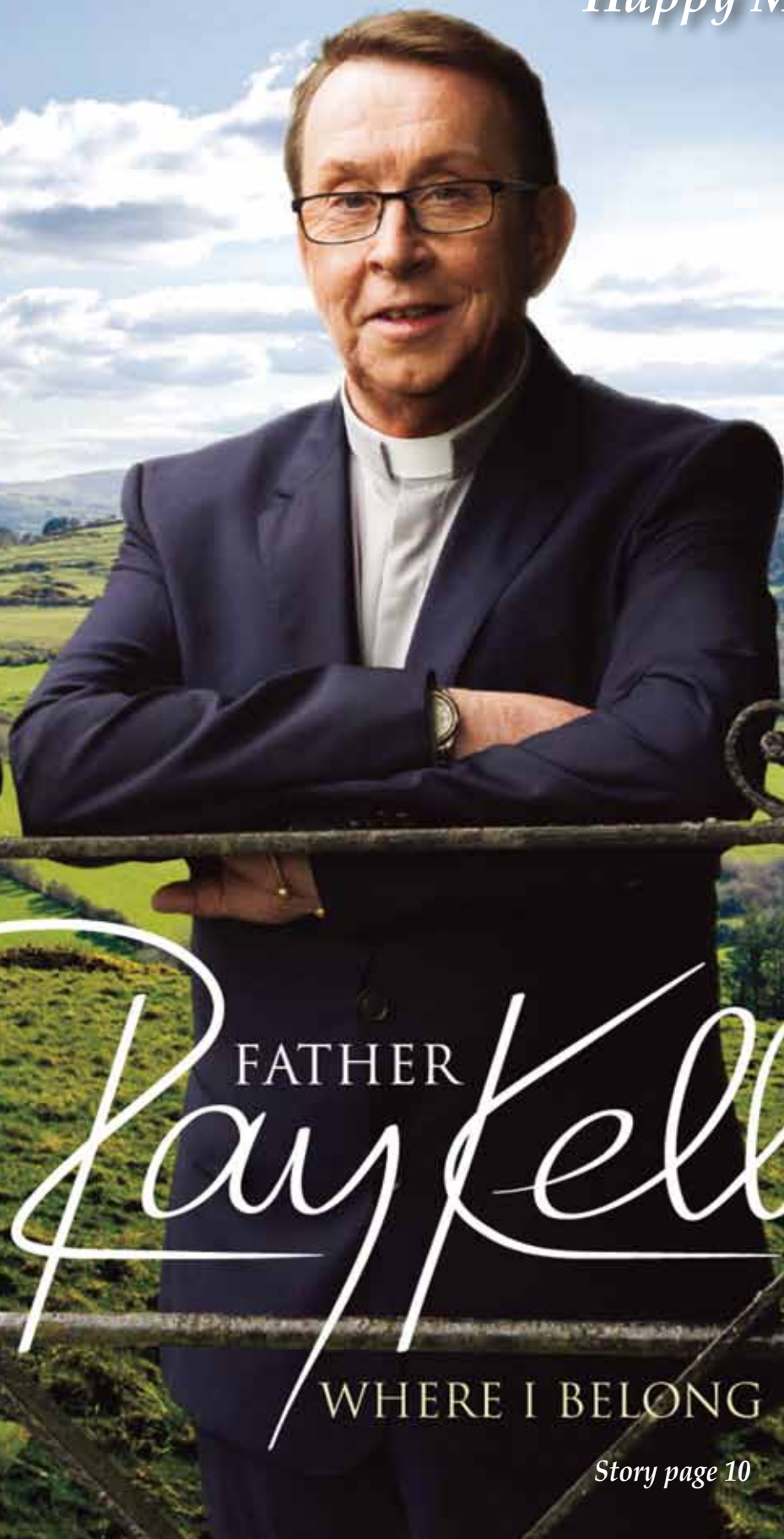




MAY 2015
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Happy Mother's Day
May 10



FATHER
Ray Kelly
WHERE I BELONG

Story page 10

irish american news



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Editor's Corner



John O'Brien, Jr.

