.

In the story, Lucy lives in St. Louis, Missouri. Her father is a Fahey, while her mother a Keary. Grandmother Keary once told her she had a map for a face. When asked what kind of map, her grandmother replied, "Why of Ireland, Lucy. To find your way home your dear little face is all you'll ever need. Wherever you end up in the world, look for other faces like yours and you'll know that's home."

For the reader who grew up in that era and attended Catholic grade school, reading about catechism a la the

Baltimore Catechism will bring back memories, some fond, some not so fond.

Due to the debilitating illness of her mother, Lucy's father sends her to live with grandmother Fahey during the summer of 1960. While Lucy loves both of her grandmothers she had hoped she could spend the summer with grandmother Keary whom she was especially keen on. Lucy, however, had failed her catechism class that school year and her father felt she would benefit more under the tutorage of grandmother Fahey so as to be able to pass to the next grade. While reluctant and disappointed at first because grandmother Fahey was very demanding in her quest to get Lucy to concentrate on her catechism, she begins to develop an interest in Ireland the more her grandmother immerses her in the traditions,



language, history, and culture of the country.

The author, Suzanne Kelly, hails from Kansas City, Missouri. She is a lawyer by training and currently lectures in law at Wright state University. Stolen Child an engaging first book and TOP SHELF read.

****Terrence J Kenneally is the president and owner of Terrence J. Kenneally & Associates Co. in Rocky River, Ohio. He has a Master's Degree in Irish Studies from John Carroll University and can be reached at terry@tjkenneally.com.**

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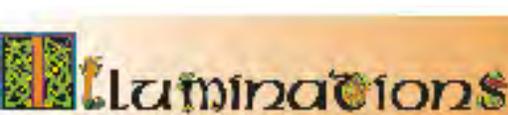
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By J. Michael Finn



St. Colmcille and Copyright Law

Colmcille was born into the royal northern clan of Uí Néill in Gartán, Co. Donegal, Ireland on December 7, 521 AD. His father, Fedelmídh, was the great grandson of Niall of the Nine Hostages and his mother, Eithne, was a princess from Leinster. Being born into nobility, Colmcille might have become a great chieftain.

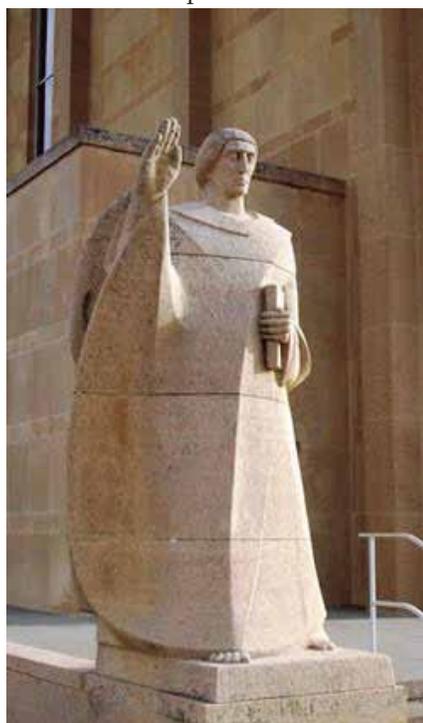
He was originally baptized with the name Crimhthann (meaning "Fox"). As a young prince he spent many hours praying and meditating in church. People started calling him Colmcille, meaning "dove of the church" in Irish.

His first formal schooling occurred at Merville, Co. Down, where he was taught and mentored by St. Finnian. Later he learned the art of poetry from Gemman, the Bard of Lienster. St. Finnian of Clonard helped him complete his education. Deciding it was time for his ordination, Colmcille and a group of companions set off in search of a bishop to ordain them. They found Bishop Echen of Clonfada who was plowing his field. He agreed to ordain the youths, but only after he finished his plowing.

After his ordination, Colmcille spent some time at a monastery at Glasnevin, near Dublin. His studies were interrupted in 544 when the Yellow Plague swept across Ireland, dispersing the monks and students and sending Colmcille to the north of Ireland.

At Derry he founded his first monastery, on an oak covered hill overlooking the River Foyle. Of all the places that Colmcille lived in his life, Derry became his first love. It was recorded that he feared less the demons of Hell than the sound of an axe in Derry wood. Derry would be only the first of thirty-six monasteries founded by Colmcille. He became a renowned

scribe and he trained his monks to become expert scribes. It was



Colmcille's monks who many years later produced the Book of Kells. In each monastery his monks labored to produce many manuscripts, preserving the learning of the church, as well as, the legends of Ireland.

Colmcille is most famous for his tangle with copyright law. During a visit to his old teacher, St. Finnian of Merville, Colmcille was shown a manuscript that was the Psalter of St. Jerome (a Psalter is a volume containing the Book of Psalms). Colmcille wanted a copy of the manuscript to share with his monasteries. So, each night Colmcille carefully traced the pages of the manuscript onto fresh parchment. Soon Colmcille had copied the entire volume. Colmcille claimed the copy as his. Finnian demanded the return of the original manuscript and the copy. Colmcille believed he should keep the copy. The matter was referred to Dermott, the High King for arbitration. After reviewing the evidence Dermott

issued the now famous copyright decision, "To each cow her calf and to each book its copy." Colmcille was forced to return the copy of the Psalter to Finnian.

Colmcille was not happy with the King's judgment. After the decision, King Dermott also killed a young man who was under Colmcille's protection which further raised the ire of Colmcille.

He encouraged his family, the northern Uí Néills, to go to war against Dermott in retaliation. At Cúl Dreimhne, near Ben Bulbin in County Sligo, the two forces met. Throughout the battle (often called The Battle of the Books), Colmcille prayed for the success of the northern force. His prayers were answered. The High King's army of three thousand men was massacred, with only one casualty on the side of the Uí Néills.

Dermott, however, still remained as High King and he called a church synod at Tailte to punish Colmcille for bringing about the war. Colmcille was almost excommunicated for his actions, but he was saved at the last minute by the intervention of St. Brendan of Birr. However, in confessing his sins to St. Molaise, Colmcille was given a most unusual penance. St. Molaise said, "You will leave your land and your kindred - forever. You shall behold them no more but shall travel in foreign lands, winning as many souls for Christ as were slain at Cúl Dreimhne."

Colmcille and a dozen companions boarded a currach and sailed for Scotland, arriving on the Scottish Island of Iona. On this small island Colmcille began his mission and established a new monastery. It served as a base for the Colmcille to send his monks throughout Scotland, converting the Scottish people to Christianity. His fame spread to the European continent where he is also known by the name Columba.

One day, several poets from Ireland visited Colmcille on Iona. They pleaded with Colmcille to return to Ireland and speak on their behalf at the Council of Drimceatt (574 AD).

Poets in Ireland were always

considered a privileged class. They could claim the highest seat at any table and were always served the choicest food. No poet was ever to be denied hospitality. If the host did not provide suitable accommodations, the poet would compose a satire, cursing the host and his household for generations to come.

The poets were taking advantage of this hospitality and privilege. The nobles of the time demanded that the profession be abolished and the High King agreed.

While Colmcille was aware that the poets had abused their position, he could not permit the noble bardic profession to be abolished in Ireland. He agreed to return to Ireland to speak on their behalf. In order to not break his obligation not to set eyes upon his home or family, he journeyed to Ireland and was blindfolded the entire time he was there.

Colmcille pleaded with the High King and council not to banish the profession. "What remains of Cormac mac Art?" he asked the assembly. "Were it not for the poets to sing of his glories, his memory would have died with his person. Who will sing of future kings if the poets be banished?" asked Colmcille. So eloquent were his pleadings that the council decided not to banish the poets, but they did place

severe restrictions upon their growth and upon their authority. Colmcille then returned to Iona to continue his missionary work.

Colmcille wrote the Book of Durrow, an illuminated manuscript, which is now housed in the Trinity College Library, and is written in Colmcille's hand. St. Adamnan, the abbot of Iona (626-703), was a member of Colmcille's family. He wrote the life of St. Colmcille one hundred years after Colmcille's death.

St. Colmcille died at his beloved monastery of Iona on June 9, 597 AD. He was buried there. The story is told that John de Courcy, a twelfth century Norman nobleman collected the bones of St. Colmcille and transferred them to the site of the new cathedral at Downpatrick, where they rest today, along with the bones of the other patron saints of Ireland, St. Patrick and St. Brigit. He is also considered the patron saint and apostle of Scotland.

*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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Frank West



A Belfast Girl

By Maggi Kerr Peirce,
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"The way of life I inherited



as a child and girl in a city that, within a few years after my leaving would be decimated by sectarian violence. I want people to know that in Belfast, life had not always been violent."

In this book, Maggi Peirce remembers people, stories and events from her childhood. Her early years have a golden haze and her stories about this period are wistful, charming and intimate.

She grew up in a working class, Unionist family, during the bleak years of the Depression. The family had very few material things, but through frugality, scrimping and sacrifice they had enough to eat and enjoyed a strong family life. About this Peirce says: Our parents hid the world from us, and "I was surrounded by love, strictness and total acceptance."

Today, she lives in Massachusetts with her husband Ken. She has performed at many folk festivals in the United States and Canada. At these she sings songs and tells stories she learned as a child. She has a great memory for childhood

events and many of these reminiscences are included in the book. Two other attractive and enchanting books about the same period in Northern Ireland were written by Gardiner Weir.

