



irish american news

**ian**  
**OHIO**

May 2014

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The Streetcar That Never Came ... page 23

Photo by John O'Brien, Jr.

**irish american news**



# RUNOHIO



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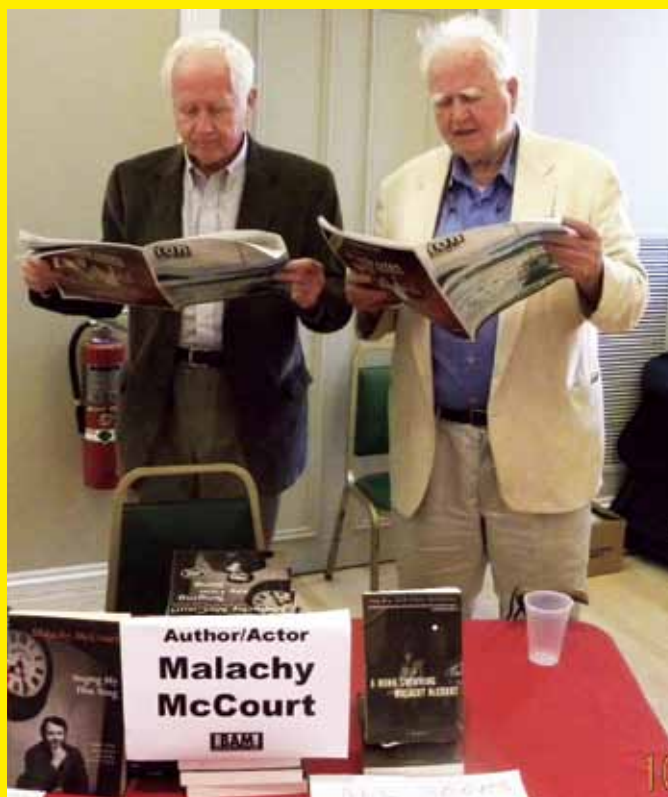
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## MILESTONES

Our thoughts and prayers to Sheriff Frank Bova, whose father, Frank Bova, Passed away March 30th after a long illness. A 30-year police officer, he left a legacy of service, seeding and great honor.

Congratulations to Sandra Puskarcik and Dave McKee, celebrating their 30th Wedding Anniversary, with a trip to Ireland this month!

Congratulations to Maureen Casey Brubaker and Kathleen Casey Proctor, owners of Casey's Irish Imports in Rocky River for winning the Celtic Warrior Award, presented to outstanding merchants & members of the North American Celtic Trade Association, in recognition of active participation in the Celtic market thereby supporting and promoting Celtic heritage in his/ her community, in North America and in the Celtic nations.



There are over 1.4 million people of Irish descent in Ohio; 475,000 in Greater Cleveland; 175,00 in Cuyahoga County: Want to reach them? Advertise in the Ohio Irish American News:  
[jobrien@ianohio.com](mailto:jobrien@ianohio.com).





2012, Páraic Ó Dufaigh, Ard Stiúrthóir made it clear that the GAA were actively seeking ways to help show the Games

globally. After this deal was signed he said, "In the negotiation of these rights, the GAA was guided by a wish to drive the promotion of Gaelic games and we believe the new rights' contracts will provide Gaelic games with their widest-ever global audience reach.

"We look forward to working with

is a multi-million Euro company with a huge appeal; they are now getting to a point where there is interest not just in Ireland and they have paid attention to that. When sponsors were allowed on jerseys a few years back and then Croke Park redevelopment the Stadium, eyebrows were certainly raised, yet it has all worked out for the good of the Game.

The TV Deal and America: How it will affect those of us who support the GAA here in America will be slightly different, although at the time of writing we are still awaiting final details. In a nutshell, around the country, the Irish bars and Irish clubs like Gaelic Park in Chicago and the Irish Cultural Center in

of the GAA, Páraic Ó Dufaigh, came to Cleveland to see for himself the great community and club we have.

With the new TV deal, we here in America are not worse off than we were before. I am confident we will have much better access to the Games, so that not only those who already support the GAA can watch, but so that we can introduce friends, family and the curious onlookers to the Games in the hope they might want to take it up and be part of it.

Cleveland St Pat's Seven-a-Side Tournament: For those looking to get into the spirit of the GAA season, Cleveland St Pat's will be hosting their annual Seven's Tournament on Saturday May 17th at the Bradley-Barton Soccer Complex in North Olmsted. This is the same venue where the North American Championships were held last summer. Men's and ladies football and hurling will be on show, admission is free. Teams from Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Columbus, Buffalo, Toronto and Chicago have confirmed entries. Games start at 10am and will go until 5pm, with evening celebrations at our sponsor, PJ McIntyre's, starting at 9pm.

Trivia: Last month's question: When Ireland played at the 1988 Euro's, they beat England 1-0 and Christy Moore wrote a legendary song about it – who scored the only goal that fine afternoon? Ray Houghton – and well done to Farrell Gallagher of Rocky River, who not only emailed the correct answer, but gave me an entire breakdown of where he was on that glorious day when we beat the English. Ironically the goal Houghton scored in Stuttgart that day was the first he scored for Ireland. A great way to break your duck!!

This month's question: Last year Dublin retained the All-Ireland Championship in football when they beat Mayo by a score of 2-12 to 1-14, who scored Mayo's goal that day?

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

## The GAA and a new TV Deal

This past week, the Gaelic Athletic Association announced details of a ground breaking, some might call, earth shattering deal for the broadcasting rights of the Games as we know it. With it has come a great deal of controversy, the usual few tweeting and posting online about the Grab All Association (GAA) and all that jazz. But in all honesty, when you look at the details it's not too bad. I received an official press release outlining details of the deal and will quote from it so as to provide the correct details to quell the rumored details. It's not a bad deal at all, primarily for those at home in Ireland. How does it affect us here in America though?

Within Ireland, a total of 45 Provincial and All-Ireland championship matches will be broadcast live on television annually for the next three years: a total of 31 games will be shown by RTÉ (as per the last contract) and 14 by Sky Sports. The 31 championship games to be televised by RTÉ include the All-Ireland finals and semi-finals in both codes, the All-Ireland hurling quarter-finals, and two of the four All-Ireland football quarter-finals.

RTÉ have also secured the rights to all six Provincial championship finals, while the remainder of the 31 games to be shown live on RTÉ are a mixture of provincial championship and qualifier games. Ulster championship games covered by RTÉ, including the Provincial football final, will also be broadcast on BBC Northern Ireland.

Sky Sports has obtained exclusive Island of Ireland rights to 14 championship games. These consist of eight Saturday evening matches in the All-Ireland qualifiers, two All-Ireland football championship quarter-finals, and two Saturday evening and two Sunday Provincial championship games. In addition to these 14 games, Sky Sports will also broadcast live the All-Ireland hurling and football semi-finals and finals, thus making 20 live games available to its subscribers throughout Britain and Ireland.

Over the years, and indeed when the North American GAA Convention was held in Cleveland in November



SkySports Páraic Ó Dufaigh

all of our broadcast partners in television and radio, and are enthused by the prospect of having our games presented to the highest standards of sports' broadcasting. We are delighted to have retained our domestic partnerships with RTÉ, TG4, Setanta Sports, Newstalk and Raidió na Gaeltachta. We welcome our new partnership with Sky Sports and firmly believe that their coverage of our games will bring a new excitement to our championships.

"Financial considerations were far from being the guiding criterion in our negotiations, and were of lesser importance than the issue of making our games more widely available to Irish people living abroad. In fact, the financial benefit to the GAA from the new broadcast contracts compared to the previous ones is marginal."

A lot of people in Ireland were initially shaking their heads when the details of the deal were announced, but in all honesty for those on the island of Ireland nothing has really changed. People can still go their local county ground to watch the Games and they'll still be able to watch the majority of Games on TV or listen on the radio. In essence, the GAA

Canton, MA. will still subscribe through Premium Sports. For those that want to watch in the comfort of your own home, there will be an online subscription service that will be provided by RTE and will include an opportunity to purchase a season ticket. Details will be published on the North American GAA Facebook page and online at [www.northamericangaa.com](http://www.northamericangaa.com) when available.

The GAA is very good at putting money back into the game itself, particularly here in America. I have seen firsthand development money being invested in youth programs throughout the country, be it in the GAA hubs of Chicago, Boston or Philadelphia and even in far off places like Montana, Milwaukee and Portland – places you would never expect to see Gaelic Games flourishing, but they are.

Right here in Cleveland, one of our local clubs, Cleveland St Pat's, will soon break ground on a redeveloped field at the West Side Irish American Club. It will include a better playing surface and irrigation, offering a more welcoming venue for players and spectators alike. The GAA in Ireland has been 100% behind this project since the 2012 day that Director General

**About Our Cover:**  
*The last of the 17th Century  
 Old Houses, Atteagh Mills,  
 Co. Roscommon.*  
*Photo by John O'Brien, Jr.*



## Editor's Corner



**John O'Brien, Jr.**

## Yank...

Congratulations to Sean Lackey, who's film, "The Yank" premiered at the Cleveland International Film Festival. Sean wrote, produced, directed and starred in the film, along with Colm Meaney, Fred Willard, Niki Spiridakos and Kevin Farley. The Ohio Irish American News was delighted to be a Media Supporter of the Cleveland International Film Festival and a sponsor of The Yank.

Set to premier with single shows on March 23rd, it was sold out. Two additional shows were scheduled that night, and sold out as well. Then, on March 25th, a second theatre and additional show had to be added, which also sold out. An additional show was added on the last day, March 29th, and it sold out too. Hope to see you at the 5th Annual Hooley on Kamm's Corners on May 10th. The family fun festival runs from Noon to 8, with two stages bookmaring the closed Lorain Road. Bands include Boys from the Co Hell, Brady Campbell Dance School, Leneghan Academy of Irish Dance and Burke School of Irish Dance, Pipers, Great food, Children's Shows & Activities, and more. This is our neighborhood and our home; the OhIAN will have a booth at The Hooley, come by and meet OhIAN

writers Sue Mangan (Blowin' In), Terry Kenneally (Off the Shelf and On This Day in Irish History), Mark Owens (Owens Sports), Cathal Liam (A Letter from Ireland), Linda Fulton Burke (Crossword Puzzle) and myself.

Get your picture taken as a Gaelic Football Player or Irish Dancer, and pick up an extra issue or two of the OhIAN for your friends. Cathal and I will have our books with us as well.

Slán, John

"Follow me where I go, what I do and who I know;  
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*Kathleen and Maureen Casey holding the Celtic Warrior Award*



*OhIAN at CIFilmFest*



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## AOH Trumbull County Awards 15th Annual Scholarships

By Martin McQuaide, President,  
Sean MacBride Division AOH

The Ancient Order of Hibernians Sean MacBride Division in Trumbull County held its 15th annual scholarship breakfast March 15 in Warren.

colony marched through the streets of New York City on March 17th, 1762 singing and playing traditional Irish music. From there, March 17th became a day to celebrate not only St. Patrick, but Irish heritage in general.