America is still an immigrant nation – I read a lot about the Irish American experience; I love American and Irish history, and the intriguing interlinks. I see stark similarities between the Irish and other immigrant Italian, Croatian, Polish, Hispanic and other cultures. Faith based, family centric, pick yourself up by the bootstraps, make your way, then reach a hand down and help another do the same – the power of multitudes and passionate belief in paying it forward.

For the Irish in Cleveland, they went to the West Side Irish American Club first. It was where you went to begin the search for success: for a job, an apartment, to find friends and a spouse.



They are not coming any more; this is a first – the first time there will no longer be significant numbers of 1st Generation Irish in Cleveland; my generation is the last First Generation. All of the Irish based organizations I am involved with are aware of it, lament it, are slow to respond to it, why? Because we don't know how; it has never happened before.

demand, but the cash cost is astronomical. Irish Network Cleveland, the newly incorporated Cleveland Irish Business Chamber of Commerce, will debur some sharp edges for those immigrants and descendants looking for a job or a friend; the rebirth of Cleveland has opened so many eyes once again, to all that Cleveland has to offer; and the focus of This is Cleveland has returned to its roots, opening doors and dialogues with people and entities that want to come here. PEL Manufacturing is an Ireland based business that opened its US Headquarters in Cleveland early this year. The crack in the dam starts with one drop.



Murphy Arts Wins Worlds

22nd Annual Acting Irish International Theatre Festival



Cincinnati 2015
May 19-24

Irish Heritage Center

5 DAYS, 7 IRISH PLAYS!

The Acting Irish International Theatre Festival is hosting select theater groups from the United States, Canada, and Ireland for this week-long theatrical event at Cincinnati's Irish Heritage Center.

Seven full-length plays written by Irish authors or set in Ireland:

- May 19, 7:30 PM: *The Cavalcaders* by Billy Roche
- May 20, 7:30 PM: *The Field* by John B. Keane
- May 21, 7:30 PM: *The Maiden Aunt* by Jimmy Keary
- May 22, 2:00 PM: *The New Electric Ballroom* by Enda Walsh
- May 22, 8:00 PM: *Sea Marks* by Gardner McKay
- May 23, 2:00 PM: *The Chastitute* by John B. Keane
- May 23, 8:00 PM: *Moment* by Deirdre Kihnan

Stay after each show to hear a critique of the performance.
Professional adjudication by George C. Heslin.

Tickets are available now. Discounts are available for multiple shows and large groups. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit www.irishcenterofcincinnati.com or call 513-533-0100.

The Irish Heritage Center is also seeking donations, corporate sponsors, and volunteers to support the festival. If you would like to assist, please call 513-533-0100.

IRISH HERITAGE CENTER OF GREATER CINCINNATI
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Festivals and fairs, dance and Irish music schools and bands and Irish related businesses, feel the vacuum of replenishing Irish born blood in Cleveland; the volunteerism and active, physical support that birthed, nurtured, grew Irish owned businesses and providers, and provided the backbone of the community, and the city. In 400+ years of the Irish coming to America post Columbus; not since St. Brendan the Navigator first arrived in a currach in America in the 5th Century, 1000 years before Chris, has this happened.

Cleveland Dance Schools seem to be thriving and in high

Don't cry wolf, cry the great Craic in Cleveland, as awareness of an issue creates that first drop. My father and mother are immigrants, shall I not offer my hand to the next generation?

Slan,
John

"Follow me where I go, what I do and who I know; O'Bent Enterprises includes:
www.twitter.com/jobjr
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Living With Lardie

by Richard Lardie



Another Audition Adventure

My last story on the audition revealed the craziness of my youth. My wife accuses me of not being able to grow up. I am afraid this story may prove her right.