They are: "Voices in the Glen, A Collection of Scots Irish short stories, and A World of Dreams: Scots Irish short stories and poems. They are outstanding and delightful.

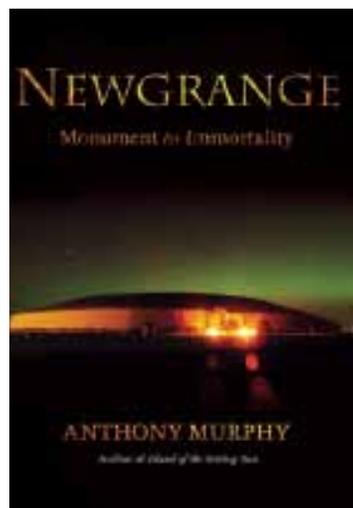
About her youthful days, Maggi Peirce says: "Our world of innocent certainty would remain steady and safe by the power of imagination."

**Newgrange:
Monument to
Immortality,**

By Anthony Murphy, Liffey Press/DuFour Editions.

This book is about Newgrange, the famous structure where on the shortest day with the longest night (the Winter Solstice), the rays of the sun penetrate to its depths.

This huge structure is North



of Dublin in the valley of the Boyne River. It was constructed 5,200 years ago by stone-age people. It is older than the pyramids of Egypt or England's Stonehenge.

The builders were farmers who lived in small communities in the Boyne River Valley. What compelled them to construct these huge monuments? There are only guesses to answer that.

The amount of material used in constructing Newgrange is staggering. The 400 large slabs of stone, each weighing from three to five tons, were brought from 50 miles away! There are only guesses as to how they were moved. Remember, this was done by people who had no metal tools or wheels.

These people worshipped

the sun and viewed it as a male deity.

Newgrange is a monument to the female earth goddess. The author suggests that the ray of sunlight fertilizes her so that the new year can be born. The book is lavishly illustrated with spectacular pictures of Newgrange and its carvings of the beam of solstice sunlight, and of the night sky. These pictures intimately connect us to these ancient people.

The author is a journalist and photographer. He lives five miles from Newgrange

and has studied the astronomy, archaeology, and mythology of the Boyne Valley monuments for the past 13 years.

One author suggests that it was the great earth mother who supplied all the basic needs of humanity, and it was apparent to early man that it was the female who produced offspring.

Newgrange "gave thanks - in a truly spectacular manner - to the earth and the cosmos, to the great female, the great mother who was seen as the provider of all things."



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Inner View of Press and Policy Makers: Making a Difference in Our Community

Denise Dufala

An Emmy Award winning journalist, anchor and family woman, North Olmsted born and raised Denise Dufala thrives on her Irish roots, community causes that touch her heart and the rebirth of Cleveland. She has sung all over Cleveland, at Irish and non-Irish church and sports events alike. Her CD, "The Age of Miracles" highlights her roots, and her gorgeous voice.

Denise is the baby of six (four boys and two girls). "I grew up with the cousins, doing family things together. I got more involved in my Irish roots when I got older, started hanging out and connected with Irish friends my age. My mom always took me out of school for the St. Patrick's Day Parade. And we always rode the Rapid downtown. After the parade, we got a treat at Hough Bakery.

Denise loves family time. Her husband and son, plus a large, close-knit and close by family keep her in tune, and in stitches.

Catherine Scanlon, Denise's grandmother, is from The

Church Road, in Achill Island – she left Achill at nine years old, a lace maker, to find work in Scotland. That is not a misprint.

Later, she met David Gilmore, in Glasgow. Catherine worked in a munitions plant as well.

In 1923 David came to the U.S. and got a job as a plumber. After six months, he sent for Catherine and James, six months old. David came to Cleveland, to Herman Avenue in St. Colman's Parish, where they had family, Catherine's cousins.



Right to left: Denise Dufala, and

The Plumbers had no Union, so he helped found Local 55. Union involvement is a family tradition.

Denise's mom, Elizabeth (Gilmore) Dufala, was born later, here in the States. She recalled, "Everyone in the neighborhood was poor. People would come to our

house, Dad played piano by ear – they'd all sing. We had no money, made scones and bread for everyone. It is where we gathered.

"We were surrounded by the Irish; all my relatives lived around there. The Irish would go there (immigrate to the area), because the Irish were from there, we supported each other."

Denise continued, "Being in the Irish community gives me a sense of belonging, because the Irish roots are so far reaching; everyone is related. We are all American first. It is important to hang on to the traditions; it is something so much bigger than you.

"I remember the first time I went to Ireland. I found a tombstone of my family. What an amazing feeling you're on the edge of the Atlantic Ocean, 3,000 miles away from home, and you feel like roots are sprouting up thru your feet.

"Being Irish is part of who I am, it is in my blood. I still have contact with everyone there, friends and family. I want my son to see it; I want my relatives out there to know him."

Northeast Ohioans know Denise. More than just words, for more than twenty-five years Denise has been reporting on news, shining light on great organizations and actively giving of her time to organizations that she cares deeply about. Her roots run deep, and her commitments strong.

"It has been a great experience," she said. "I've worked for a lot of great people here. Stories I've covered that stick with me are when the Pope went to St. Louis; when I went to NY at the start of 9-11, it was an amazing surreal experience, people were getting out of there, and I'm

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going into harms way. At that point, we didn't know if more was coming. I'll never forget seeing people coming out of the city with soot all over them.

"I wouldn't change anything. There have been a lot of ups and downs; it makes you stronger. You ride the wave."

After working in Columbus, Denise started as a Reporter Trainee at Fox 8 News in Cleveland in 1986. She has a B.A. in Journalism from The Ohio State University.

"It was a union shop then, so a trainee so wouldn't take the place of union position. Kelly O'Donnell, Wayne Dawson, it worked out for a lot of us that followed that path. In 1994, I joined staff of a new station 19 Action News, and went on air when in launched in 1995.

"I was doing the 6:00 p.m. News, but not 11 at Fox8. 19 lost its Fox affiliate. CBS was looking for a Cleveland affiliate but needed to start a news division. My contract was up right at that time. I was worth more to a station that needed me more.

"While I was at Fox8, I got a call from Bill Shiel, who was at Channel 5 at that time. He couldn't get to a benefit for Make-A-Wish, and asked if I could go. It was at what is now the Renaissance. I had a wonderful time. Soon after, Katie Dolesh called, they had a Board position open and she asked if I was interested. It is six years on, three off, so I did it. I still volunteer. Katie was very special, the baby of six kids, just like me. All the kids called her 'The Wish Lady'.

"The Make-A-Wish Gala is their signature event. It features Wish families, their stories, and is very moving. You meet the children, who have been through hell. They talk about medical things like we talk about breakfast. What do I have to complain about? The whole family suffers, that is why Make-A-Wish includes the whole family in on the Wish – because they all suffer. They are so inspiring."

The rebirth of Cleveland also inspires Denise: "Cleveland is the best kept secret. People who visit are shocked. There are so many things going on, all the

time. It is a slower resurrection, of the city, a very affordable city, with businesses opening up."

The birth of a station, the rebirth of a city, the birth of dreams and Wishes, common themes of having a significant impact, woven in community roots. Hard work and vision comes from an upbringing rooted in, and with an Inner View of Irish love.

Erin Kennedy

In the salad bowl that is America, many return to their roots,



Erin Kennedy

whether seeking a connection, understanding or simply happening to walk thru an open door. Roots influence every day likes, and loves, whether purpose driven or not. They fall in love with the man or woman, not the colors of their flag. Sometimes love of heritage is as natural as the air we breathe; sometimes love of heritage is sparked.

Erin Kennedy is a Portuguese-Irish-American news anchor and reporter from Texas. She wanted to do something different, wanted to get out of the state, so she went to The University of Notre Dame. ND sends more students abroad than any major college and Erin was determined to study abroad. Spain was her destination of choice.

"My roots didn't influence me growing up, but while in Spain I jumped on a Ryan Air \$20 special to Ireland with a friend, to Galway. I want to go back, our roots are in Sligo and Clare.

"My maternal grandfather, Dominick Sharkey, came from Ballerderne, Co. Sligo. My maternal grandmother, Bridget Grady, came from Parish Lara, Co. Cavan. My paternal grandfather, Michael Kennady, sailed from Galway to the U.S. on the ship Elizabeth. Ship records show he spelled his name Kennady, but don't show where he was from. My maternal grandmother, Catherine MacDonald, was born in Nova Scotia.

"It was fantastic, so friendly; we climbed Croagh Patrick's, so beautiful, all the great things we hear about from friends and on TV, we saw, sheep in the road etc. It was just beautiful."

Erin graduated Summa Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa (Top 5% of her class) from Notre Dame. She is fluent in Spanish. She also met her future husband, fellow student, Matt, there.

"My first TV job was in Texas, my folks returned to Rhode Island, where they were from. I just knew this was what I wanted to do. I love meeting people, learning things. I took one class at ND, Broadcasting, and created a demo. I took Lubbock, Texas, market size #147 out of 212. After six months, I was promoted to morning anchor, for two years. I then applied to Rhode Island, Market 50. I did 5:30 & 10 p.m. news.

"I wanted to end the long term relationship status with Matt. He was and is a musician, and Irish as well. Yes, I broke up the band," she laughs. Erin and Matt were married in Rhode Island and are expecting their first child in February.