As the celebration became increasingly popular, more people joined in. Today you don't have to have a drop of Irish blood in you to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. It's gone from a religious holiday to a day

The story of poverty-stricken families barely scraping by, trying to send their kids to school so they can move up in the world moves us. The stories of mothers and fathers going without food so their children don't starve are heartbreaking. Of course, not every Irish immigrant's story has a happy ending, but what they have in common have a strong drive to survive and to better themselves.

Those are the stories that make

Americans want to be Irish. For one day a year Americans dress up in green, drink green beer, eat corned beef and cabbage, and talk of leprechauns and rainbows, because that's our way of remembering the struggles and strife that the Irish immigrants went through. We can never know what they experienced, but we show our admiration for their courage and hard work by celebrating their heritage in any way we can. On St. Patrick's Day everyone wants to be Irish because to

be Irish is to be strong and possess a never-ending will to improve.

Congratulations Maura and Luke!



AOH Scholarship Winners Desc Martin McQuaide, AOH Sean MacBride Division President, Luke Churley, Maura Jacobs and AOH Scholarship Chairman Kevin Murphy.

This scholarship competition is open to all high school seniors in Trumbull County. Students submit an essay titled "Why does everyone want to be Irish on St. Patrick's Day?" The two winning students are awarded a \$1,000 and \$500 scholarship respectively.

This year's winning essays were submitted by Maura Jacobs from Champion High School (\$1,000) and Luke Churley (\$500) from Lakeview High School.

Corporate sponsors this year were Northeast Ohio Orthopedics, Peter Rossi & Son Memorial Chapel and Scheetz Inc.

**"Why does everyone want to be Irish on St. Patrick's Day?"**

By Maura Jacobs  
AOH 1st Place Scholarship Winner 2014

For over 1,000 years St. Patrick's Day was a religious holiday in Ireland. It was a day to celebrate the saint Patrick who brought Christianity to the people of Ireland. People attended mass, pubs and stores were closed; it was a time of remembrance. It wasn't until 1762 that this day of celebration began spreading to the rest of the world. Irishmen serving in the English army in the American

to drink and party and watch parades. But why do people want to celebrate a heritage with which they have little to no connection? Americans don't celebrate other country's saint's days, so what is it about St. Patrick that has us so enthralled?

As a culture, Americans love hard working success stories and the Irish are prime examples of that. The stereotypical Irish immigrant came to America and worked a low paying, manual labor job. The number of Irish immigrants that lost their lives while building railroad tracks in uncountable. Not only is it uncountable, but at the time, no one cared to count their lives. They were used as tools, not humans. What is amazing is that they continued to work. They didn't give up and go back to their home country because they were working towards a better life for themselves and their descendants. They accomplished the American dream of rising up from poverty to successful and happy lives.

Henry Ford, Walt Disney, F. Scott Fitzgerald and Frank McCourt are all Irish Americans that have made a name for themselves, but there are countless other success stories that the world will never hear.

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## Holy Name High School to Offer Irish Studies Course

Beginning in the 2014-15 school year, Holy Name High School will offer a new elective course titled Irish Studies. It will consist of a course in the fall of 2014 on Irish History, followed by a course in the spring on Irish Literature.

Mrs. Shelbrey Blanc, Holy Name's new principal, "We want to expose our students to as many curricular opportunities as possible. We have had so many students of Irish descent over the years, including when the school was first founded in 1914 by first generation Irish, that this will be a good way to celebrate our Irish heritage in this, our 100th year."

The Irish studies courses will be taught by Mr. Terrence J. Kenneally, a 1967 graduate of Holy Name. He has a master's degree in Irish history from John Carroll University. He is a columnist for the Ohio Irish American News, writing the "Off the Shelf" and "On this Day in Irish History" monthly columns. Mr. Kenneally is

a trial lawyer who has tried more than 400 jury trials during his thirty-five year career.

Mr. Kenneally intends to augment class lecture with speakers, Irish films dealing with a particular subject matter and field trips, including a visit Ireland's Great Hunger Museum in Hamden, Connecticut.



*Mr. Terrence J. Kenneally*



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## Solus Lighting LTD Wins Three ISES Ohio WOW Awards

Solus Lighting LTD was honored with three ISES Ohio WOW Awards in the categories of Best Wedding, Best Public Event, and Best Team Effort. The awards ceremony was held Friday, April 11th at the 21c Museum and Hotel in downtown Cincinnati.

ISES Ohio Wow is an annual awards program created to showcase, acknowledge, and honor the special events industry's finest examples of creativity, planning, strategic management, resourcefulness, and successful solutions throughout the state of Ohio. Submissions are entirely anonymous and are judged by event professionals from another region of the United States.

"We are truly flattered to receive these esteemed awards from fellow event professionals," stated Maureen E. Patterson, Lead Designer at Solus Lighting LTD. "Solus Lighting is one of twelve companies from the Greater Cleveland Area that were honored with ISES Ohio WOW awards this year. Having this many cutting edge event professionals in the area is a great advantage for the city. As the Greater Cleveland Area continues to boom, individuals and organizations are planning larger events than ever before."



"The Best Team Effort Award showcased a unique venue (The Cleveland Museum of Natural History), themed décor (Borrow Rentals), extravagant settings (Event Source), inspired menus (Zach Bruell Events), wide spread audio and video reinforcement (Hughie's Events Production Services), and innovative lighting (Solus Lighting).

Patterson added, "We are fortunate to have a variety of vendors in Cleveland that are true specialists in their areas of expertise. When these genuine professionals team up, the event becomes truly spectacular."

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## The Rose Wall

The Rose Wall in Tralee Town Park salutes the 1,701 roses who have represented their cities, counties, states and countries in the Rose of Tralee International Festival since 1959. It was unveiled on August 2013 in Tralee Town Park, a gift from Tralee Town Council on the anniversary of the 55th Rose of Tralee International Festival. Irish communities in five continents are represented on the wall and 117 Rose Centres are represented: twenty-four American cities and states, seven Canadian provinces, nine Australian, twenty-one from Great Britain and nine from Europe. All thirty-two Irish counties are represented.

The Rose Wall represents the Rose of Tralee International Festival Sentiment

"Once a Rose, always a Rose.

Included on the panel are the following Ohio Roses:

1975 Marian O Donnell  
1976 Sissy McKenna  
1977 Mary Talty  
1978 Erin O Reilly  
1979 Mary Jordan  
1980 Julie O Keffe  
1981 Maureen Gannon  
1982 Susie Barrett  
1983 Teresa Sammon  
1984 Carol Ann Mackin  
1985 Jean Marie Masin  
2009 Annie Dunn  
2011 Bridget Linton  
2012 Ashley Speaker

New panels will be added to the wall to include 2013 Roses (and 2013 Ohio Rose Kelsey Higgins), 2014 and future Roses.

*Photos courtesy of Gerry Riordan*



*1971 International Rose of Tralee Linda McCravy Shubeck at Rose of Tralee Co Kerry Ireland*



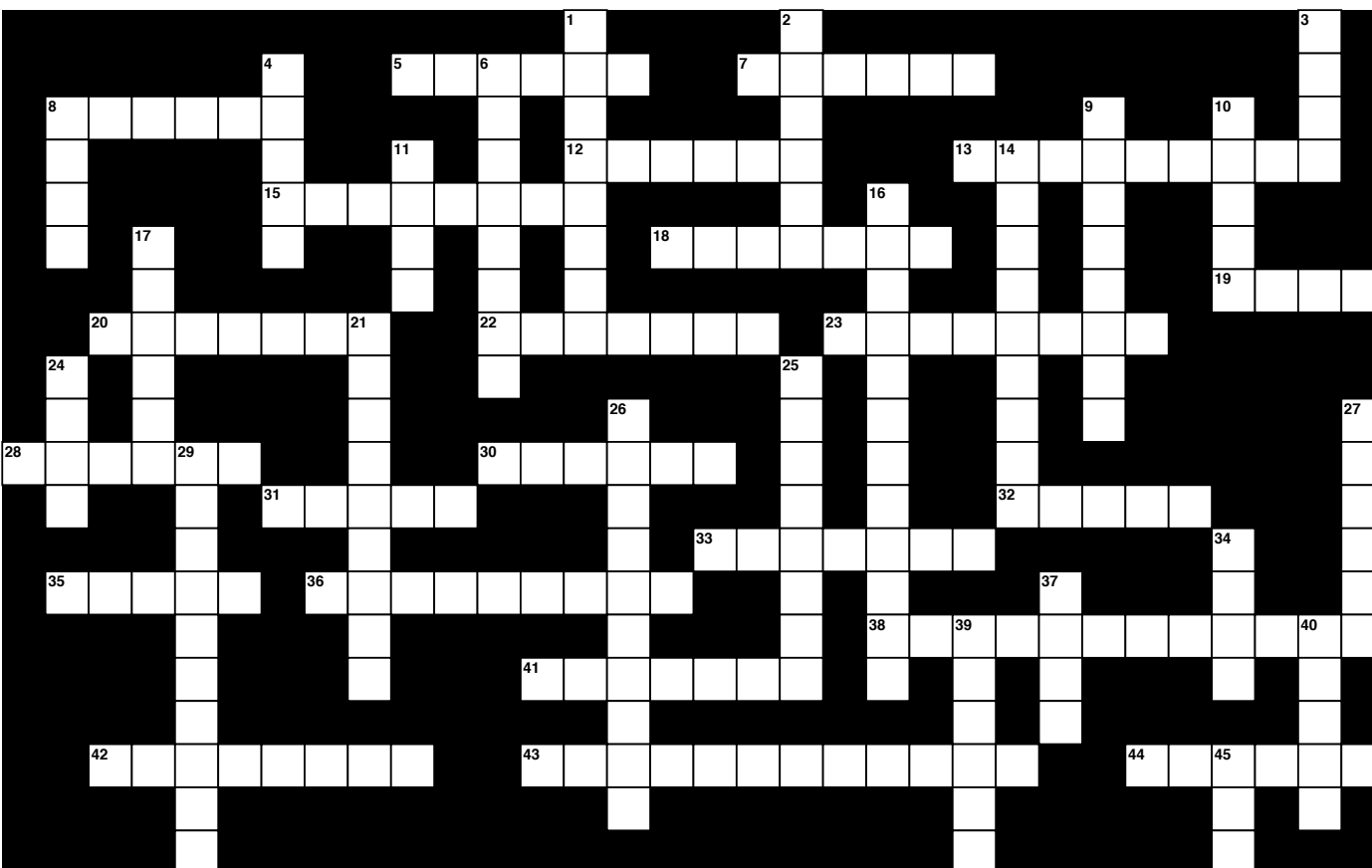
*2013 Northern Ohio Rose of Tralee Kelsey Higgins, 2014 Rose candidates Annemarie Cunningham and Grainne Mangan, 2012 Northern Ohio Rose Ashley Speaker, 2011 Northern Ohio Rose Bridget Linton.*