In the spring of 2010 Kay and I were watching the only Reality show we watch, "America's Got Talent". The program constantly flashes to the waiting room for people that are auditioning. It is a huge room of wildly dressed people. Singers, jugglers, crossdressers, dancers, gymnasts, cheerleaders, magicians, crossdressers, mimes, animal acts, crossdressers, strong people, dance teams, comedians, poets, crossdressers, poetry readers, child acts, ventriloquists, and did I mention crossdressers?

I jokingly mentioned to Kay that it would be fun just to be in that room. The people watching would be fantastic. She was on her computer and half-heartedly watching the show and less half-heartedly listening to me. "That would be fun," says she. Well, say no more.

I immediately set out to figure a way to get into that room. Never mind that I was 69 years old and had no talent. I was going to audition for America's Got Talent. (I wonder if there is a show "America's Got No Talent" that would be right up my alley).

I started writing a little comedy material to see if I could still write something funny. I wrote two jokes and thought, "Yep, I still got it". So I went to the internet and searched out how to get an audition. I found the site, researched it a little and applied for an audition as a comedian. Two days later I got this back

To: Richard Lardie : 11/05/10

We have you confirmed to audition in: Audition City: Chicago Location: McCormick Place 2301 South Lakeshore Drive Chicago, IL 60616.

Well, you can imagine Kay's surprise when I told her she had gotten her wish. We were going to Chicago and we were going to be in that crazy room and we were going to audition for America's Got Talent. You could have knocked me over when she said she didn't remember saying she wanted to do that. I reminded her of the conversation and she still didn't remember (so much for meaningful conversation while we are both on our computers and watching TV).

"You have no talent, what are you going to do?" I told her I was writing a comedy routine. "You're not funny anymore."

Wow and this from my biggest fan.

"That never stopped me before." I retorted. Wait, that didn't come out right? "Oh well, talent or no talent, we are going to Chicago and we are going to people watch in that crazy room. It will be another of our adventures."

Then my biggest fan showed how supportive she can be. God love her. "I am only going if there is a casino near by"

You can't fake support like that. I wrote a new routine and practiced getting it down to 90 seconds. There was a casino on the border of Indiana and Illinois. We booked a night and made a weekend of it. The casino proved to be a losing proposition (go figure). To make sure we arrived on time, I didn't tell Kay about the double time change. Chicago is an hour behind and daylight savings time ended that Saturday night. My audition was Sunday at 9:00 AM.

We arrived at 8:55 and that is when I discovered all people auditioning were told to be there at 9 AM. The line was long and wrapped around the building, but the sun was out and it was in the low 60s, so the waiting wasn't hard. The line moved slowly but steadily towards the door. I assumed once we got in I would be able to do my routine and leave. We got to the door at 10 a.m..

Yup, an hour in the line but we were finally in the door. That's when I saw the corded lines, like at a bank weaved back and forth, back and forth up to the front of a huge lobby at the McCormick Place. We got to the head of the line at Noon. Three hours in line, but it was interesting. People were singing and dancing and reciting poetry and laughing etc. Mothers

pled it, and filed it. They handed me a big number and a pin to pin it on my front. They directed me around the corner and I thought I would be doing my routine but no. That is when we went into the room that we saw on TV. The room with all the people waiting to audition was jammed.

It was ballroom sized, with chairs scattered everywhere. People in all kinds of make-

ers? There were so many guys in drag it looked like a Jamie Farr/ Klinger convention. It was people watching at its' finest.

Five more hours: at 5 p.m. they called my number to do my audition. They rounded up 10 of us and we went down the hall to an area that had smaller meeting rooms filled with people who were going to judge our act. They told us we would all go in at once and do our 90 seconds.

We stood at the door and at the last minute they announced that one of us was a comedian and he was going to go in alone. They opened the door and pushed me in.