Driven in focus, Erin and Matt wanted to do something different, so Erin applied to several cities in the Top 20 Market. She visited Channel 3 after two executives from the station flew out to persuade her to come to Cleveland for an interview. She was impressed with how welcoming everyone was, how everyone came up and introduced themselves with a, 'How can I help'.

"It was very welcoming, very different. More than anything, I value Channel 3's commitment to making a difference in the Northeast Ohio community. One of the things about TV, you have

to be visible – you have a platform for helping, for good. I work with the Rape Crisis Center, YWCA, among others, hosting or Emcee of events.

"We can get out in the community, help non-profits. It is something I would be doing anyway, but I come with a camera behind me, and let the community know why it is important. We have a responsibility to help others.

"Being out in the community, covering the Chardon School shootings, Ariel Castro – gave me skills I wouldn't have had the opportunity to learn from and grow."

Erin will celebrate her two-year anniversary with Channel 3 this month.

"I've been here two years and I love getting to know the community, getting to know Cleveland values, people who love to be here – sharing their events. I am looking forward to getting more involved. I love the neighborhood. Matt had a college friend who played drums, in Cleveland, he felt he had some connection to Cleveland, could play. His family is in Chicago, from Minneapolis.

"We are excited to start our family. Cleveland is a good place to live. On weekends, I totally unplug. No Cable! With Matt being a musician, we go to a lot of shows but have a minimalist lifestyle. Cleveland gives us an opportunity to get connected to the community, local farmers, restaurants locally sourced. We

make our own detergent, toothpaste, have fun seeing what we can make; it is good for the environment, good for our wallets.

"I do MMA to stay fit, not to fight. I enjoy Crossfit – it has to be physical and it has to be different. My Mom is an English teacher: she gave me great love of books. Any subject, I tend to have several going at once. I read anything and everything. Historical fiction, I read several at a time. Books are an important part of my life. Best thing is to be on the water, with a book – that's a perfect day."

Books and newsmagazines offer an Inner View to people and places a state or a country away. The Land of Saints and Scholars earned their reputation on education, both harboring it from ill will and destruction, and sharing it with those open to all it has to offer.

Character and charisma combinations have fueled the world. Erin Kennedy's Portuguese-Irish-American combination fuel a spotlight on the good things in Northeast Ohio, things that really matter, and challenges the bad a reporter meets on the streets, to change.

While talking, Erin mentioned her responsibility to make an impact. Only two years in, the Inner View shows a family and community oriented reporter of substance, making a difference glad to call Northeast Ohio home.

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St. Colman Update

By Dan Coughlin

When Father Bob Begin struck a deal with Cleveland Bishop Richard Lennon that allowed him to remain for one more year as pastor of St. Colman Parish, there was no pouting or grieving.

"It's good," Father Begin said while tending up the altar one recent Sunday after the 11 o'clock mass. "When the Bishop said we had a whole year of transition, we couldn't ask for anything more. We won't lose momentum. We'll continue our strategic plan."

Fr. Begin seems to have accepted an ambiguous new role and his St. Colman's parishioners have recovered from the

shock of losing their long time pastor. They have resolved to throw more coal in the boiler. It's full steam ahead at the 133-year-old parish on West 65th Street, between Madison and Lorain Avenues.

"The morale here is good," said Eileen Kelly, who for eighteen years has been the administrator of the most wide-ranging outreach program in the diocese. "The congregation is strong. They have a lot of ownership in the place. They're ready for the change. They don't want it, but they accept it. It's not any one priest's church. It's their church and it's their mission."

Fr. Begin has nine more months to mentor two young African priests in the ways of running an American parish -- and not a typical American parish.

"They're young and they're dedicated to a mission," Fr. Begin said.

At St. Colman's they talk a lot about "mission." It seems that St. Colman's always was a missionary parish. In the beginning, in the 1880s and into the 20th century, it was a refuge for Irish immigrants. It was a time when every ethnic group had its own parish. Even today, an easy walk from St. Colman's are St. Stephen's, an old German parish on West 54th Street, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, an Italian parish on Detroit Avenue at West 70th Street.

St. Colman's lately has become a refuge for immigrants from many African nations, which is why Bishop Lennon chose to replace Fr. Begin with two young African priests, both members of the Apostles of Jesus.

"It takes two to replace me," Fr. Begin chuckles, enjoying his little joke.

The new pastor is Father Caroli Shao, from Tanzania. His assistant is Father Ben Koka, from Uganda. They will also take over St. Stephen's, replacing the retiring Fr. Mike Franz.

Fr. Begin stresses that the year of transition is critical because the new young priests have never been pastors anywhere before, and they know no one here in Cleveland. They have no social or business connections, which are critical to running St. Colman's, because the parish is an anchor of the Detroit-Shoreway neighborhood and the center of many people's lives.

Eileen Kelly and her staff, however, will continue to run an operation that feeds, houses and clothes hundreds of people every month. In addition, myriad other activities keep St. Colman's buzzing.

"One day we had a job fair going on. There was a wedding and the bride was running around. We were putting on a neighborhood meal and a computer class was going on," said Kelly. "That was one day, but it was every day."

Into this maelstrom the two young priests from Africa are stepping. If nothing else, they have the right attitude. They are committed to the mission.

"In Africa they work with the poorest of the poor," Fr. Begin says. "Out of their salaries here in this country, each priest supports three priests back in Africa."

The one place they feel comfortable, however, is the altar. Their African accents are thick but if you pay attention you can follow the prayers of the Mass. Not so much their homilies. Fr. Begin dismisses the language barrier.

"What sermon ever changed your life?" Fr. Begin says.

Actually, African immigrants make up a small percentage of the 1,500 households and 2,781 registered parishioners. There are many more Hispanics.

There also are the Irish. They still return from the suburbs on Sundays and for weddings and funerals. And one interesting Irishman moved back to Cleveland from Texas and moved into the St. Colman's neighborhood: Dan McGraw, a magazine writer and author who grew up in Euclid. He registered at St. Colman's and now teaches a computer course as part of the parish's outreach program.

For the time being, these people are essential to keeping St. Colman's alive.

"We need their help for the next ten to fifteen years," Fr. Bob says. "After that the neighborhood will be able to support it."

The expectation is that the Detroit-Shoreway neighborhood will experience a continued renaissance. Toward that purpose, Fr. Bob is creating what he calls a Sustaining Membership Association of families and individuals who are connected for many reasons. For example, they trace their sacramental and family roots to St. Colman's but are members of other parishes now. Others want the architectural wonder to remain a Catholic beacon of hope to the city. Some will want to help continue the mission to the neighborhood and some want to express tangible gratitude for their families received from St. Colman's in the past. Annual or monthly pledges will keep St. Colman's thriving for years.

To refresh everyone's memory, when Fr. Begin turned 75 last year, he received his marching orders. He was to march into the sunset. That's the policy in the Cleveland diocese. Priestly retirement age is 75. It's not a sacrosanct rule. In most cases when priests are still healthy, strong and willing, they are permitted to remain at their posts. There are many examples.

Fr. Begin expected to be granted an extension. After all, he was largely responsible for bringing St. Colman's back from the dead. Four years ago St.

Colman's was on Bishop Lennon's list to be closed. Fr. Begin dug in his heels and fought back. The Bishop relented and St. Colman's remained open, albeit on "probation." He presented a list of demands, such as increasing attendance at Mass and in the collection basket, expanding outreach programs for the poor, hungry and homeless. All that was accomplished.

He will turn 76 this year and he will need a home. He says he doesn't know where he will live. He has an idea, however, of what he will do. He has a law degree and is currently an active lawyer with immigration law expertise. Already he provides legal services for parishioners, especially immigrants who need birth certificates.

Stop down at St. Colman's; join the family, whether from the neighborhood or not. There's not a better cause, and Sure aren't we all neighbors anyway?

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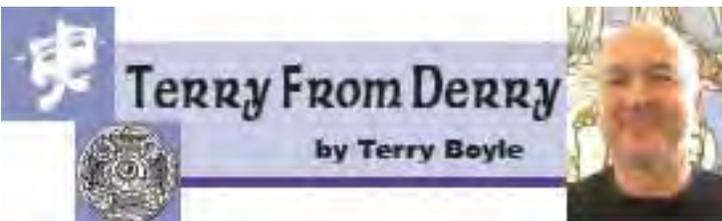
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Winter is a strange time of the year when you find yourself looking backwards and forwards at the same time. As one year recedes to become history, the new one reaches out towards us. It's also at this time of the year that I travel back, not in time, but in space, back to Derry again. This year, I'm looking forward to seeing the tail end of City of Culture events, and to finding out how the city has risen to meet this exciting challenge. Over the year, I've enjoyed my family correspondence as they've witnessed events take place that they never before experienced in the city.

It's also at this time that I re-visit the all too familiar family home. Whereas the city will be decked in its finery, my mother's home will be decorated from the cemetery of Christmas's past. How can one woman stuff so much into to such a small space? The ceiling, sporting lots of glittery objects, is oppressive. The walls, on all four sides, sparkle with an array of colours, and cards. In the corner, shrouded in flashing lights, a tree draped in ornaments, dominates the room. This is not Narnia! This is a memory that haunts my

yearly pilgrimage home.

While thousands travel to Mecca, Rome or Jerusalem, I will find myself in the North West of Ireland trapped in Santa Hell. It is here that Christmas threatens to suffocate me with its silvery chimes, flamboyant sparkles, and octogenarian, hirsute dancing, singing men. I will seek to remind myself that outside this shrine of tinsel, and jet lag, is a city of culture.