Rose of Tralee Wall of Honor



# Things to Do and See in County Waterford



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

## ACROSS

5 Get a little exercise as you walk the trails at the Waterford \_\_\_\_ Park.  
 7 Spend some time at Dungarvan's Waterford \_\_\_\_ Museum, dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of County Waterford  
 8 Saddle up at Tramore's Lake Tour \_\_\_\_ for a great pony trekking experience.  
 12 Explore The \_\_\_\_ near Lisimore after a walk through the woods.  
 13 Visit \_\_\_\_ Crystal to see experienced craftsmen at work, creating the world's finest crystal pieces.  
 15 Drive the scenic route between Kilmacthomas and Dungarvan to see the \_\_\_\_ Mountains.  
 18 Stop in at Waterford's Henry Downe's Bar to try some its No. 9 Irish \_\_\_\_ or buy a bottle to take away.  
 19 Enjoy the \_\_\_\_ fire and catch a trad session at Bridie Dee's on Mary Street in Dungarvan.  
 20 Take a class at Chef Paul Flynn's Tannery \_\_\_\_ School in Waterford  
 22 Wander in the historic gardens of \_\_\_\_ Castle Gardens and Gallery, within the 17th century outer defensive walls.  
 23 Experience a journey through time at the Waterford Treasures \_\_\_\_

Museum in Waterford, Ireland's oldest city.  
 28 Visit Waterford's Bishop's \_\_\_\_ for a good view of history of late 1800's to early 1900's.  
 30 Take a tour of Portlaw's Curraghmore House and Gardens led by Basil, Lord Waterford's retired \_\_\_\_.  
 31 Take a scenic drive up the mountain to \_\_\_\_ Falls and don't forget to stop at the Magic Road.  
 32 Hop aboard Waterford's only sightseeing roadtrain run by Waterford \_\_\_\_.  
 33 Go kayaking, \_\_\_\_, or snorkeling at the Dunmore East Adventure Centre.  
 35 Tour the grounds of \_\_\_\_ Melleray Abbey, a Cistercian Trappist Abbey near Cappoquin.  
 36 Take a free tour of \_\_\_\_ Castle and re-creation of a police station during the Black & Tan era.  
 38 Go to Mass at the Waterford Cathedral to see some of the finest Georgian \_\_\_\_ in Ireland.  
 41 See the elegant beauty of St. \_\_\_\_'s Cathedral in Lismore.  
 42 Let your \_\_\_\_ spend the day at Splashworld in Tramore for lots of fun in the water.  
 43 View the gardens and art at Fairbrook House Gardens & Museum of \_\_\_\_ Figurative Art in Kilmeaden.  
 44 Stop in at Reginald's Tower, the oldest \_\_\_\_ tower in Ireland to learn the history of the Nor-

mans in Waterford.

## DOWN

1 Get to know the history of the founder of the Christian \_\_\_\_ at the Edmund Rice Heritage Centre in Waterford.  
 2 Put some money on the \_\_\_\_ at the Waterford and Tramore Racecourse.  
 3 Take an art course at The Art \_\_\_\_ in Bunmahon.  
 4 Take the time to visit Benvoy \_\_\_\_ in the cove at Annestown.  
 6 Explore the Viking \_\_\_\_, an area of Waterford that is an easy walk to most of the historic tourist attractions near the Quay.  
 8 Ride Kilmeaden's Waterford & \_\_\_\_ Valley Railway, in partially open period carriages.  
 9 Visit the Lismore \_\_\_\_ Centre before exploring the town.  
 10 The Copper \_\_\_\_ Geopark Centre has rocks from all the millions of years up to now - a small walk through history near Knockmahon.  
 11 Collect some holy water from St Declan's \_\_\_\_ and Oratory in Ardmore  
 14 Do a family outing to Tramore \_\_\_\_ Park to keep the young ones entertained.  
 16 Research your family's roots in the Waterford Heritage \_\_\_\_ Centre.  
 17 Take a refreshing walk along the golden sands of \_\_\_\_ Beach

in Dungarvan.

21 Place some bets on the dogs at Kilcohan Park \_\_\_\_ Stadium.  
 24 Get a group together for some fun playing an old Irish sport at the Copper Coast \_\_\_\_ Bowling Tuition.  
 25 Take a few hours on a Thursday to tour Mount \_\_\_\_ House and Gardens, one of the world's 100 top gardens  
 26 Sign up for a lesson in \_\_\_\_ (sail-powered beach buggying) at the Freedom Surf School near Tramore.  
 27 Ride a ferry to The Island for a round of golf at the Waterford \_\_\_\_ Golf Club.  
 29 For a big thrill, learn to drive a rally car at Rally \_\_\_\_ in Dungarvan.  
 34 Attend a live performance, a film, or Gallery Showing at the Garter Lane \_\_\_\_ Centre.  
 37 Take the kids to the Tramore's Copper Coast \_\_\_\_ Farm for a picnic and to visit with the animals.  
 39 Go to a service at the Church of Ireland's Christ \_\_\_\_ Cathedral built in the 18th century in Waterford.  
 40 Attend a performance at the Theatre \_\_\_\_ in Waterford's Viking Triangle.  
 45 Take in a performance at the \_\_\_\_ Kettle Theatre Company in Waterford.

## Letter to the Editor:

Dear Editor,

I am not of Irish descent, but IAN Ohio is distributed at my work place, and I always pick up a copy to read about cultural events, restaurants, etc. Reading your April 2014, I was very surprised and impressed by "The Time of My Life", Kelsey Higgins' article on being Northern Ohio Rose of Tralee. Her article was insightful and honest but what most amazed me was her experiences with the Chernobyl Children's International charity. I am actually of Ukrainian descent and was astounded to learn that not only was the charity founded by an Irish person, but that the Irish community is so involved in it. I was touched by Kelsey's passion for the charity and that even though she had no obvious ties to Ukraine or its people, that she and other Irish-Americans would be so willing to visit these children and make a difference. It is humbling, inspiring, and moving. It has opened my eyes to the spirit of charity of the Irish-American community, and am appreciative for their work in my homeland. Kelsey and others like her have transcended borders and cultural identities to bring hope and joy to those less fortunate, and I am grateful. Larissa Paschyn Parma, OH



My grandmother Mim was a self-declared Anglophile, a lover of all things British. When she first met my future husband, she sat him down for a talk. Embarrassed, I thought she was about to embark on a treatise of her granddaughter's virtue or emotional temperament. Rather, she engaged in a full-blown monologue, rather than dialogue, as my intended did not have a word to contribute, concerning the succession of English kings since 1066. My beloved

held Mim's eye and reminded her, "You know Mim, I'm an Irishman." Unfazed, Mim picked up with Henry the Eighth. Learned and passionate in her opinions, Mim sought to teach and lend perspective to her audience. Mim lived through the Great Depression, five wars, and the birth of five children. When she spoke, we listened. Though Mim could talk about the price of futures in the same breath as the state of politics, what she most loved to discuss was books.



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By Susan Mangan



When life became harried for Mim, my own mother recalls how her mother would escape into the pages of a book. Children could be pulling at Mim's skirts, while unmade biscuits lay in heaps upon white flour, and Mim would be standing at the counter with a book in her hand. I am my grandmother's own girl because I suffer from the same compulsion. What is life after all without a good read?

The tables and cupboards in Mim's old farmhouse housed treasures. Playing cards and books were scattered hither and yon, punctuated with scraps of paper bearing cryptic messages about authors and ideas. In this age of electronic media, there is something nostalgic about writing tablets, particularly when they contain handwritten words and messages from a loved one who has passed on.

After Mim's death, my aunt sent me an envelope filled with letters and postcards that I had penned to my grandmother Mim. One was particularly sweet.

For my sixth birthday, I received a set of stationery illustrated with happy images of circus seals and dogs. I must have written my grandmother a letter, because thirty-six years later, the letter was returned to me. With tears in my eyes, I read the list of things that we liked to do together: "Walk, eat donuts, and read stories." I signed the letter, "Susan and Mimmy, playmates and friends." Sometimes perspective feeds your soul as well as your appetite for comfort. Life in the twenty-first century should be so easy!

In two days time, my youngest son and I will be on a plane bound for London. He will be competing in his first World Irish Dance Championship. The journey to this point has been fraught with hard work and challenges.

Two weeks ago, a trip to the dermatologist revealed that my son had a contagious skin virus that bore in name a striking resonance with something out of Harry Potter's Hogwarts. If only Potter's Invisible Cloak or magic wand could have cured my son of this benign, but messy ordeal. Apparently, one of the only ways to treat the virus was to apply a scant amount of poison from a blister beetle to the affected area. Did my dermatologist understand that my son was to compete in the Irish dance equivalent of the Olym-

pics? A brief fight with twenty-five exploding pustules and we were good to go.

No sooner did I reconcile my nerves that all will indeed be well, when another catastrophe, albeit small in the grand scale of life, but monumental in the subculture of Irish dance, occurred. My son, on April Fool's Day nonetheless, lost his dancing heel during a promising and well-turned out click.

To make me feel better, he tried to lighten the mood, chuckling, "Wouldn't that have been the greatest April Fool's trick." "Hmm, umm, I suppose," I whimpered.

Because of my dance-mom paranoia, I was banished from the local cobbler and forced to send the rogue shoe back to the original shoemaker. The price, a hefty overnight airmail fee, the reward, utter peace of mind. Now, if only the said repair would help my son point his toes more. Oh, to have a magic wand at your disposal!

To deal with the reality of my impending timetable, I pulled a chair up to my kitchen table this morning and did what Mim might do; I finished the latest novel I have been reading.

Having finally put my tremors to rest, I am now better able to sort out our plan for London. Years ago, Mim impressed upon me a mental list of all that she wished me to do when I visited this famous city. At the time, such a trip was not even in the stars, but again, I listened when Mim spoke. Of course, I had to visit the house of Charles Dickens in Bloomsbury, the National Portrait Gallery, and if the day were fine, to have a picnic in Highgate Cemetery. I needed to witness the changing of the Guard, to hear Big Ben as he strikes the hour, and visit the crypt where all the poets worth reading lay in Westminster Abbey. I promised Mim that one day I would do all those things and more. After all, I loved English literature almost as much as she.