Two women in their thirties sat there daring me to be funny. They asked my name and where I was from. We had a nice chat during which I got them laughing pretty hard. They asked if I was a comedian. I said, "When I got in line I was a juggler. I was going to juggle two bananas and a snickers but I was in line so long I ate my act." They laughed a lot during my audition, but apparently not enough, or this story would be about me being on TV. It sure was a great adventure though.



were doting on their sons and daughters and smiling proudly at anyone that would take notice.

I got to the registration desk and handed them my registration form. They stamped it, tore it, sta-

up and costumes were singing, dancing, flipping, juggling, playing guitars, saxophones, fiddles. There were mimes, puppeteers, magicians, gymnasts, and, did I mention, crossdress-

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On This Day in Irish History

3 May 1933 - The Constitution (Removal of oath) Act removed the oath of allegiance to the British Crown from the Constitution of the Irish Free State.

8 May 1916 - Execution of Eamonn Ceannt, Michael Mallin, Con Colbert and Sean Houston in Kilmainham for their roles in the Easter Rising.

12 May 1916 - James Connolly and Sean MacDiarmada are executed for their part in the Easter Rising.

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

18 May 1983 - Death of Frank Aiken, Commander of the Irish Re-

publican Army and later senior Irish politician. A founding member of Fianna Fail, Aiken was first elected to Dail Eireann in 1923 and at each subsequent election until 1973.

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

21 May 1944 - Birth of Mary Robinson, lawyer and 7th President of Ireland.

23 May 1798 - The Rising Rebellion starts when small crowds of men set out from the poor districts of Dublin to seize the Castle and other key public buildings. It was the bloodiest conflict in modern Irish history.

24 May 1928 - William Trevor (Cox), prolific and prize-winning short story writer and novelist, is born in Mitcheltown, Co. Cork.

Where do you
read your OhIAN ?



Send us a photo of you with this or a past month's copy of the Ohio Irish American News or post it on our Facebook page and Winners will receive a \$20 gift certificate for the Hooley House, Pj McIntyre's or any of our other OhIAN advertisers, courtesy of your Ohio Irish American News.

MILESTONES

Congratulations to Murphy Irish Arts Drama Team on winning the World Championship at the 45th Annual World Irish Dancing Championships in Montreal over Easter, performing The Miracle on Whiskey Island, written by Sheila Murphy Crawford. Held at the Palais des congrès de Montréal, more than 5,000 dancers competed.

Pictured Below: Teaching staff:
Maureen Cavanaugh - Teacher: Sheila Murphy Crawford - Director & teacher:
Bob Crawford - Technical Director



Congratulations to Paul Fox (pictured below) of Skylight Financial Group, elected President of the Mass-Mutual General Agents Association.



MAY 2015 Vol. 9 Issue 5

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Cleveland Irish- Francis McGarry

Crossword Puzzle- Linda Fulton Burke

Don't Forget Us-Lisa O'Rourke

Guilty Pleasures- Christine

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Owens Sports- Mark Owens

Terry From Derry- Terry Boyle

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Next Month; Our 9th Annual
Fantastic Festival Focus Issue!

Irish Trivia

by Linda Fulton Burke



Answers on page 8

- 2 Mass has been celebrated every Sunday at _____ Abbey in Co. Mayo since 1216.
3 The World's oldest New _____ is in the Chester Beatty Library in Dublin.
4 A river called the _____ runs under Dublin Castle.
5 Dublin was originally called Dubh Linn meaning Black _____.
7 If someone's glass is described as flathúil - flahool - it means _____.
10 The midland Bog of _____ is the largest peat bog in the world.
13 There are documentary records of 9,724 _____ around the Irish coast.
16 In 1931 Irishman Ernest Walton split the _____ for the first time.
17 Bloody Foreland in County Donegal owes its name to its magnificent _____.
20 _____ is the most common surname in Ireland.
21 The _____ in Dublin is the oldest maternity hospital in Europe.
22 Irish-born Patrick Maguire was the first man of Columbus' crew to step on _____ American soil.
23 It was on _____ Monday, 1949, that Éire became officially known as the Republic of Ireland.
24 The first Irish-born winner of an _____ gold medal was John Pius Boland at Athens in 1896.
25 _____, written by Dubliner Bram Stoker, has never been out of print.
27 _____ once remarked that the Irish were the only people who couldn't be psychoanalysed.
28 Emmett Square in Birr, Co. Offaly, marks the _____ of Ireland.