In the past year, Danny Boyle, of Slum Dog Millionaire fame, came to be a part of the festivities; the prestigious Turner Prize found its home in Derry, and Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann had the streets bustling with music and dance. Derry moved onto the centre stage, where it blossomed. Each week brought a new cultural event. Ballet, music, theatre and music shored up the aspirations of local talent. The city was changing. It was moving beyond the stigma of political disenfranchisement, and injustice.

This must surely be the dream realized, and yet... these images of sophistication will be subjugated by the tin chimes of Santa rocking around the Christmas tree.

How can one woman accrue so many Santas? Lined up along the fireplace, several fat men, with the same sinister smile and well-padded clothes leer at me. In various sizes, they each perform a trick. Press his stomach and the battery operated 'Ho Ho Ho' whines out, another walks, and yet another sings. Each year, the batteries are replaced, and the red suited men are primed for the yearly circus. And, as tradition would have it, I'm treated to an exclusive audience with each robust, plastic soul. Their little routines are greeted with a beaming smile from my mother, as she basks in the pleasure they give her.

This is no Snow White with her little men. And, while in my sleep-deprived mind, the whole thing appears as a scene in an absurdist play, I will spend the first few days orientating myself to this crippled sense of reality. The heady culture of the arts will suddenly give way to a mutated, grotesque, group of miniature men sneering at my intellectual snobbery. They will revile my desire for aestheticism, mock my refined sensibility with a 'ho, ho, ho', and delight in staring me down. I am to be their prisoner.

And, for the next fortnight, they will smile, laugh and dance regardless of my disdain. I will watch them give a hearty performance every time a grandchild, or great

grandchild visits. They will lie dormant, waiting, conserving their energy for the next little belly rub that sets them off again.

Inevitably, I will contemplate removing the batteries, or accidentally falling on top of a few of them, but it will never come to pass. My elaborate assassination plots will never materialize, despite my resolve to be proactive. In reality, it's a futile gesture, a weak attempt to assuage the growing sentimentality harboured within. I might rail against the pageantry, the crass distortion of art, and yet such distaste begins to weaken after a few days.

The smiles of a woman for whom those objectionable ornaments bring joy are enough to break the harden cynic. The culture of the mind sometimes gives way to the culture of the heart, and what lights up the faces of an old woman and her young brood may satisfy both heart and mind.

The year will close out, the city of culture will be a thing of the past, but the memory of going home will continue to live in my mind. And, those little red suited men will dance in my mind long into the future. In time, the memory of them may even bring a smile to my face.



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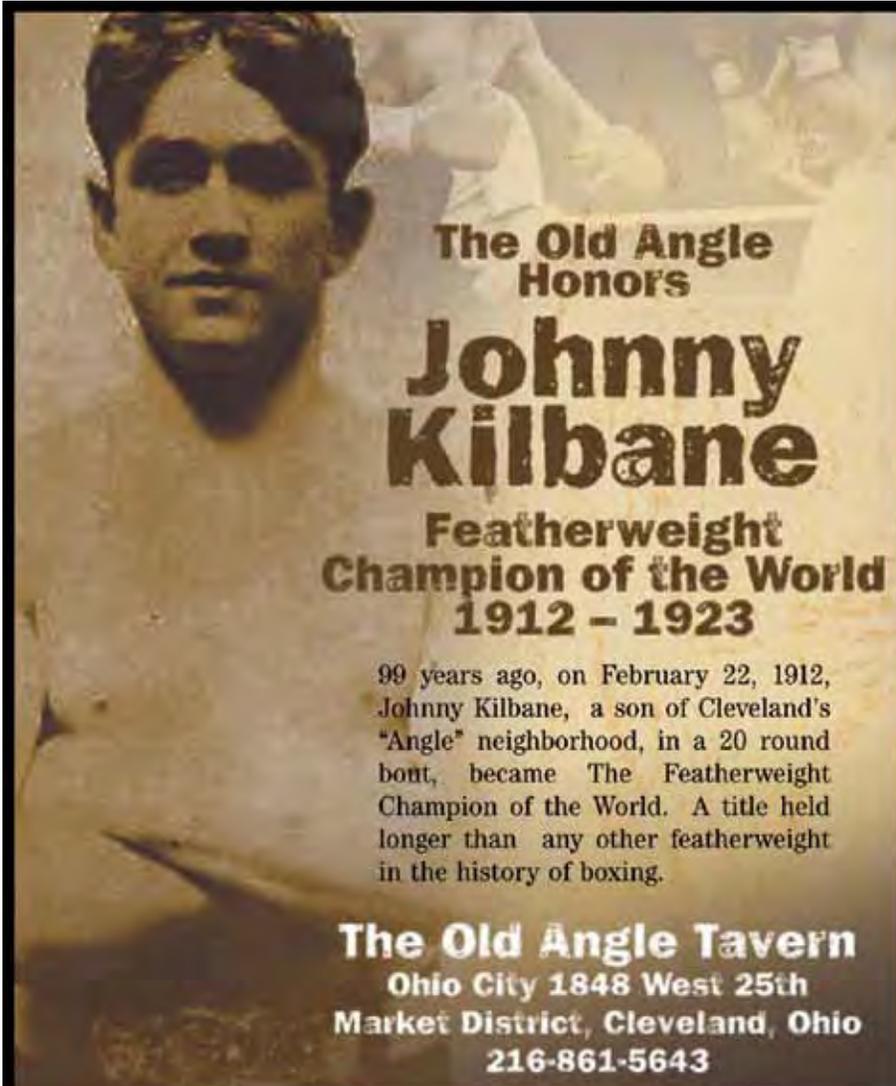
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By Linda Burke

- ACROSS**
- 5 The Geesala _____ in August with Horse and Grey Hound racing on Doolough, Show Jumping, Children's Events, Traditional Day and Angling.
 - 7 Visit the _____ Shrine and Museum to attend Mass, collect holy water, and hear the story of the apparition.
 - 8 Visit the _____ Heritage Complex to see Drum Graveyard dating from 440 AD.
 - 10 Visit The Achill _____ Garden, the most westerly garden in Ireland established in 1870.
 - 13 The neolithic _____, near Ballycastle contain the oldest known stone-walled fields in the world.
 - 15 Go fishing in the River Moy in Ballina, the _____ Capital of the Ireland.
 - 16 The Annual Bonniclon _____ Show takes place in August with livestock, produce, live music and dancing.
 - 17 Climb the holy mountain, _____ in Murrisk.
 - 21 Visit Grace O'Malley's (The _____ Queen) castles on Achill Island or Clare Island.
 - 22 Visit _____ Abbey, where mass has been held without a break since 1216 near Ballinrobe .
 - 24 Go to the Ballinrobe _____ Races held several times throughout the Spring and Summer.
 - 25 Drive from Westport to Leenane and stop at the _____ famine monument.
 - 27 Cruinniú Badoiri Acla Achill Yawl _____ Festival in July is an annual series of races with traditional boats.
 - 28 Visit Westport _____ & Pirate Adventure Park, voted one of the Best Family Visitor Attractions in Ireland.
 - 29 Take the scenic drive on _____ to see Keem Beach, Doogea Beach and Keel Beach.
 - 30 In August, _____ West is the largest one day adventure race of its kind in the world involving cycling, running, hiking and kayaking .
 - 31 Visit _____ Malloy's Pub in Westport, owned by one of the Chieftans, for some great traditional music.
- DOWN**
- 1 Visit the _____ Woolen Mills to watch master craftman at work.
 - 2 Visit _____ Abbey in Claremorris founded by St. Coleman in 668 AD.
 - 3 _____ Four Day Walking Festival includes 10km, 20km and 40km road walk and a guided cross-country 'Ramble' in July.
 - 4 The _____ of Land Installations celebrate Irish stories and mythological under-

- standings near Belmullet.
- 6 _____ Head, Poll na Seantoinne blow hole, and a sculpture known as "Thin Places" near Ballycastle.
- 7 Take the children to _____ Pet Farm to see a wide variety of exotic and domestic animals.
- 9 Go to the Samhain Abhainn to discover old _____ traditions in Ballina.
- 11 Take a walk in _____ Woods to the waterfall near Lough Mask.
- 12 Mayo _____ Park, Garden of Remembrance commemorates the fallen Military, Garda, and UN servicemen from Mayo.
- 13 Visit the National Museum of _____ Life in Turlough Park, Castlebar.
- 14 Visit the _____ Cottage Museum in Cong.
- 18 Visit the town of _____ between Lough Conn and Lough Cullen to view lovely scenery.
- 19 Arts & Crafts Festival Week held on _____ Island, with stonewall building, basket making, hens nest/basket making, weaving, lobster basket making, currachs, knitting, etc.
- 20 Fish for brown trout in Lough Mask in Tourmakeady for a chance to win the _____ cup.
- 23 The Ballyhaunis _____ Festival is a weekend in June full of activities with fun for all the family.
- 26 Visit the Michael _____ Museum in Straide, dedicated to Mayo's most famous son and greatest Patriot.