Again, tearful, I recalled Mim's words as I googled Dicken's House and thought about how excited I was to share my love of literature and history with my son. He is being given a chance not only to dance on a World's stage, but to experience a place that my grandmother

*Continued on page 11*



## World Premiere Play at Cincinnatti Irish Heritage Center

The Irish Heritage Center of Cincinnati will present the world premiere of "Tho' It Were Ten Thousand Miles," a play written by William H. A. Williams and directed by Maureen A. Kennedy, founder of the Irish American Theater Company.

A May/December love story, the play combines romance, comedy and loss. Seamus, a retired college professor from Ireland, falls in love with a young folk singer, Fiona, whom he discovers on YouTube, who suddenly turns up on his Midwestern campus.

While the sixty-year-old Irishman's pursuit of this twenty-one-year-old folk singer is against all reason, rhyme, nevertheless, plays its role. Seamus, an over-the-top romantic, is adept at wielding poetry and song, along with gourmet meals in his campaign to win her heart. For her part, Fiona steadfastly refuses to become Seamus' version of a Yeatsian fairy girl and struggles to keep from being overwhelmed by his

larger-than-life personality. Gradually, Fiona's skeptical common sense gives way before the onslaught of this unreconstructed Irish Romantic. During their brief months together, this age-mismatched pair discovers romance as a tightrope strung between uncertainty and farce. These two headstrong and highly articulate

individuals collide, sometimes comically, as they struggle to comprehend the nature of their love.

Yet, in spite of moments of comedy, the play explores questions of love, age, and loss. Haunted by a heart condition (and his family's banshee), Seamus must decide whether to curse the impending darkness or

embrace the portion of life and love he has enjoyed with Fiona? For her part, Fiona passes from youth to a profound sense of maturity, warmer than Yeats' "Cast a cold eye on life, on death," but one that allows her to accept both, while continuing her life's journey.

The role of Seamus is played by Michael McEvelley, who has played many leading and supporting parts for

the IATC. Carrington Rowe, a twenty-three year-old Cincinnati actress, is making her debut with the company.

"Tho' It Were Ten Thousand Miles" will be performed on May 16 Friday 7:30—May 17 Saturday 7:30—May 18 Sunday 2:00 PM, at the Irish Heritage Center, 3905 Eastern Avenue. Parking available. Call 513-533-0100 for tickets and further information.

## Blowin' In

*Continued from page 10*

waited a lifetime to visit.

The eve of the shoe debacle, my son shared with me a rather random, but pointed story about my mother and him. "One day," he began, "Mema and I were watching the Indians game. The Tribe was down and I said, 'Mema, this game's over.' Mema looked at me and said, 'Declan, always have faith.' With that, Asdrubal Cabrera stepped up to base and hit a homer. Always have faith Mom."

The Tribe won and my son thought his Mema was a prophet. Leave it to a ten-year-old to provide perspective when needed.

As my son and I embark on

our journey, I will channel Mim's passion for learning and my mother's practicality. When my anxiety returns and the tremors begin, I will treat them with equal parts of tea and ale. I will be proud of my son, no matter what the outcome of the dance. I will seek perspective when needed and remember the words of William Shakespeare, "All the World's a stage, and all the men and women are merely players." Timeless perspective, indeed.

\*Susan holds an MA in English from John Carroll University and an MA in Education from Baldwin-Wallace University. She may be contacted at suemangan@yahoo.com.



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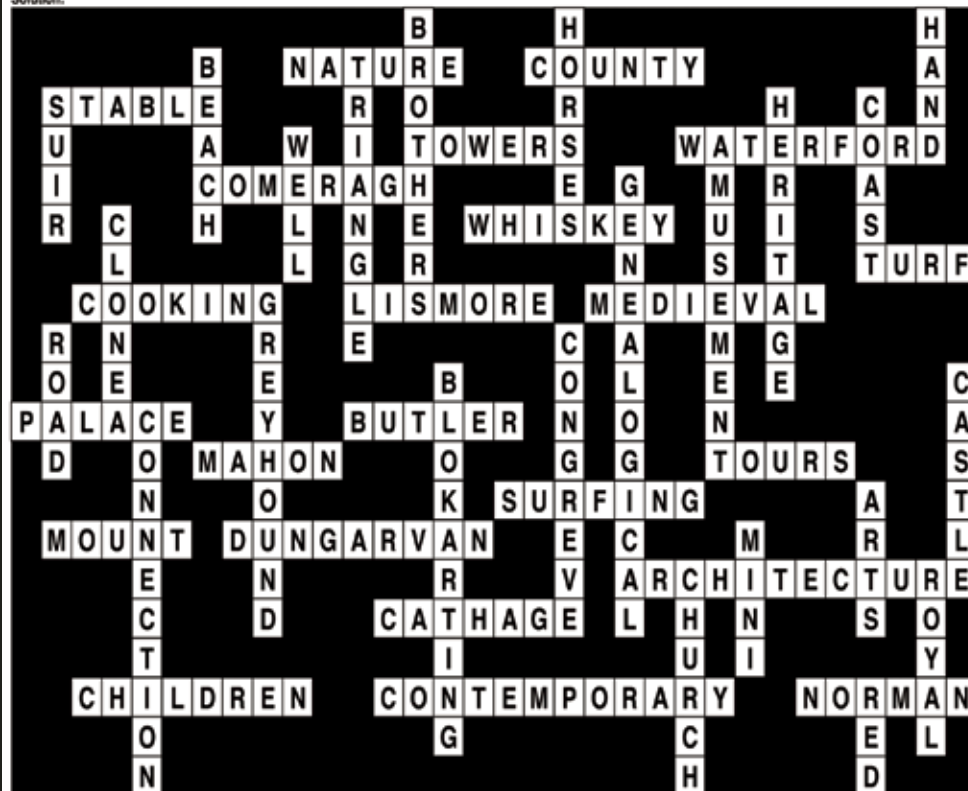
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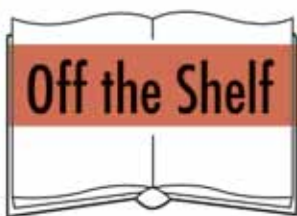
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**The Black-Eyed Blonde**  
by Benjamin Black  
Henry Holt & Co.; ISBN 978-0-8050-9814-3; 2014 290 pp.  
Frequent readers recognize Benjamin Black as the mystery-writing pseudonym of the Irish novelist John Banville. "Off the Shelf" columns have reviewed several of his books dealing

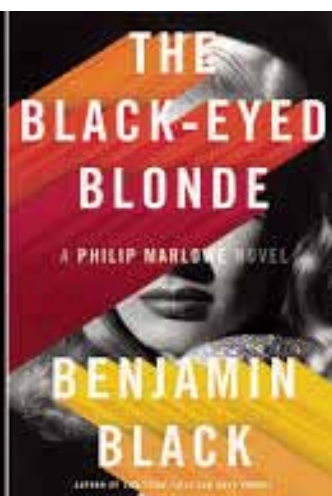
Dorothea Langrishe (the name being the title of a well known Irish novel, Langrishe, Go Down), whose husband fought in the Irish Civil War.

Black's ability to mimic Chandler's writing style will be apparent to anyone who was a groupie of Chandler's body of work. This is especially

were a Chandler hallmark.

Although I generally enjoyed the book, I thought the denouement was a bit disappointing. Depending on how well the book sells, we may have not seen the last of Black's version of Philip Marlowe. I rate the book a TOP SHELF read.

\*Terrence J. Kenneally is an attorney and owner of Terrence J. Kenneally & Associates Co. in Rocky River, Ohio, defending insured's through their insurance companies throughout Ohio. He has a Masters Degree in Irish Studies from John Carroll University and is starting an Irish Studies program at Holy Name High School beginning Fall 2014. [terry@tjkenneally.com](mailto:terry@tjkenneally.com).



with his corpulent protagonist, Quirke, the medical examiner of 1950s Dublin. In Black-Eyed Blonde, his protagonist is Philip Marlowe, the character created by American novelist Raymond Chandler. Chandler, along with Dashcell Hammett and James M. Cain, came to be identified as founders of the hard-boiled school of detective fiction.

In typical Chandler fashion, Black's Marlowe gets hired by a wealthy, attractive perfume heiress, Clare Cavendish, the 'blonde with black eyes' to help in finding her old lover, Nico Peterson, who has been missing for two months. Of course, there is more to her story than meets the eye; the story takes assorted twists and turns involving Mexican hit men, tough bad-tempered cops, the impervious rich as well as a near-death experience in a swimming pool inside a swanky health spa.

Black even throws in facets of his Irish heritage in the form of Clare Cavendish's mother,

so in his lyrical similes, which

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## Festival on Water; See to Shining Sea:

By John O'Brien, Jr.

A festival on water – can it be as good? What if sailing the high seas, and sailing on the musical wave of 57 bands, was even better than good? What if it was Epic?

We are pulling out of the Port of Miami, sun, breeze and a pepsi to sail away to the Caribbean. Deck chairs are precious commodities, but leaving behind the 2° vortex that is Cleveland winter, is a gift that proved to give far beyond seven days on the Norwegian Epic.

Those deck chairs did get a fair few impressions over the week as the sun won the battle, knot by knot. I am fortunate to be driven by a thirst, to see, to experience when I go to new lands. I need the rest, but I need to



groove new roads into my brain more. A lot of people like to journal their experiences, or text them. I am a writer, I understand, but don't be so bent on recording your experiences, that you miss the best experiences. A deck chair gives perspective and a fantastic view for crowd watching, but the highlights, the things I will remember most, were arrived at by using by my ears, my eyes and my legs, not my pen.

Fifty-seven bands – that's not a misprint; as much as you wanted, 3 pm or 3am, center stage or in small little pubs and corners inside and out. Warm breezes can be carried on notes, in or out.

There were legends and lasting friendships; Cherish the Ladies, Sharon Shannon, T.R. Dallas, Tommy Sands, Makem & Spain Brothers, Gabe Donoghue, Guaranteed Irish, and talent rich musicians and singers I couldn't get enough of like Mickey Coleman, Donnchadh Gough, Alan Connor, Harry O'Donoghue, Don Stiffe, the guys & gals from The StepCrew dancing with Cherish – so excited to see the full cast appearing at Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival for the first time this July 18-20.

Three sessions and presentations on sea days left my mind buzzing: Cathie Ryan sat on a chair and weaved a tale of Irish Myths & Folklore, with Brigid, Irish myth and mystery and relevance to today's frantic pace and ills. Ennis' Karen and Maureen Ennis and Mark Murphy sang and told tales of factories closing and fisheries decapitated – the echoes of Ireland were palpable.