ACROSS
4 _____ Island on Lough Derg was believed to be one of the two entrances to Hell.
6 Swallowing a live _____ was an old Irish cure for a stomach ache.
8 "Do They Know It's Christmas?" was written by Bob _____.
9 Every spring, more than twenty million _____ swim into the River Bann to breed.
11 Mary of the _____s is more commonly known as St. Brigid.
12 If somebody is described as "maggalore," it means they've had one too _____.
14 Charles Stuart Parnell was known as the _____ King of Ireland.
15 The Gregg _____ system was invented by John Robert Gregg who was born in Rockcorry Co Monaghan.
18 St. _____'s real name is believed to have been Maewyn Succat

19 If money is described as flúirseach (flewshirk), it literally means that it is _____.
21 In Ballyporeen, Co. Tipperary, there's a pub called The Ronald _____ Bar.
26 Times Square's New Year's Eve Ball was designed and made by _____.
29 Oscar Wilde's mother, Lady Jane Francesca, wrote under the pen name _____.
30 Balbriggan, Co. Dublin, was once the _____ capital of the world.
31 Much of the world's population of Greenland Whitefronted _____ spends the winter in Ireland.
32 Oliver _____ was the first Irishman in almost 700 years to be canonized as a saint in 1975.
33 The _____ are the evil gods of Irish myth.

DOWN
1 In 1986, a 900 year old _____ was found perfectly preserved, in a Tipperary bog.

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An O'Brien (O'Brien Enterprises) website and Author John O'Brien, Jr.
www.facebook.com/OBrienIrishAmericanNews • www.twitter.com/jobjr

22nd Annual Acting Irish International Theatre Festival Coming to Cincinnati

The Irish Heritage Center of Greater Cincinnati is hosting the 22nd annual Acting Irish International Theatre Festival May 19th through the 24th. Theatre groups from the United States, Canada, and Ireland perform full-length plays written by Irish authors or set in Ireland.

The schedule includes five evenings and two matinees:

May 19th, 7:30 PM, **The Cavalcaders** by Billy Roche

May 20th, 7:30 PM, **The Field** by John B. Keane

May 21st, 7:30 PM, **The Maiden Aunt** by Jimmy Keary

May 22nd, 2:00 PM, **The New Electric Ballroom** by Enda Walsh

May 22nd, 8:00 PM, **Sea Marks**



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Sean & Connie McConnell, Proprietors

by Gardner McKay
May 23rd, 2:00 PM, **The Chastite**
by John B Keane
May 23rd, 8:00 PM, **Moment** by Deirdre Kihnan

Cincinnati's own theatre group, The Irish American Theater Company of Cincinnati, will perform **The Cavalcaders**. The group received the distinction for Best New Show at the 2014 Acting Irish International Theatre Festival.

Awards are presented for excellence in directing, acting, and production at the end of the festival. The audience has the opportunity to stay in the theater after each performance and listen to the critique. This year's adjudicator will be George C. Heslin, actor and the Artistic Director and Founder of the Origin Theatre Company of New York City.

All plays will be performed at the Irish Heritage Center of Cincinnati at 3905 Eastern Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45226. The Irish Heritage Center is also seeking donations, corporate sponsors, and volunteers to support the festival; if you would like to assist, for information or tickets, visit <http://www.irishcenterofcincinnati.com/> or 513-533-0100. Discounts are available for multiple shows and large groups.

Shows:

The Cavalcaders, Irish American Theater Company, Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Cavalcaders explores the lives and loves of a community of characters in small-town Ireland. Set in an old fashioned cobbler's shop, this is a story of a group of men who spend their days mending shoes and their nights as a barber-shop quartet and singers of local legend. Their musical harmonies however, are not reflected in their private lives.