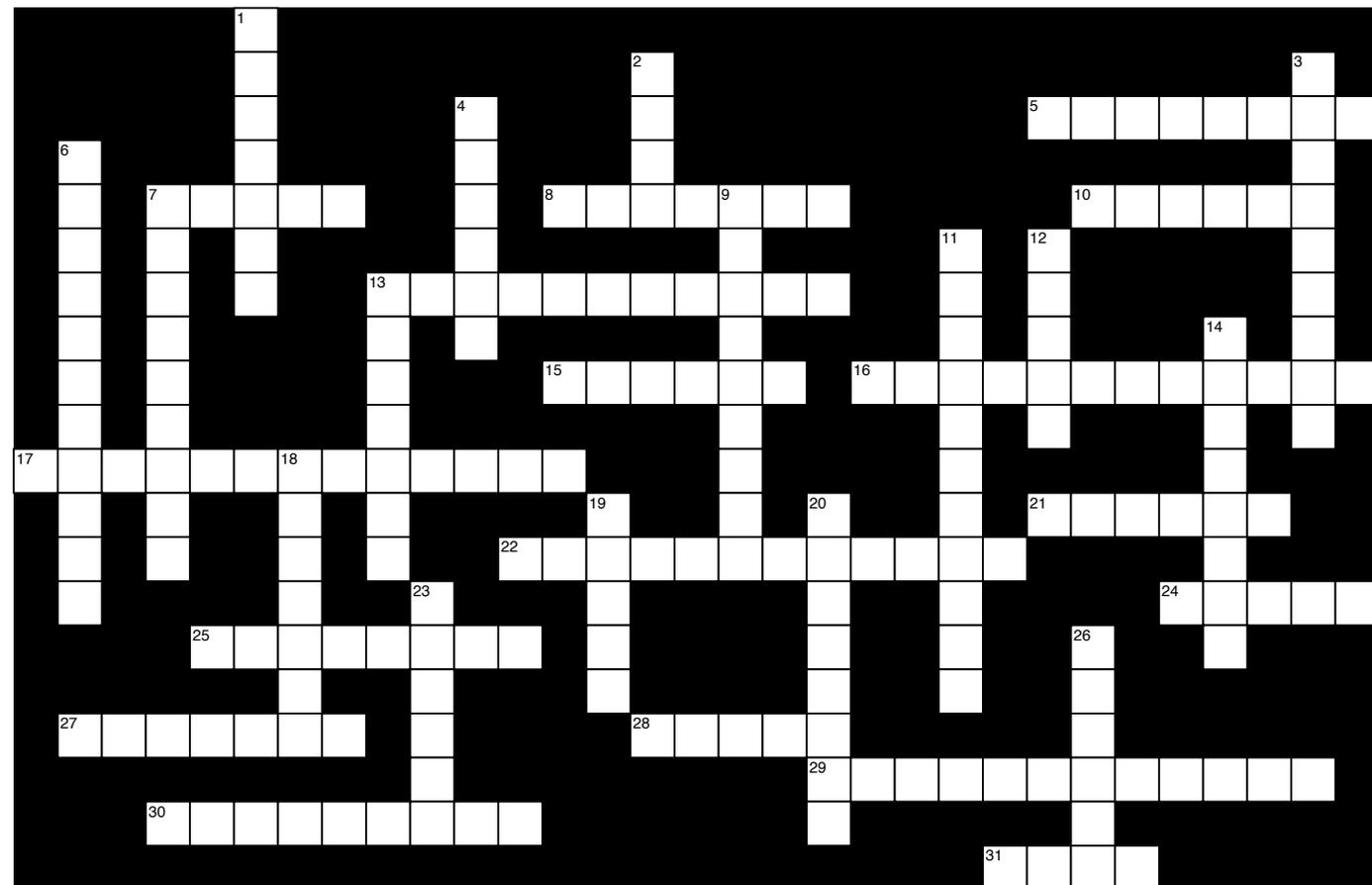
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By Susan Mangan



Threshold

"Though there was nothing in particular about the knocker on the door . . .

Scrooge saw in the knocker, not a knocker, but Marley's face."

("A Christmas Carol," by Charles Dickens)

Through the power of pen and vision, nineteenth-century author Charles Dickens sought to awaken the population as to the plight of the forgotten child and the poor. In his famous tale, "A Christmas Carol," Scrooge, a miserly old businessman, is unwittingly forced to examine his existence. He is given the chance to change the course of his life through a reckoning that

occurs in a single night, a reckoning that thrusts Scrooge forward onto a path of benevolence.

The first spirit to confront Scrooge is his "seven-years dead" business partner, Jacob Marley, who manifests upon the doorknocker which leads into Scrooge's home. The door is a metaphor for change. It can open or close. It is a portal that can lead to a new life, or a barrier that impedes our happiness when we choose to barricade ourselves against a wall of fear. Fortunately for Scrooge, with the help of three apparitions, he found a way past his fear and into the light. Change is possible, if we choose the correct path and step over the threshold of a promising door.

Throughout my travels to Ireland, England, and Scotland, I have had the opportunity to visit with people from all generations and walks of life. I come by this

pendant for conversation naturally. My grandmother Mim, a world traveler, would seize upon the kindness of unsuspecting strangers and sit with them for long periods of time engaging in "tour talk," wherein she would discuss her favorite sites in the given city, village, or hamlet. Granted, Mim did capitalize on her status as a cute little old woman, but strangers were captivated by the breadth of her knowledge and experience.

Mim was always one who embraced opportunity and enjoyed life's more subtle gifts. During the opening strains of a musical piece, whether by Bach, Beethoven, or Woody Guthrie, Mim would gently close her

wrinkled eyelids and smile, tapping out the remembered tune upon her knee. After this brief interlude, she would reopen her eyes, refreshed and thoroughly engaged in the moment. This is not to say that Mim didn't have fire lighting her spirit. The poor soul that would choose to discuss politics or the state of literacy in our world was often stunned into silence. Mim could preach like a statesman. With intelligence, confidence, and wit, Mim never accepted the status quo.

It is with these genes that I choose to look at my world, even if I only have time to look out my own front door.

This past autumn, my youngest son and I were given the opportunity to travel to Bognor Regis, England. He was to compete in the British National Championships of Irish Dancing. Newly qualified to dance at the World's Irish Dancing Championships in London during the spring of 2014, we thought it

would be a good way for him to experience the challenge of travel and overseas competition.

At first, the journey seemed daunting. Nevertheless, like the wind that continually blows in the tides of change, I embraced the opportunity for both of us, ensuring him that the dancing would be nothing compared to the travel. As we stood in the melee of London's Underground, my son looked at me with eyes wide and expectant, "Boy Mom, you were right."

I may not hear those words again until he is a grown man, but for the moment, we stood, gathering our bearings, watching the train doors open and close. Silently, we both wondered where all the Londoners were going and what adventures lie in wait for us.

Bognor Regis is a quaint English coastal town. Each day, my son and I would select a spot to have a bite of lunch and a bit of conversation. Much like my grandmother, I have a knack for

finding curious places that specialize in tasty food and interesting people.

Wind chapped and chilled from our walk along the sea, my son and I stopped in a little pub that featured wood-fired Neapolitan pizza and homemade soup. Our server was a lovely English girl. Blonde-haired and rosy-cheeked, she typified an English rose. Smitten with my son's ten-year-old charm, she lingered at our table for a while. I complimented her on the beauty of her town.

She looked at me quizzically and asked, "You think?" I replied, "Of course, I have always wanted to live on the sea." In her English country accent she agreed, "I guess we don't always appreciate that's wha' under our nose." I nodded my head and thought about the truth in those words.

During our last night in Bognor Regis, dark-

ness fell and a sharp, faceless wind blew off the sea. The sky lay black as squid ink and our path was lit only by the light of a full harvest moon. A journey that took us a mere twenty minutes by daylight stretched into what seemed like hours. With relief, my son and I finally made our way to our establishment of the day, aptly named "The Navigator."

After getting settled, my son ordered a double ginger-ale, and I a locally crafted lager. It was quite obvious to the locals enjoying their Sunday dinner that we travelers came from afar. Older gentlemen in tweed jackets balanced curved pipes onto their tobacco-stained lips and wished one another, "a jolly good meal." Their wives, proper English ladies, in cardigan sweaters and plaid woolen skirts, smiled and sipped dainty portions of port in bulbous brandy snifters.

As my son and I indulged in steaming fish pie and freshly cut chips, a most curious looking man caught my attention. From our very entrance, he watched us. Most people would be a bit put off by this lanky older man wearing a bedraggled Fair Isle sweater and sporting a grey beard as long as Moses'.

My grandmother's own girl, I struck up a conversation with this man as I paid my bill at the bar. He told me he was a lazy musician who loved to read, but his love of jazz and letters never amounted to much. He asked about my whereabouts and declared that he had relations in Ohio. Again, I complimented him on the beauty of his village. Much like the barmaid by the beach, he looked at me with bulging eyes and queried, "Ya' think?" Holding the door for us as we left, the man wished us an elaborate blessing that involved a host of angels to guide us home and a final "Godspeed." The door may have closed on the gentle folk in The Navigator, but for my son and I, our journey was just beginning.

*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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OUT & ABOUT OHIO

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Brooklyn

Hooley House!

3rd - Matt Johnson Dueling Pianos, 4th - Collage, 10th - Big Ship, 11th - Almost Famous, 17th - Top Dog, 18th - Breakfast Club, 24th - Velvet Shake, 25th - Faction, 31st - Marys Lane. 10310 Cascade Crossing, Brooklyn 216-362-7700. 1FunPub.com

Cincinnati

Irish Heritage Center

10th - Ballroom Lessons Every Friday, 16th - Irish Pub Night Mick & Friends, 18th - History on Tap Book signing - Lessons from the Northern Ireland Peace Process, 2 p.m., 23rd - Celtic Women International St Bridget Celebration, 24th - Samuel Beckett Exhibit. Call for Irish Rugby Schedule Games Streamed in from Eire. Irish Teas/Library/Genealogy Detective/ all 3 by appointment. call Irish Heritage Center 3905 Eastern Ave 513.533.0100, www.irishcenterofcincinnati.com.