Remember Phoebe from Friends? She has been resurrected! Karen's dry humor, self-deprecating and laugh out loud funny, were the perfect counter balance to some of the more poignant songs Ennis sang, many of them original works. Maureen gives

it back to her sister, and she and Mark are magnificent song writers, sharing their gift, and the history of the Irish in their St. John's, Newfoundland home, as well as songs and stories from across the world.

The final of the three living works of art I saw was a surreal performance by Tommy Sands in the same Blues club as the Ennis performance. Tommy is often called the Irish Pete Seeger, and performed at Pete's 90th Birthday party at Madison Square Garden. They were friends, who shared music and a passion for civil rights, of fighting for those who could not fight for themselves. He wove, and transported in time to the pivotal moments.

Tommy had a laptop beaming pics on a small screen as he sang, read from his book and told stories of Sarajevo, of Northern Ireland, of Pete Seeger. He sang Little Boxes, which I sang with Tommy Makem one day on the side of a stage at Milwaukee Irish Fest, many years ago; I felt it.

In Ocho Rios we took a cab right at the port, for \$40 p/person. We hit the road for Mick Jagger's house, stopping to swing on a cool 80 year old tree with giant bamboo on a skyscraper of a 5 - 6 stories high; watched the fire man jet huge plumes of fire from his throat and tasted a coconut right off a tree (think oysters). Pics on plains and good humored street side vendors gave way to climbing a water fall by ourselves well off the beaten path. You should see the spiders!

Our guide took us to hideaways and took photos of us as we climbed, posed, swam and took in the lush

beauty canvassed around us. Hours later, as we headed back down, the ship excursion bus passed, still on their way up to Mick's house. Jamaica is known for their chicken jerky, so we stopped for lunch and tried it out, yum. We saw more, and saw a bit of the soul of Jamaica with our cab guide, for less than half the usual fee.

In Costa Maya, we took a short walk to the rock beach, searching out shells and trying to capture the hues of blue and green, translucent and magnificent, as it calmed the soul and crashed the rocks, throwing huge spray. If you are searching for peace, it's sitting on the rocks, stark



*Editor John O'Brien befriends a sea urchin during an excursion on Joanie Madden's Festival Cruise*

and wild and beautiful. A spectacular place to stare into the water, but don't kill the multitude and multicolored snails, so you can have their shells on a shelf at home. I did not succeed in capturing the hues and the magnifi-



*Costa Maya*

cence, just a glimpse and a trigger, for my memory bank.

After the dolphins leaped and chattered, we moved inland, to a huge saltwater swimming pool, with jets and both Froggy's and Charlies converging on the ocean, leaving a perfect gap to the sea, and our ship, the Norwegian Epic, dead center in front. Swim up bars and plenty of lawn chairs to watch the sun and sun seekers chase the Vortex away. Next time I will go directly there, for it was fantastic: swimming, the view, beers and music, atmosphere in spades. I could be there all week and be very happy.

In Cozumel we took a purple VW convertible bug and toured the island, first stopping to snorkel amidst vivid colors and patient fish, Sea urchins stuck to my hand and starfish burned red rock colors as we floated above.

I had hard time with water in my air tube, but adapted quickly. Gotta be calm, be open to new experiences and laugh. Tony, our guide, led us to silent beehive-like shelters and the blues and yellows of the fish stand stark in my mind.

We pot hole weaved our way to a Mayan ruin, with ancient church, temple and village. Authentic Mayan arts and crafts and in costume presenters and animals, were fun, but the peace in the church as I thought of the generations that have prayed there, married and began their final journeys to God there gave me great pause.

Grumbling stomachs were silenced as Tony took us to a wide-open bar on stilts, massive logs everywhere, covered in script and messages from previous visitors written in black or occasional red thick sharpies. Tony provided us with tortillas, salsa, guacamole and chicken, with chips and rice, a most fantastic home cooked Mexican meal, cooled by breezes and Mexican beer, satisfying, unique, flavorful and authentic. Across the road, we worked it off jumping massive waves, green turning to blue to the endless horizon.

Tony was one of a kind – patient, fun and funny, hell bent on making sure we had a blast. He showed us places we would never have seen and flavors of all the senses that only a local can locate and pres-





Alan Connor

to the next row, in a floating, shimmering strobe light like effect that covered our heads; t'was awesome.

I was so honored and excited to be asked by Joanie Madden to perform my, "At Each End of the Rifle" monologue on the cruise. It was the one time the pen came in handy as I performed one of my monologues. Held in comedy club "Headliners" (all kinds of Freudian interpretations could be made of that one), told as a single journey throughout Irish history, the monologue features song, story and verse by the famous and infamous, and starkly shows how the similarities of man are much vaster than the differences. I had a great chat after with an older fella from New Zealand and throughout the rest of the week, met up with many who attended the presentation.

The Ceilis were magnificent, not only for the talent

Don't be late, but don't go back to the boat early – in a beautiful, welcoming, fun foreign country, maybe a once in a lifetime, who knows how life will twist, go back screaming against time and the end of the beach.

A cruise is meant to be romantic, recommend going with significant other, or with someone who will laugh, love the music and be willing to try lots of new experiences, foods, excursions and music.

When shopping, remember, everything, in every port, is negotiable, don't forget that.

On the cruise, Tips are ALWAYS included on your receipt, then you can tip more, as it is less than 10%, but don't forget it is there already, so tune your tip accordingly.

ent. At \$74 p/person, it was a fantastic bargain.

And on the Epic, we strolled state to stage to see 57 bands, presentations, workshops and my own performance of At Each End of the Rifle. Jam sessions were frequent, and were also scheduled. At the end of each night, with whoever was the last band still playing across the whole ship, ten, fifteen or more musicians, singers, and even a dancer or three, joined them after their last set, in an unscripted session that had no limit to the passion, the variety, the eloquence or the clock.

You are not limited to the Irish entertainment.

Comedy, Cirque de Soleil, deck bands and others were readily available. I went to Blue Man Crew, with loads of special effects with paint and such, choreographed into something special.



The cast brought audience members on stage and used them in hilarious ways, then gave them the paintings they created. In the finale, from high in the ceiling at the back of the theatre, all the way down across the room, white strips of paper unrolled down toward stage, people pulled it from behind them, over them,

assembled, including Joanie Madden, Matt Molloy, John Carty, Mirella Murray, Arty McGlynn and bodhran player Donnchadh Gough, the passion of the players almost took your breath away. Dancing pros and dancing addicts let loose, as blurring feet answered the beat and sailed away.

I loved watching TR Dalias – a great singer who brought back memories of growing up, the dance halls we went to, all the beautiful waltzing music. Sing, dance, stare or story, more than you could ever embrace.

Sharon Shannon with incredible piano player Alan Connors just blew my mind. Alan's hands danced in a way I have never seen, and had the same blurring, know it happened but couldn't actually see it motion as Jon Pilatske, Cara Butler, Michael Boyle, John Jennings and Donnie Golden had when dancing as part of Cherish the Ladies or an

impromptu free style rift during many of the other shows. Sharon is a virtuoso, excitement courses through her, on stage or off, and the music is magic, learning and lifting; cooling in the waves of rhythm. Then, Mickey Coleman's CD



Ennis

launch. After maybe 12 songs, while introducing a song, Mickey thanked to his mom, dad and sis, who came out from Ireland for the CD launch. He told of walking down the street in NY, knowing no one, and Joanie stops, twice offering a ride. Mickey didn't yet know Joanie and refused. Eventually they become friends, and now " ... here I am. I met my girlfriend Erin Lochery; her family has been so supportive and are all here now. It has been most incredible, so I would like ... " (and Mickey moves aside the guitar and drops to one knee) " ...to ask Erin to Marry Me."

Both families erupt, screaming and hugging. Erin bends over hugs Mickey, crying a little. She hugs him for a long time; he leans back and says, "She said yes".

To see it live, was unforgettable. About 3am, I took my leave, quietly, as I've learned, so Joanie wouldn't catch me and haul me back again.

Gabriel Donaghue is the most gifted performer I have seen in a long while – no matter the style of music, he can play it, add to it, whether with banging a beat with his hand on the guitar body or accompanying with rifts and rises that are magnificent, mesmerizing and



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**Joanie Madden**

1:45. So far my luck had held out; Joanie hadn't caught me slipping out to bed once on this cruise!

On the last day, an Artist Meet n Greet gave me the chance to share a table with Guaranteed Irish and Tommy Sands. It was highlighted by a final group picture of all the cruise performers. I will treasure that pic, captured magnificently by Marianne Mangan. I sold the last of my "Festival Legends;

Songs & Stories" and "First Generation" books, lightening the load for the trip to Chicago as I primed my mind for the minus degrees forthcoming and presenting "At Each End of the Rifle" at Shay Clarke's McNally's Irish Pub.

Check out many more pics, including Honeymoon Island, the ship American Freedom, Clearwater Beach, Port of Miami and Tarpon Springs, the

Book Tour in Chicago and the 80 degree drop in temperature to end the trip on my web or Facebook page: [www.song-sandstories.net](http://www.song-sandstories.net) [www.facebook.com/OhioIrishAmericanNews](http://www.facebook.com/OhioIrishAmericanNews)

***The 4th Annual Joanie Madden Folk n Irish Cruise will depart out of New York, May 2015, to the Bahamas. It is Joanie's 50th Birthday Bash, so Epic it will be!***



**Gabriel Donoghue**

fun. He blew me away, even though I have seen him with others before and know he is on a ton of recordings, performing, mixing and producing. He was a highlight of the cruise.

The Makem & Spain Brothers, Danny Quinn, Tommy Sands, Donie Carroll, Bruce Foley, Paddy Folan and Jim Lamb started off "Ballads and Sea Shanties", but all kinds of different folks jumped in over the next few hours. Harry O'Donoghue and Karen Ennis' songs stick with me; it went until



Photo by Marianne Mangan, [mariannemangan.com](http://mariannemangan.com)



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## On This Day in Irish History

3 May 1916 - Patrick Pearse, Thomas Clarke, and Thomas MacDonagh are executed by firing squad for their part in the Easter Rising.

5 May 1981 - Death of Bobby Sands, the first republican prisoner to die of a hunger strike.

5 May 1879 - Death of Isaac Butt, barrister, writer, and politician, who founded the Home rule movement.

11 May 1971 - Death of Sean LeMass, founding member of Fianna Fail, and taorseach (1959-66).

15 May 1847 - Death of Daniel O'Connell, "The Liberator", a major campaigner for Catholic emancipation and the repeal of the union between Great Britain and Ireland.

17 May 1650 - The Battle of Clonmell ends; Cromwell's forces storm the town but are beaten back by Black Hugh O'Neill.

19 May 1798 - Arrest and mortal wounding of Lord Edward Fitzgerald, United Irishman.

24 May 1928 - William Trevor, a prolific and prize-winning short story writer and novelist, is born in Mitchelstown Co. Cork. Among the best known of his over forty works are Felicia's Journey and The Story of Lucy Gault.

30 May 1784 - Belfast's first Catholic church, St. Mary's, opens for public worship.

31 May 1976 - Birth of actor Colin Farrell, in Castleknock, Dublin.

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By J. Michael Finn



## Lord Nelson's Head

Admiral Lord Horatio Nelson, British Naval hero, was honored in Dublin, Ireland in 1809 by the construction of Nelson's Pillar. The massive monument to British imperialism stood in the middle of Sackville Street (now O'Connell Street), just a few feet north of the General Post Office (GPO).

The pillar was a Doric column of Wicklow granite, 121 feet tall, topped by a thirteen foot high statue of Lord Nelson by Cork sculptor Thomas Kirk (who also did the statues on the GPO), giving the monument a total height of 134 feet. The architect for the project was Francis Johnston, who was also the architect of the GPO. The interior was covered in black limestone. Although its official name was The Nelson Pillar, it was commonly known in Dublin as Nelson's Pillar.

The original concept for the monument was conceived in Dublin in 1805 following Admiral Nelson's victory over the French fleet at the Battle of Trafalgar. Actual construction did not begin until 1808, due to problems collecting the necessary funding.

It was opened to the public on Trafalgar Day, October 21, 1809, the fourth anniversary of the battle. The citizens of Dublin were offered an unprecedented perspective on their city. For the payment of a mere ten pence, they could climb the 168 steps of the inner stone staircase to a grand view of the city.

In Dublin, opinions of the pillar varied, splitting along religious and ethnic lines. The pillar had been conceived and paid for by the Protestant Ascendancy in Dublin. The Act of Union had only occurred in 1800, which united the governments of England and Ireland. The Union was

widely viewed by Irish Catholics and Protestant Dissenters as being bought and paid for with English bribes. Nelson himself was viewed by the Irish as an adulterer and unworthy of honor in Ireland.

Politics and religion aside, many people criticized the location and design of the pillar.

beautiful object." The debate was renewed in 1926 and again in 1928. While there was general agreement to move the pillar, no one was successful in obtaining the necessary funding.

On October 29, 1955, nine University College Dublin students locked themselves inside the pillar and tried to melt the statue of Nelson with flame throwers. Police forced their way inside with sledgehammers. They took the students' names and brought them downstairs. As a police van arrived it was attacked by a sympathetic crowd that had formed around the pillar. Rather than arrest the students, the police

street. The bomb had been planted by a group of former Irish Republican Army volunteers, allegedly led by Joe Christle. Christle, dismissed ten years earlier from the IRA for taking unauthorized actions, saw himself as a socialist revolutionary. It is thought that the bombers acted to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising.

No one was hurt in the explosion and, although an investigation was conducted by the police, no one was ever charged with the bombing. The broken pieces of Nelson's statue were taken to storage.

On the morning of Monday

head in the trunk of a car and drove it to Belfast. From there, the students were able to lease the head for £200 a month to an antiques dealer in London for display in his shop window.

At some point the head left the possession of the antique dealer and reportedly spent time as a decorative piece in a pub in Australia. It eventually found its way back to Dublin. The head appeared in a women's stocking TV commercial and even found itself on the stage of the Olympia Theatre with The Dubliners. The head was given to the Nelson family and they in turn donated it to the Dublin Civic Museum. It was later moved to the Dublin City Library and Archive on Pearse Street where it resides today on a pedestal labeled "Nelson."

The Nelson's Pillar Act was passed in 1967 by the Dáil, transferring ownership for the monument site from the Nelson Pillar Trust to the Dublin Corporation. The site was paved over by the authorities and was vacant until the 398 foot Spire of Dublin, officially called The Monument of Light or An Túr Solais, was erected on the site in 2003.

There is some recent news.... In January 2014 the Irish News reported that the Dublin City Council considered a proposal to rename the Dublin Spire after the late South African President Nelson Mandela. Mr. Mandela was made a freeman of Dublin City in 1988. The committee discussed the proposed "Nelson Mandela Pillar" before deciding not to approve it because it was a specific part of the original Spire project that it would not be named in someone's honor.

\*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.



Some of the arguments included: It was ugly; it was too big; it blocked traffic; and it was in the wrong place. Almost immediately after the dedication, efforts began to relocate the pillar. Since the small piece of property on which it stood was owned by the Nelson Pillar Trust, it would take an Act of Parliament to move it. Several proposals were begun over the years, but none were successful.

The establishment of the Irish Free State in 1922 renewed the debate as 26-County Free State separated itself from English rule. In 1923, Irish poet William Butler Yeats called for the pillar to be removed on aesthetic grounds, saying "It's not a

confiscated their equipment and told everyone to leave quietly. No one was ever charged.

In 1960 Taoiseach Seán Lemass called the pillar an embarrassment and said "(Nelson) has no place in the center of our capital city overshadowing our principal national monument, which is the GPO." There were also proposals floated to keep the pillar but to replace the statue of Nelson with an Irish statue. St. Patrick was a suggested replacement. No action was taken.

At 1:32 AM on March 8, 1966, a bomb destroyed the upper half of the pillar, tossing the statue of Nelson and a large section of the pillar into the

March 14, 1966, Irish Army engineers blew up the rest of the pillar after determining that the remaining structure was too unsafe to repair or restore. The demolition of the base ended up causing more damage to surrounding structures than the original explosion.

The destruction of Lord Nelson's pillar was not the end of the story. While the wreckage from the statue was still in storage, students from the National College of Art and Design stole the intact head of Lord Nelson on St. Patrick's Day 1966 from a storage shed in Clanbrassil Street as a fund-raising prank to pay off the Student Union's debt. They placed the stolen





Early this spring, I was invited to judge a soda bread contest in Oak Park, Ill. The contest, a long-running tradition started by Jim and Anne August at their Irish Shop in 2008, brings in anywhere from 10 to 40 entries each year.

There were a record 34 breads to taste last year. With so many ready-made breads available, simply entering the contest is a testament to the growing popularity of home baking.

The day I was to judge the 2014 contest, I ate a light breakfast and skipped lunch altogether, figuring I would have to take at least 34 bites. Luckily for me, and for the competitors too, the 2014 entry pool was smaller, only

10 breads total, with three wheaten (similar to American whole wheat) and seven white.

Derek O'Brien, master baker, owner of the Baking Academy of Ireland and expert soda bread maker, suggests that all the soda bread entries "would need to be a of a particular weight, be even in shape, have been cut with a cross, but everything would come down to taste."

Should you be thinking about submitting a soda bread entry to next year's contest, take a few notes from O'Brien, especially if you can't make it to one of his baking courses in Dublin. (Although a few Americans have -- I'm adding one of his courses to my personal bucket list.)

But back to the task at hand: judging.

A few people lingered in the shop, including an Oak Park police officer, waiting for the tasting to begin. Jim August took out the judging clipboards, with pen and paper attached to each one. Soon he was expertly cutting into the loaves, one by one.

"This is the first entry," he said as he passed a piece to each judge.

I took the first soda bread in my hand, almost as if I was taking communion. I examined the texture, inhaled the aroma, felt for density and then eventually took a taste, chewing slowly.

I soon realized that the judging process was going to be harder than I had anticipated, because each bread has its own character. But we were judging for the best and most authentic look and taste, so I forged ahead, through more and more slices of soda bread.

Eventually it became clear that we would have a winner.

One of the entries, submitted by Amy Hasegawa, a long-time contestant and previous winner, stood out for its traditional round form with a cross cut through the middle, a rich and slightly sweet taste and just the right amount of moisture to make the crumbs soft.

I had thought I knew soda bread. But when I bit into Amy Hasegawa's slice, I was astonished that a soda bread could taste so hearty and soft. O'Brien affirmed that soda bread varies wildly from baker to baker.

"Soda bread recipes vary greatly," he says, "because of the ingredients and for the way the flour, salt, buttermilk and sodium bicarbonate are mixed together."

"The first thing we do in our courses is ask students to throw out their own recipe, probably from granny, because that recipe doesn't work anymore. The buttermilk we have nowadays isn't acidic enough, and continentals don't like the soda flavor," he says. "In fact I don't

like it myself. We use baking powder and natural yogurt in our baking academy recipes."

O'Brien adds that there is a general misconception that the Irish have been making and eating soda bread for a very long time. "In fact," he points out, "it was first made in Ireland about the year 1850 -- barely 160 years ago."

O'Brien, who opened the school in the early 2010, sees students of all ages come through the doors looking to improve their skills. During his long tenure at the Irish Baking School at the Dublin Institute of Technology, he was inspired to start his own academy after meeting mature students looking for skill-building opportunities.

"It's always a pleasure when you're standing in front of students and when they have no idea that there is so much science going on in bread. They aren't actually making cake, they are dabbling in emul-

*Continued on page 20*

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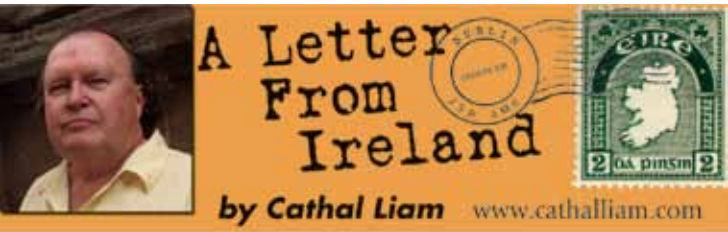
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"God bless all the men & women of the Easter Rebellion / for their names and their values we know them quite well, / and when Ireland gets freedom for all her thirty-two counties / we'll remember James Connolly, the Irish rebel." [Words from a seldom-sung verse of the traditional Irish folk ballad, James Connolly...author unknown.]

So with this letter, written in honour of the 1916 Easter Rebellion, I begin with the words of Patrick Henry Pearse and James Connolly. They wrote on behalf of the other five Irish Proclamation signatories as well as for the people of Ireland: "In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.... In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty: six times during the past three hundred years they have asserted it in arms. Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades-in-arms to the cause of its freedom, of its welfare, and of its exultation among the nations."

Shortly after noontime on Easter Monday, 24 April 1916, Pearse read these words and more from beneath the portico of the General Post Office on Sackville Street. Nowhere have I read if Pearse meant to include 'his' impending uprising as part of the six. One can only surmise his intentions.

In her book, Dublin 1916, Clair Wills speculates the six began with the Ulster uprising of 1641 as Catholic landowners tried unsuccessfully to unseat Dublin's Protestant administration and its pro-English Ulster plantation settlers. History notes the encounter, known as the

Irish Confederate War, lasted seven months. Avenging this disloyalty, England's Oliver Cromwell and his New Model Army invaded Ireland in August, 1649, raping, murdering and pillaging Irish Catholics as well as English Royalists who'd remained loyal to the recently executed English king, Charles I.