Cleveland

The Harp

3rd - irish session, 4th - the porter sharks, 8th - chris & tom, 10th - walking cane, 11th - chris allen, 15th - lonesome stars, 17th - pitch the peat, 18th - fior gael, 22nd - chris & tom, 24th - kristine Jackson, 25th - joe rollin, 29th - lonesome stars, 31st - brent kirby. 4408 Detroit Road, 44113 www.the-harp.com

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Live music entertainment every Sunday. Traditional Irish Session 1st Sunday of ea/month, Happy Hour Monday-Friday 4 to 7. 1306 West 65th Street Cleveland 44102 216-281-6500

Cleveland

Flat Iron Café

3rd - Bluegrass Platter, 10th - Jim & Eroc Classic Rock Duo, 17th - Donal O'Shaughnessy, 24th - Joe Rollin Porter, 31st - Jimmy-O. 1114 Center St. Cleveland 44113-2406 216.696.6968. www.flatironcafe.com

Treehouse

820 College Avenue, Cleveland, 44113 www.treehousecleveland.com

PJ McIntyre's

3rd - DJ, 8th - Monthly Pub Quiz w Mike D, 10th - New Barleycorn, 11th - Carlos Jones 17th - DJ, 18th - Marys Lane, 23rd - Craic Brothers, 24th - DJ, 25th - Boys from Co Hell, 31st - Brittany Reilly Band. Don't forget T-Shirt Tues: wear any PJs T-Shirt get 15% off bill! Whiskey Wed: 1/2 off every whiskey in the house. Thurs - Craft Beer \$2.50. NEW CRAFT BEER REFRIGERATOR. PJ McIntyre's is a Local 10 Union establishment. Home of the Celtic Supporter's Club. Book all your parties & Events in our Bridgie Ned's Irish Parlor Party Room. 17119 Lorain Road, 44111. www.pjmcintyres.com 216-941-9311.

West Park Station

2nd - Jim & Eroc HH, 3rd - Honey Spine HH, 17th - Jim & Quinn HH, 24th - Top Hat Black



*Brent Kirby:
17th - Flannery's,
31st - The Harp*

HH. Hottest DJ Contest: 4th - DJ Shred 10pm, 11- DJ Augy 10pm, 18th - DJ Kidd 10pm, 25th - DJ Fokus 10pm, 31st - DJ Ace of Spades 10pm. Colors & Bottles classes: 14th & 28th 6pm. 'Merican Mondays & Trivia Night 7pm. Tues: Roll Call-discounted drinks for all Fire, Police, Military & Med Professionals 9pm. Wed: Karaoke 10pm. Thur: Girl's Night 10pm. Sun: SIN Night 9pm. 17015 Lorain Avenue Cleveland 44111 www.westparkstation.com. (216) 476-2000.

Flannery's Pub

New Year's Eve - Claire Stuczynski, 3rd & 4th - New Barleycorn, 10th - Bar Flies, 11th - Higbees, 17th - Brent Kirby, 18th - Kristine Jackson, 24th - Bar Flies, 25th - Walking Cane. 323 East Prospect, Cleveland 44115 216.781.7782 www.flannerys.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. www.aherncatering.com

Euclid

Irish American Club East Side

3rd - Craic Brothers, 10th - Celtic Union, 17th - Mary Agnes Kennedy, 18th - Celtic Comedy Night \$10/\$12 w 4 Irish Comedians, 24th - Mad Macs, 25th - 36th Anniversary Dance w McLean Ave Band \$25/\$30, 31st - Donegal Doggs. PUB: 7:30 - 10:30. IACES 22770 Lake Shore Blvd. Euclid, 44123. 216.731.4003 www.irishamericanclubeastside.org

Fairview Park

Stampers Bar & Grill

21750 Lorain Road, Fairview Park 44126. 440.333.7826. www.stampersbar.com

Findlay

Logan's Irish Pub

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

Lakewood

Beck Center for the Arts

3rd 4th & 5th - Annie. 27th - Winter/Spring 2014 Semester Begins. 17801 Detroit Avenue Lakewood 44107 (216) 521-2540 www.beckcenter.org

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Medina

Sully's 3rd - Lisa Spicer, 4th - Michael Crawley, 10th - Marys Lane, 11th - Craic Brothers, 17th - Donegal Doggs, 18th - Donal O'Shaughnessy, 24th - High Strung Irish, 25th - Island Doctor. 31st - New Barleycorn. 117 W. Liberty www.sullysmedina.com

Mentor

Hooley House 4th - Abbey Rodeo, 10th - Pat Dailey 8:00 (\$10 cover), 17th - Marys Lane, 24th - Abby Normal, 25th - Charlie in the Box, 31st - Big Ship. All starts @9:30: Each Tues Open Mic w Nick Zuber, Each Weds-Trivia Night. 7861 Reynolds Rd www.1funpub.com (440) 942-6611.

Olmsted Township

West Side Irish American Club

10th - Ceili, 25th - Bridal Show. Great live music and food in the Pub every Friday starts 5:30. 5th 12th 19th & 26th - Marching Practice 12:00 - 7:00. WSIA Club 8559 Jennings Rd. 44138 www.wsia-club.org. 440-235-5868

Willoughby

Mullarkey's

3rd - Jam Sammich, 4th - Kevin McCarthy, 10th - Eric Butler, 11th - No Stranger Here, 17th - Mo Andrews, 18th - Dan McCoy, 24th - Brendan Burt Band, 25th - Mossy Moran, 31st - Pat Shepherd. Wed: Karaoke, Thurs: Ladies Night w/ D.J. 4110 Erie Street www.mullarkeys.com

Columbus

Shamrock Club Events

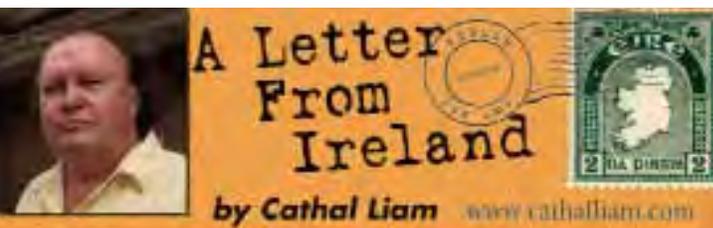
Happy Hour every Friday from 5-7pm! 60 W. Castle Rd. Columbus 43207 614-491-4449 www.shamrockclubofcolumbus.com

Tara Hall

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.

*Kristine Jackson: 18th -
Flannery's, 24th - The Harp*





'H'anam chun Dé, but there it is— / The dawn on the hills of Ireland

God's angels lifting the night's black veil / From the fair, sweet face of my sireland!

Oh Ireland! isn't it grand you look— / Like a bride in her rich adornin!

With all the pent-up love of my heart, / I bid you the top of the mornin'."

Yes, 'the top of the mornin'...and the year as well to each of you.

Sure, I couldn't resist opening this with a quote from Ireland's wonderful poet and writer, John Locke and the first lines of his poem "Dawn on the Irish Coast." [To learn more about Locke and hear Ciarán Mac Mathúna recite the entire poem, Google John Locke Ireland.]

Knowing of what Locke writes, I'm constantly drawn back to that 'sweet face.' Call it sentimentality or fear of not having my fill, I return repeatedly. Drawn by old, familiar faces and places, I delight in the comfort of being back. On a recent journey, I savoured the chance again to sit at the bar of The Oval on Middle Abbey Street. This 1820 pub has chronicled its share of neighbourhood happenings over the years. It sustained significant damage during Easter Week, 1916, as it's only steps away from the GPO.

Enjoying my first pint of Irish Guinness in a while, I eagerly await the arrival of homemade lamb stew with its accompanied butter-slathered slices of brown bread.

An hour of talking with the barman plus watching people come and go, all interspersed with perusing snippets from the local newspaper gently reassures me I'm back on familiar ground.

After settling up and a "be seeing ya," I'm out the door, making for the Liffey and Fleet Street. In five minutes, I'll be in another time-honoured haunt, the Palace Bar.

Pushing through the front door and taking in its musty ambiance, I find a quiet seat in the backroom of this, one

of my favourite pubs. It's near the top end of Fleet Street, away from the busy traffic of College Green and the congestion of touristy Temple Bar. It's just the spot for another pint and some reflection.

The old place hasn't changed much since I've been away and why should it've...it's been a Dublin public house for just shy of

two-hundred years. Sure, there's a newish table or two over there, but the well-used chairs and stools are a good few years old. On the walls, as they have for generations, familiar old faces look down from their framed places of honour onto today's clientele.

Nowadays, the only thing missing are the cigarettes, though the yellowish walls remain a silent testament to earlier smoke-filled-room days. The stained-glass windows, decorating the skylight above, and the massive wooden bar in front look as they always have. Ah yes, the comfort of familiar surroundings.

Later, out in Howth, the afternoon sun sinks low in the sky. The bracing sea air adds a hurry to each footstep. With mufflers tightly wrapped and coats well buttoned, pedestrians walk briskly, hoping to ward off the impending night chill. Darting into Ivans and Wrights fish shops, I marvel at the day's catch, so artfully displayed on beds of crushed ice. The ocean's bounty looks most inviting.