A second assertion spun out of the Jacobite War, begun in 1689. The following year, it saw two English kings, James II & William III, face-off along the banks of the River Boyne in Co. Meath. Known as the Williamite War or Glorious Revolution in Ireland, it too was a costly affair. Though the fighting was relatively localised, the two-and-a-half-year struggle saw the Irish suffer traumatic penalties that endured for over a century. Known as the Penal Laws, the English 'Protestant Ascendancy' instituted harsh decrees during the eighteenth-century that upheld government-sponsored political, economic, religious and social edicts aimed at controlling the actions of Irish Catholics and Protestant [mostly Presbyterian] Dissenters.

The Year of Liberty, 1798, witnessed Ireland's greatest uprising and it's most horrific defeat. Finally, after a four-month-plus struggle, the insurrectionary United Irishmen had their hopes for victory crushed as General Charles Cornwallis authorized the execution of over 30,000 Irish, put to the sword by England, all for supporting the cause of Ireland. The climactic result of this clash saw Dublin's parliament dissolved and its governance subsumed into union with Scotland and England as Ireland became part of Great Britain's United Kingdom in 1801.

The last three assertion-in-arms Pearse likely had in mind took place in the years 1803, 1848 and 1867. Tragically, they all proved to be mere skirmishes. Emmet's 1803, two-hour Dublin insurrection was over before it

began. The Young Irelanders' 1848 clash with the police in Mrs. McCormack's Tipperary cabbage patch floundered quickly too. Lastly, the ill-timed 1867 Fenian Uprising met a disastrous end with the execution of the Manchester Martyrs. Unfortunately, these impulsive attempts to wrestle Irish freedom from England's clutches were doomed to fail before they ever had a chance of achieving success.

So if Wills is right, and I believe she is, Pearse did not include 1916 in his litany of six. Possibly not wishing to bring down the curse of past defeats on his inexperienced Irish Volunteers, the newly appointed first President of the Irish Republic called on the citizens of Dublin to help his rebel forces. Thus, on that warm April day, approximately 1,200 poorly armed, trained and ill-equipped Irish men and women marched out to strike for freedom and to make a political statement to the world Ireland too deserved its freedom.

You know the story...the Easter Uprising lasted but six days. Hundreds on both sides of the conflict died or were wounded with the centre of Dublin left smouldering in ruins.

Within days, the English authorities hastily rounded up over three thousand Irish. Of those detained, about two thousand were deported straightaway to prisons in England, all without trial. During the one-hundred-sixty tribunals that did take place, ninety prisoners received death sentences. Fourteen of those were executed within hours by military firing squads. Another was hanged in London three months later.

But due to public and political outcries, the remaining death decrees were commuted to penal servitude. Surprisingly that summer, the British government began releasing the 1916 internees with the last captives freed in July, 1917.

Two years later, despite the improbability of it all, Ireland rose again and fought a thirty-month War for Independence. This encounter and its subsequent 1921-1922 political manoeuvrings finally spelled the end of Britain's imperial rule in twenty-six

of Ireland's thirty-two counties.

Accordingly, it was from the spilled 'blood' of early religious martyrs that saw the seeds of Christianity sprout; so too it's from the 'blood' of twentieth-century Irish patriots that freedom in Ireland has finally gained a genuine foothold.

So, please God, let this year's 98th Commemoration of the 1916 Easter Rebellion be a reminder of all that has gone before and let each of us, in our own way, honour those men and women of yesterday. Let us strive to ensure their sacrifice for a free, united and independent Ireland was not in vain. Éireann Abú, Cathal

## Guilty Pleasures

*continued from page 19*

sion technology," he said.

O'Brien enjoys teaching, but is most inspired by student engagement. "If people are asking you questions," he says, "then you are in business!"

O'Brien is concerned about the growing scarcity of true

artisan or craft bakeries in Ireland. He strongly believes in baking apprenticeships, but in the mid-90s the Irish baking industry no longer saw the benefit and to cut costs, eliminated that requirement of its employees. Around 80 percent of breads in Ireland are manufactured in factories or "fakeries," according to O'Brien.

Needless to say, he holds his academy to high standards. "I have people who are employed as qualified bakers. Some are working in bakeries during the day and then come in to work for me later. I also only employ graduates of mine," he said.

Should you be a home baker in America and non-qualified professionally, O'Brien has recommendations for his "one-page operation," a.k.a. a soda bread recipe that you will find at the end of this column.

"If you come into us, we guarantee that our recipes will work," he said and one golden rule stands above all: "Bakers should weigh everything including the egg," he says.

*Continued on page 21*



The Baking Academy  
of Ireland



WHEATEN BREAD

THE MASTERBAKERS



Stage	Ingredients	Gr.	Gr.	Method
1	Plain flour	100	0	Place all ingredients in large bowl and blend the flours, salt and baking powder together well. Use a hand whisk.
	Bakers' Flour	100	0	
	Wholemeal	300	500	
	Salt	7	7	
2	Baking Powder	25	25	Mix yoghurt & sugar in the buttermilk. Add to dry ingredients. Mix & knead gently
	Caster sugar	5	5	
	Buttermilk	325	325*	
	Natural Yoghurt	100	100	
Total:		960	960*	

Processing details:

Details	Temp/Time	Instructions
Dough Temperature:	Ambient	Use cold buttermilk.
Fermentation Time:	none	

Scaling Weight:	480g x 2	Dust table with wholemeal flour. Hand up dough pieces into a round ball shape.
Intermediate Proof:	none	
Shape:	Type 1: Type 2:	Deposit the mixture into a papered baking pan. Dampen the back of the hand and press level. Dust with flour. Shape round and place on papered baking sheet. Dust with flour. Cut in centre using a Scotch scraper / knife.
Proof Time:	none	
Baking Temperature:	190°C	
Baking Time:	35 - 40 min.	





## Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



### Snakes Smile Before They Bite

It has been eight years now since I moved Chicago. The decision to leave Ireland and all that was familiar to me was not an easy one. I'd moved to the seaside resort town of Buncrana in Donegal two years prior to coming to the States. The move was based, in part, on a romantic notion of living near the beautiful Lough Swilly; a place that was important to my childhood. Since it was only fourteen miles from Derry, I could have the best of both worlds; I could visit family in the city, and enjoy walks along the coastline. It sounded so perfect. I'd found a great house to rent, so much better than anything I'd rented before, and I'd convinced myself that the move was permanent.

The rot, if I can call it that, set in after only a week of being in paradise. I was having broadband installed, and the engineer was local. His first words to me were 'Where are you from?' Derry, I replied. 'What brought you down to this hell-hole', was his response.

I was definitely taken aback by his cynicism. How could anyone think of this simple idyll as a hell-hole? Without taking any time to let his condemnation of the Eden I'd chosen for myself to set in, he then proceeded to offer me his sagely wisdom. 'Don't, whatever you do, trust anyone here. They're hypocrites the lot of them. Stab you in the back as quick as look at you.' His negative comments

punctured a dirty big hole in the fantasy I'd created. Buncrana was no longer a picturesque, sedate little community, but a cesspool of backstabbers. Behind those nods of the head, those friendly good morning greetings, the horrible truth lay. I refused to let the dream die so easily. I was sure that he was wrong. My neighbours, largely young parents, seemed the opposite to what he described. Across from me lived a policeman (Garda), and his young family, and a friendlier person you couldn't find.

So being the eternal optimist, I refused to believe him. Some people are simply jaded by life, and who knows he might be the worse of his own accusations, unable to see the logic in his own eye. Always give people the benefit of the doubt, was the philosophy of my father, himself a Donegal man. The engineer's words were slightly disturbing but I was sure they would be proved wrong.

As the weeks drifted into months I was happily living in two worlds. My plans to walk every morning by the banks of the Swilly didn't materialize; obviously this was the aspiration of man disconnected from reality. I did, however, love the drive back from Derry to Buncrana; motoring through the small villages of Fahan, and Lisfannon. The move was a good one. It added a few miles to every journey, but the advantages outweighed the inconvenience.

Since I'd moved from Northern Ireland to the Republic there were a number of things to do, pay taxes to the 26 counties, sign up to vote etc. The one thing I had failed to do was to change the registration of my car. I'd paid my tax and insurance for the year in the North, and I was planning to wait until it was up for renewal before changing over. For the first seven months everything seemed fine, until there was a knock on my door. It was the Garda.

'Who owns the vehicle in the front drive?', she asked. 'I do', I replied. 'How long have you lived here?', she continued with her questioning. 'About 7 months. Why?' I responded. 'You had 6 months to re-register your car, and now it's in violation of the law. You have a week to get it re-registered.' For some unknown reason, I found myself looking across the street to my neighbour's house, the policeman. I could see him look away; it was the look of betrayal. The point of

the blade in my back was twisted even more when I found out that the car taxes in Donegal were twice as much as I had paid to the British government. The engineer's words echoed in my mind.

The disenchantment was rapidly destroying my illusion of rural life. I really wouldn't have minded paying the extra if I were getting value for my money, but the roads in Donegal had to be among the worst in the country. Where was the money going to, I wondered? With myself legal again, I was still reeling from the death of my innocence or naivety.

The highway robbers had got the best of me, aided by a neighbour.

In truth though, I was caught red-handed, and I didn't like it one bit. The sense of injustice I'd felt was greatly exaggerated for effect. Derry people don't like paying for anything if we can help it. I suppose it was time to grow up and take responsibility for my own actions. Buncrana people were not a nest of backbiters waiting for the opportunity to pounce

on someone's misfortune; they were no different from anyone else. I was in a new environment, with new rules to live up to, and it was a good lesson to learn.

So once I took myself down from the cross of my own making, I was able to laugh at my own desire for melodrama. The engineer was wrong; I loved living in Donegal free of the suspicion of my neighbours when I realized how petty I could be.

\*Terry, originally from Derry, now resides in USA. Questions or comments: [terryaboyle@gmail.com](mailto:terryaboyle@gmail.com)

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## Guilty Pleasures

continued from page 20

'You can't expect consistency otherwise.'

In America he recommends using whole meal flour, because, "American wheats are quite strong." You can also make up your own flour by adding bran to pastry flour.

If you're a more adventurous baker, you can try changing up the traditional recipe, as O'Brien does. "There's a tendency to keep things brown or white in Ireland," he said. So he creates savory soda breads, like his Mediterranean bread with olives and pesto.

With all this new knowledge and a guaranteed recipe from O'Brien, maybe I'll enter next year's soda bread contest. I've got practicing to do. I hope my husband Michael is hungry.





## Avon Lake

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## Brooklyn

**Hooley House!**  
2nd - Abbey Normal, 9th - Charlie in the Box, 10th - Brigid's Cross, 16th - School Girl Crush, 23rd - Carlos Jones, 24th - UFC 173, 30th - Collage. 10310 Cascade Crossing, Brooklyn 216-362-7700. 1FunPub.com

## Cincinnati

**Irish Heritage Center** Call for Irish Rugby Schedule Games Streamed in from Eire. Irish Teas/Library / Genealogy Detective / all three by appointment. Irish Heritage Center 3905 Eastern Avenue 513.533.0100, [www.irishcenterofcincinnati.com](http://www.irishcenterofcincinnati.com). Irish Heritage Center 3905 Eastern Avenue 513.533.0100, [www.irishcenterofcincinnati.com](http://www.irishcenterofcincinnati.com).

## Cleveland

**The Harp** 2nd - irish session, 3rd the porter sharks, 7th - lonesome stars, 9th - walking cane, 10th - chris allen, 14th - chris & tom, 16 kristine Jackson, 17th fior gael, 21st - lonesome star, 23rd - brent kirby, 24th - porter sharks, 28th - chris & tom, 30th - marys lane, 31st - joe rollin porter. 4408 Detroit Road, 44113 [www.the-harp.com](http://www.the-harp.com)

**Stone Mad** 4th - Holleran Traditional Irish Session, 18th - Bluegrass Platter Band, 25th - Chris Allen. 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

**Flat Iron Café** 2nd - Jim & Eroc Classic Rock Duo, 9th - Donal O'Shaughnessy, 16th - Becky

## Cleveland

Boyd & Claudia Schieve, 23rd - Brian Lindsay & Alex Sturbaum; All start @7. 1114 Center St. Cleveland 44113-2406 216.696.6968. [www.flatironcafe.com](http://www.flatironcafe.com)  
**Treehouse** 4th - Cats on Holiday; 11th - Craic Brothers; 18th - Top Hat Black Band; 25th - Burning River Ramblers. 820 College Avenue, Cleveland, 44113 [www.treehousecleveland.com](http://www.treehousecleveland.com)  
**PJ McIntyre's** 4th - Cats on Holiday; 11th - Craic Brothers; 18th - Top Hat Black Band; 25th - Burning River Ramblers. 820 College Avenue, Cleveland, 44113 [www.treehousecleveland.com](http://www.treehousecleveland.com)

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### Flannery's Pub

2nd - The Higbees, 3rd - Ryan Melquist, 9th - The Barflies, 10th - Brent Kirby, 16th - Walkin' Cane, 17th - Kristine Jackson, 23rd & 24th - New Barleycorn, 31st - The Barflies. 323 East Prospect, Cleveland 44115 216.781.7782 [www.flannerys.com](http://www.flannerys.com)



**Burning River Ramblers: 24th - PJ McIntyre's, 25th - Treehouse**

## Columbus

**Shamrock Club Events**  
1st & 15th - Bardic Circle, 16th - Kirby Sessions. Happy Hour every Friday from 5-7pm! 60 W. Castle Rd. Columbus 43207 614-491-4449 [www.shamrockclubofcolumbus.com](http://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.

## Euclid

**Irish American Club East Side PUB:** 7:30 - 10:30: 2nd - Celtic Union, 9th - Plaid Sabbath, 16th - Donegal Doggs, 18th - Mossy Moran (6-9), 30th - Shifty Drifters, 31st - An Irish Wake w The Terriers after 5:00 Mass @club. IACES 22770 Lake Shore Blvd. Euclid, 44123. 216.731.4003 [www.irishamericanclubeastside.org](http://www.irishamericanclubeastside.org)

## Findlay

### Logan's Irish Pub

2414 South Main Street, Findlay 45840 419.420.3602. [www.logansirishpubfindlay.com](http://www.logansirishpubfindlay.com)

## Harpersfield

### Kosicek Winery

4th - The Terriers. 636 Rt. 534 Harpersfield, Ohio 44041

## Lakewood

### Beck Center for the Arts

17801 Detroit Avenue Lakewood 44107 (216) 521-2540 [www.beckcenter.org](http://www.beckcenter.org). 17801 Detroit Avenue Lakewood 44107 (216) 521-2540 [www.beckcenter.org](http://www.beckcenter.org)

## Lakewood

**Plank Road Tavern** Open Sessiún Every Thursday 7 - 10. \$3 Guinness and Jamieson. 16719 Detroit Avenue, 44107

## Medina

**Sully's** 2nd - The Other Brothers, 3rd - Tom Evanchuck, 9th - Music Men, 10th - Donal O'Shaughnessy, 16th - Marys Lane, 17th - New Barleycorn, 23rd - Mossy Moran, 24th - Bruno's Boys, 30th - Jessica Hannan and Stackhouse, 31st - The Island Doctor. 117 West Liberty Medina, 44256 [www.sullysmedina.com](http://www.sullysmedina.com)

## Mentor

**Hooley House** 2nd - Carlos Jones, 3rd - Charlie in the Box, 9th - Marys Lane, 10th - Jeff Soukup, 16th - Faction, 17th - Matt Johnson, 23rd - Almost Famous, 24th - UFC 173, 30th - Samantha Fitzpatrick. All starts @9:30: Every Tuesday - Open Mic w Nick Zuber, Every Wednesday - Trivia Night. 7861 Reynolds Rd Mentor [www.1funpub.com](http://www.1funpub.com) (440) 942-6611.

## Olmsted Township

**West Side Irish American Club** 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th - Great live music every Friday. 11th - Mother's Day Mass & Breakfast, 18th - Book Club Discussion: Maeve Binchy; Free, all are welcome. 23rd Annual Reverse Raffle, 24th - Annual



**Mossy Moran:**  
**18th-Irish American Club East Side, 23rd - Sully's**

## Olmsted Township

Steak Shoot, 22nd - Monthly General meeting. WSIA Club 8559 Jennings Rd. 44138 [www.wsia-club.org](http://www.wsia-club.org). 440-235-5868.

## Westlake

### Hooley House

2nd - Blue Stone Union, 3rd - One Hit Wonders, 9th - Colin Dussault, 10th - Jukebox Heros, 16th - New Barleycorn, 17th - Michelle Romary, 24th - UFC 173, 30th - London Flatts, 31st - Marys Lane. 24940 Sperry Dr Westlake 44145. 1FunPub.com (440) 835-2890

## Willoughby

### Mullarkey's

2nd - Jam Sammich, 3rd - Kevin McCarthy, 9th - Eric Butler, 17th - Dan McCoy, 23rd - Brendan Burt Band, 24th - Mossy Moran. Wed: Karaoke, Thurs: Ladies Night w/ D.J. 4110 Erie Street [www.mullarkeys.com](http://www.mullarkeys.com)



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## The Streetcar That Never Came

By Richard Lardie

1951 was a great year to be nine years old, but then any year is a great year to be nine. 5th grade was so much better than 4th grade. The Browns were the defending champions of the NFL and were 5-1 so far this season. The Indians had a good year finishing 92-61, good for 2nd place in the American League. These were all exciting things for a nine year old. Dad and mom said we may have a television next year to watch the games. Life is as good as it gets.

"A Deum qui laetificat juventutem meum." I was ready. I had spent two months learning Latin and the intricacies sacristy to become adept at serving mass. Sister Leona had impressed on us that people's souls were riding on how well we did our duty as altar boys.

What I remember most is that it was cold and dark that November morning in 1951. I never had to get up at 5:15 AM before. I was excited

though because most of Christianity was riding on my nine year old shoulders that day. I would be serving the 6:30 mass at St Aloysius. My first time serving and my mom said I could ride the streetcar by myself. I was feeling very old and brave.



**Richard Lardie  
as a boy**

Back then we walked to school every morning, back home for lunch, to school again for the afternoon and back. It was a lot of walking. We lived in Bratenahl at 99th & Lake Shore Blvd. while St. Als was at East 109th & St Clair, it seemed like miles and miles. Taking the streetcar was almost as

exciting as helping to save the souls of those who would be attending 6:30 mass that day.

Mom helped me dress and gave me a dime that would cover the cost of taking the East 105th streetcar, transfer to the St Clair streetcar and back again on both streetcars. I would then turn around and walk to school at 8:15 am. Can you imagine a nine

year old doing that today?

I boarded the streetcar at Dupont loop (that just sounds cool, it wasn't). When it arrived at St Clair I disembarked, crossed St Clair and waited for the eastbound streetcar. The cold wind caused me to scrunch my shoulders, keep my hands in my pockets and my head down. I clutched my transfer tightly because I knew if I lost it I wouldn't have enough money to take the streetcar home. There were numerous people waiting with me, all off to work or home at this early hour. They were quiet and scrunched against the cold also.

Suddenly a big vehicle pulled to the curb and a crowd got off and the people that were waiting for the streetcar got on this big vehicle. I stood there looking through the door at the driver. He asked me if I was getting on. I looked at him, then at the streetcar tracks in the middle of the street, and slowly shook my head no. He closed the door and pulled away leaving me there alone in the dark. I felt very alone, cold and scared.

I considered my options: walk to St Als, wait for a streetcar, run home. I decided to wait for a streetcar.

Just at that moment a black woman came around the corner from the south. I can still see her: mid-40s, babushka, calf length winter coat and a purse hanging off her arm. She must have seen that I did not get on the bus. She asked me very calmly if I was waiting for the streetcar. I said I was. She smiled at me warmly and said, "Streetcars don't run on St Clair no more. You will have to get on the trolley bus."

"Buses don't run on tracks so how do I know they will take me where I am go-

ing?" I replied close to tears.

"They are attached to the trolley line and the trolley line goes straight down St Clair. I will tell the driver to make sure you get off right where you want." Her voice indicated she was concerned for my welfare. I moved a little closer to her.

save Christianity after all.

Reflecting back on those times it is easy to see how a nine year old would not be aware of a major change in public transportation.

We did not have a T V and if we did there wasn't enough news on that a nine year old would watch. Three major



Soon more people came around and were waiting with us again. The trolley bus came and pulled over to the curb. This time when the driver asked if I was getting on I nodded. The lady had already told him of my fears so he let me stand in the door well. He dropped me off right in front of the church. I served mass brilliantly. I was able to

newspapers then but what nine year old was reading them? Grownups never talked serious stuff when we were around. It never would have dawned on my mother to tell me about the streetcars being eliminated.

So, Christianity is alive and well thanks to a very nice lady who helped this nine year old board a trolley, back in 1951.

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The Harp - 1st Friday of every month, 9pm

Logan's Irish Pub - 3rd Wednesday of the month, 414 S. Main St., Findlay, 7:30 pm

Oberlin's Traditional Irish Session - 2nd Monday of the month 8-10pm Slow Train Café, 55 East College St., Oberlin. Informal all experience welcome: [www.oberlin.net/~irishsession](http://www.oberlin.net/~irishsession)

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