I wish I'd a sauté pan, some garlic, butter and a squeeze of lemon to scurry up my supper. But no bother... only a few more steps and I'll be comfortably ensconced in The Oar House. Under the watchful eye of Lynn, the welcoming maitre d' of this intimate bistro, I know I'll be well minded. The saying over the open-kitchen serving window prophesies good things to come, "Keep Calm, Drink Wine." The wonderful seafood, fine service and cosy surroundings make dining a pleasure to savour here always.

Two other spots that deserve your patronage are located just a block from one another. Of special note is The Sussex on Sussex Terrace, Upper Leeson Street, just over the Leeson St. Bridge. Situated above a neighbourhood favourite, O'Brien's Pub, this restaurant, noted for its fine, well-crafted cuisine, featuring locally sourced veg, meats and fish, is superb. Chef/owner Dave Coffey knows how to please his patrons, serving delicious fish and steak entrées of the highest quality, all sensibly



priced. It's a 'must stop' on your Dublin grand tour.

Less than a block away is another gastronomic delight called The Farm on Upper Leeson St. It touts fresh, organic and free-range fare at reasonable prices, all in a snug setting. The fireplace is welcoming; the food tasty; the service attentive and their Irish coffee makes a wonderful end to a fine meal.

Speaking of saving a bob or two, one New Year's resolution might include salting away your one and two euro-cent coins, if the on-going experiment in Wexford town has its say. Since September, over 250 merchants have participated in rounding up or down all cash transactions to the nearest five cents. These wafer-thin coppers aren't really worth the cost of production. [The 1¢ coin is actually 94.5% steel with a 5.5% copper coating costing 1.7¢ to manufacture while the 2¢ bit's overhead is exactly 2¢.]

The debate over keeping the little divils isn't new. They serve no practical purpose. The fear of merchants overcharging the public seems groundless...just ask your friends in Wexford. Last year, Canada announced it was eliminating their penny from circulation while Australia and New Zealand stopped using their one and two-cent coins twenty years ago. In fact, the Kiwis deep-sixed their five-cent pieces in 2006.

For those of you with long memories, Ireland stopped minting the farthing in 1956, after some five-hundred years, and in the mid-1980s, the halfpenny bid us a fond farewell.

So yes, with my pennies safely tucked inside an old sock, I bid you all a most Happy and prosperous New Year...God bless and many happy returns, Cathal



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MILESTONES

Notre Dame/St. Mary's Team Wins First Place in All Ireland's Ceili Dance Competition

The 2013 Notre Dame/St. Mary's Ceili Dance Team won first place in the All Ireland's dance competition at Belfast's Waterfront Hall on November 3, 2013. The win marks the third straight for Notre Dame/St. Mary's as the 2010 and 2012

teams also placed first. This prestigious competition brings the world's most talented Irish dancers together every two years; the Notre Dame/St. Mary's Ceili team is rightfully proud of their winning achievement and their tradition of Irish



The World Champion Ceili Team holding their 1st Place Trophy. 1st Row: Katy Wahl, Kelly McGovern, Grace Deardurff, Mary Kate McLaughlin, Katie Herman, Lauren Kepley. Back Row: Connor Reider, Anne Marie Crowell, Cathy Cichon.

dancing excellence.

Senior coach Connor Reider said the team performed their final dance called the Cross Reel, flawlessly. "It was beautiful because it was more than just a dance; it was our hard work, our coordination, all the fun we had at practices and performances. It was all worth it and it was perfect," said Reider.

Tara Macleod, associate teaching professor in the department of Irish Language and Literature and the faculty advisor to the Ceili Club, who traveled to Ireland with the team said its focus on competition helped the team to succeed. She went onto say, "they were wonderful ambassadors for the University...they were such a team. It was quite impressive to watch."

Since it was the first visit to the Emerald Isle for many of the dancers, the team arrived in Ireland several days before the competition to enjoy their visit there. The team enjoyed visiting several places while in Ireland. They spent a day at Giant's Causeway and Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge. They also did sightseeing around Dublin and Belfast along with some shopping.

Lauren Kepley and her sister, Rachel Kepley, both attend St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana and as members of the Notre Dame St. Mary's Irish

Dance Team will be on the stage at the University of Notre Dame for a special Irish dance show January 17, 18 and 19, 2014. The girls each enjoyed 11 years as Junior Hibernians with both serving as president of the Golden Rose Queen of Ireland LAOH Junior Division #6 Mahoning County, Ohio.

Involvement in the Right to Life initiative and volunteering at a local community Life event were annual commitments for Rachel who intends to participate in the 2014 March for Life in Washington, D.C in January. Lauren, who visited Holy Cross School shortly after the height of the "Troubles" to share letters and art work from all our Juniors will student teach in a South Bend area school during the Spring semester before graduating in May.

Congratulations to Denise Dufala, celebrating 20 years with 19 Action News and Erin Kennedy, celebrating 2 years with Channel 3 News, both are featured in our new Inner View column this month.

Congratulations to Sean Lackey and all the gang at Flanagan's Wake, back for their 5th year at Playhouse Square. Fantastic fun, don't miss it.




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Congrats to Brady Campbell School of Dance, winning US and Adult Ceili categories at the Mid America Oireachtas Irish dance competition in Grand Rapids, MI. [PIC]

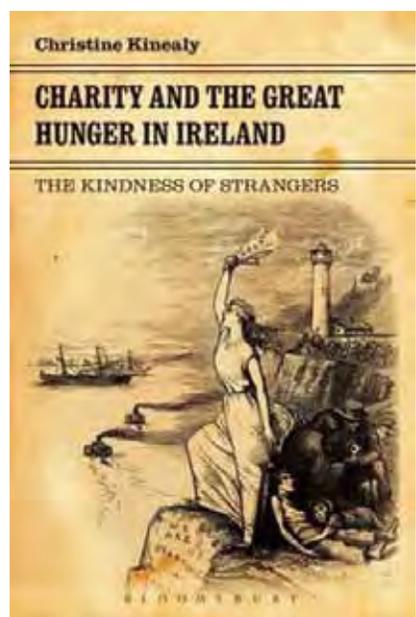
Charity and the Great Hunger in Ireland

By Felix Molski
 A Review of Christine Kinealy's:
Paperback, 424 pages, ISBN 13: 9781441146489 ISBN 10: 1441146482, Publisher: Bloomsbury Academic; First edition (October 10, 2013)

Christine Kinealy's new book, *Charity and the Great Hunger in Ireland*, is a paradigm shift in Ana Gorta Mor literature. I believe it to be the most significant book yet published about the Great Hunger. No understanding of this period is complete without due consideration being given to the full gamut of human character; the bad and the ugly, but the good and heroic too.

As soon as people from all four corners of the world learned of the grievous circumstances of their 'brothers and sisters' in mid nineteenth century Ireland, the oft-latent good side of human nature was sparked; overwhelming generosity met overwhelming suffering and despair. Christine Kinealy analyses the 'intertwined' threads of this fated relationship and, as we read, what we experience is like the development of a photograph in a darkroom. A detailed picture of the period begins to emerge in our minds. Two hundred and ninety one perceptive pages are supported by seventy seven pages of footnotes, nearly two thousand in all. Professor Kinealy has scoured all

archives, libraries and sources to find every possible skerrick and morsel of documentation to give us added



insight into the tragedy as it unfolded and the human response from across the globe in all its manifestations. Even a reference to a £5 donation made by a backwoods lawyer from Springfield Illinois was chased down. That lawyer later became the 16th President of the United States!

"Infinite variety" is how David At-

tenborough described and marvelled about animal and plant life in 'Life on Earth' and an 'infinite variety' of 'The Kindness of Strangers' can be discovered between the covers of 'Charity and the Great Hunger in Ireland'. The cornucopia of benevolence therein can be cherry picked by anyone interested in doing further research or it can be used to find anecdotes of goodness for goodness sake. Each chapter begins with a meaningful quote beckoning the reader to enter; an appetiser creating an air of expectancy and anticipation of discovery; of learning.

The good works of the Society of Friends in Ireland and the USA is examined in detail. The indiscriminate benevolence of the Quakers in response to Ana Gorta Mor is well known. Nearly every book published about this tragedy to some extent mentions the help 'Friends' provided to the starving. Helen E Hatton's book 'The Largest Amount of Good' in particular, also covers much of this ground. Professor Kinealy, however, brings into the spotlight all major responders to Irish need. For example the endeavours of the British Relief Association, which in fact was the largest and a very successful charitable organisation involved in providing relief to Ireland, is explored thoroughly. The benevolence of the Association's chief agent, Paul Edmund Strzelecki, features prominently.

The impact of the innovative scheme Strzelecki devised for clothing and feeding children through the medium of schools as well as his hygiene requirements is described and its positive results assessed. Christine Kinealy documents the huge impact of this simple idea with some of the typical observations made in the many written reports praising the scheme. The magnificent charitable works of women such as the author Maria Edgeworth and Asenath Nicholson are also given the recognition they deserve, but so too are the thousands of women who anonymously provided a wide range of indispensable services to the needy. A Chapter is dedicated to the vital role of the Catholic Church but Protestant benevolence and the benevolence of all major religions around the world is not neglected.

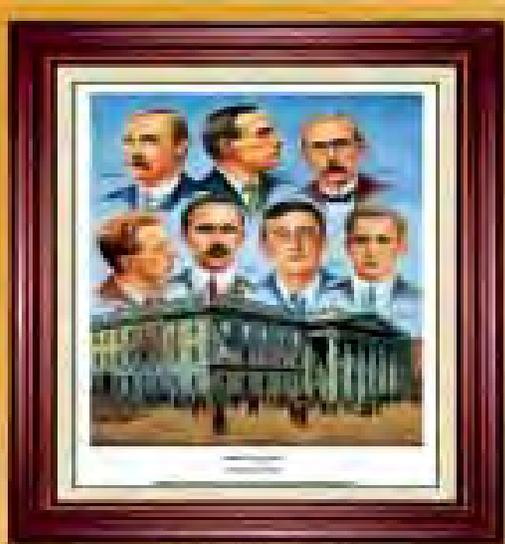
Poignant contrasts compel our attention. For instance, strict, inflexible and heartless 'official' relief is compared to direct, efficient and empathetic 'private' relief. The contributions and impact of the elites of Britain and from around the world are juxtaposed with examples of those offering their 'mite' despite their own dearth. The gesture of the Choctaw Indians is a well-known but Professor Kinealy provides many other examples such as donations made by slaves, by 'fallen women' by low paid workers, and by schoolchildren.

Relief myths, controversies and motivations are scrutinised within the political issues and social attitudes framework of the period. Critics and naysayers legitimate or not, always exist, but although the criticisms are discussed, Christine Kinealy keeps our focus on the 'Good Samaritans' who provided help with purity of soul. The point is made that it wasn't the mean spirited groups and individuals who ended the kindness of strangers; some of the attention was redirected to helping Irish immigrants. However the unprecedented benevolence came to a premature end mainly because of the mistaken perception that the emergency had passed.

Charity and the Great Hunger in Ireland has soul. It is an essential companion to any other book about Ireland's Great Hunger, and, because the author has provided a crisp, clear and concise context – the how, where and why of the Hunger – the book can stand on its own as well. It is a must read for any serious student because for the first time, 'man's humanity to man' during Ana Gorta Mor is comprehensively, authoritatively and definitively explored.

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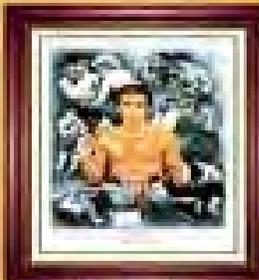
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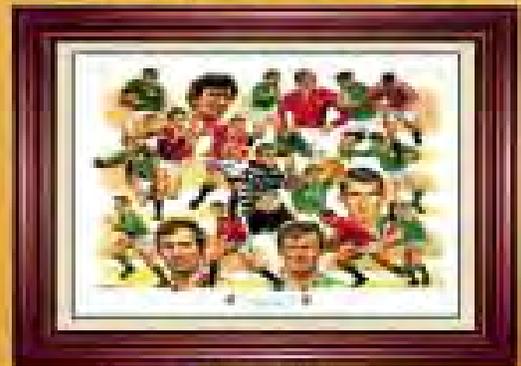
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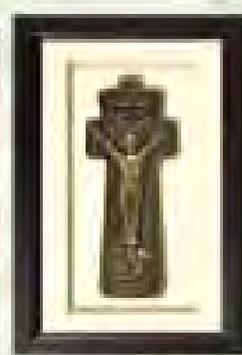
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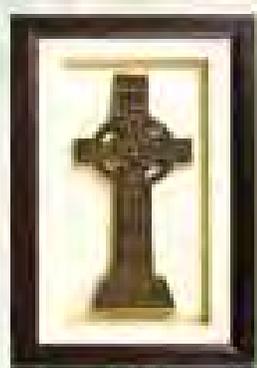
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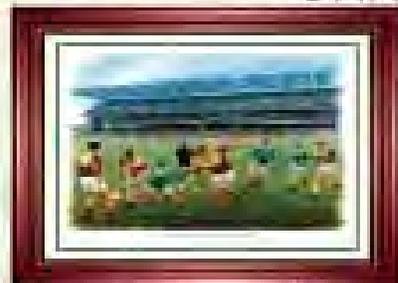
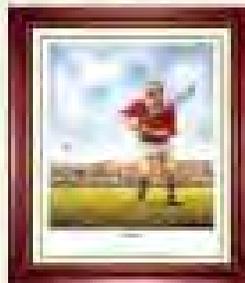
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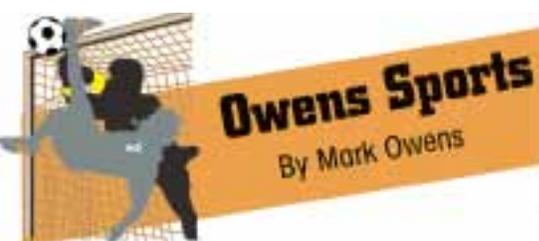
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GAA Rule Changes: Happy New Year to everyone, I hope you all had a great Christmas and are ready to go with your New Year's Resolutions. Gaelic Football will undergo new resolutions this year as well, in the form of new rules. Set in stone, it will be interesting to see how they work.

On This Day in Irish History

5 January 1922 - Sir Ernest Shackleton, polar explorer, dies suddenly in South Georgia as he prepared to lead a fourth expedition to the Antarctic.

10 January 1941 - Sir John Lavery, painter, dies.

16 January 1922 - Michael Collins, as chairman of the Provisional Government of Southern Ireland, formally accepted the transfer of power from the British at Dublin Castle.

17 January 1860 - Douglas Hyde, scholar, co-founder of the Gaelic League (1893) and first president of Ireland (1938-45), was born in Castlerea, Co. Roscommon.

20 January 1902 - Birth in Dublin of Kevin Barry, the first IRA Volunteer to be executed during the Anglo-Irish war.

20 January 1961 - John F. Kennedy is inaugurated as President of the United States.

23 January 1980 - Giuseppe Conlon (57) one of the 'Maguire Seven' whose convictions were overturned in 1991, died in Hammersmith Hospital, London, in the fifth year of a twelve year sentence for possession of explosives.

30 January 1845 - Birth of Katharine ("Kitty") O'Shea, mistress and later wife of nationalist leader, Charles Stewart Parnell. Their affair caused a scandal which ultimately led to Parnell's downfall as leader in December 1890.

The rule change is centered on an updated disciplinary system, with the main talking point being the introduction of the 'black card' for cynical behavior fouls. It is a rule change that was highly controversial in the lead up and during last year's GAA Congress that took place in Derry. Prior to the motion to introduce the card being passed, many thought it was unnecessary to add such a card, that it was unclear what would actually merit a black card offence. It was felt there was little understanding of what a black card offence actually was as opposed to a yellow or red card. Despite having its numerous critics, the motions passed at Congress. With it comes with the task of implementation, not just in Ireland, but around the GAA globe.

So what is the rule exactly and how does it work? Black cards can be issued for the following infractions:

- Deliberately pulling down an opponent
- Deliberately trip an opponent with the hand(s), arm, leg or foot
- Deliberate body collision with an opponent after he has played

the ball away or for the purpose of taking him out of a movement of play

- Threatening or abusive or provocative language or gestures to an opponent or a teammate
- Remonstrate in an aggressive manner with a match official

As mentioned, the red and yellow card systems remains, as a reminder here are what warrant each of these:

Red Cards - Immediate Ordering Off Infractions

- Striking or attempting to strike with arm, elbow, hand, knee or head.

- Kicking or attempting to kick with minimal force or with force or causing injury

- Behaving in any way which is dangerous to an opponent

- Spitting at an opponent
- Contributing to a melee
- Stamping
- Inflicting injury recklessly
- Abusive language towards a referee, umpire, linesman or sideline official

The following are guidance for yellow card infractions:

- To block or attempt to block with the boot when an opponent is kicking the ball from the hand(s)
- To prevent or attempt to prevent an opponent from lifting or kicking the ball off the ground by striking an opponent's hand, arm, foot or leg with the boot
- To engage in any other form of rough play
- To attempt to achieve an ad-

vantage by feigning a foul or injury

The addition of the black card along with the current yellow and red cards sees the disciplinary system look something like the diagram below.

Here in the U.S., I can see a huge learning curve for referee's, especially in its first year of effect. We do not have referee's up to standard in implementing the previous disciplinary system, never mind throwing in new rules, rules not straight forward to all. 2014 will definitely be a transition year, not just for players, but for officials too. No doubt there will be the usual contingent of those that feel the game is changing too much and that these are unnecessary changes. However when you look back at how this was done, it was voted on at the annual Congress by an overwhelming majority of members.

Trivia: First last month's question: Roy Keane's playing career

started in the League of Ireland in 1989, but with which club did he star for? A: The Cobh Ramblers. In 1989, the Cork man signed for the semi-pro team after persuasion from then youth team manager Eddie O'Rourke. After some very impressive outings for the first team, he was eventually spotted by a scout from England, Noel McCab, who was working for English team Nottingham Forest. He was impressed enough to call Forest boss Brian Clough up and persuaded him to sign Keane.

This month's question: Next month sees the Six Nations Championships kick off once again, but who are the reigning champions?

*Mark Owens is originally from Derry City, Ireland and resides in the Cleveland area since 2001. He is the Director of Marketing for Skylight Financial Group in Cleveland. Send questions, comments or suggestions for future articles to Mark at: markfromderry@gmail.com

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