The Field, Rochester Irish Players, Rochester, NY:

Rugged individualist Bull McCabe has spent five hard years of labour cultivating a small plot of rented land, nurturing it from barren rock into a fertile field. When the owner of the field decides to auction it, he believes that he has a claim to the land. The McCabes intimidate most of the townspeople out of bidding in the auction, to the chagrin of auctioneer Mick Flanagan, but Galwayman William Dee arrives with a plan to cover the field in concrete and extract gravel from the adjacent river. Dee is murdered and a cover-up ensues.

The Maiden Aunt, Gaelic



Park Players, Chicago, Illinois:

Gertie O'Grady, a retired teacher and spinster, comes to stay with her niece, Mary Murphy, after a spell in a hospital. Mary tries to persuade he aunt to make a will. Meanwhile, Mary's husband, Dan, comes up with an elaborate plan to get their hands on her money.

New Electric Ballroom, The Tara Players Winnipeg, Manitoba Canada:

From Irish playwright Enda Walsh (*Bedbound*, *The Walworth Farce*), one of the most dazzling wordsmiths of contemporary theatre, comes a beautiful and devastating play of broken hearts



and maimed lives. Trapped in a cycle of yesterdays, three sisters reenact their versions of a night of romance and heartbreak at the New Electric Ballroom. When all is said and done and the past has such a strong hold on today when is it too late to let go and move on?

Sea Marks, Liffey Players, Calgary, AB, Canada:

Two people from seemingly opposite worlds take a chance on love; Gardner McKay's play beautifully captures the heartache of long-distance love and when the call of the heart challenges the call of the wild. He is a fisherman who lives on a remote island off the West of Ireland, she lives in Liverpool where she works in a book publishing house. They meet. Letters follow – letters that are full of powerful, alluring words like she's never heard before...

The Chastite, Irish Theatre of Florida:

John Bosco, who hasn't the makings of a decent sin in him, is a bachelor farmer and all he is searching for is a plain decent woman to share his life. **The Chastite** is a person without holy orders who has never lain down with a woman....a rustic celibate by force of circumstance peculiar to country sides where the Catholic tradition of long-life sexual abstemiousness is encouraged and free range sex is absolutely taboo.

Moment, Milwaukee Irish Arts Milwaukee, WI:

Fast, witty and frighteningly real, **Moment** is a story of trauma wrapped up in tablecloths and teacake. An Irish family sits down to tea on an ordinary evening, but it is different tonight, Niall is home, back from prison. He has some news to share and a conscious to clear. A fateful moment is about to resurface, and it will change their lives forever

Other features:

Irish Pub with snacks and beverages, free parking, Theater, Exhibit Hall, Tea Room, Library & Museum, Music Room, Green Room, Outdoor Garden, Free WiFi and more. The rooms will be open before each show.

Food is available Friday and Saturday between the matinee show @ 2:00 pm and the evening shows at 8:00 pm. Also Irish Bar BQ will be in the Garden, seating in the Tea Room & Pub Room starting at 5 PM.

Note: you must call ahead to reserve your dinner: 513-533-0100.

Acting Irish International special Room Rate is available: Millennium Hotel, 150 West 5th Street Cincinnati Ohio

45202, May 19th thru May 24th. 800-876-2100 Mention "Irish Heritage" to get the special Irish Theater rate.

Single show tickets \$23. Special package deals are available for 2 or 3 shows, 4 - 6 shows and for a week's pass. For more information and any questions call 513-533-0100 the Irish Heritage Center of Greater Cincinnati.



Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



The Healing Fire

Who would ever think that that the burning of a religious symbol would bring 15,000 Northern Irish men and women together? For those who may not know, recently in Derry, a 'temple' structure was created by the artist, David Best, in Kelly's field on the waterside area of the city. The temple, which was beautifully crafted, reached a height of 75 feet and was 40 foot wide.

The result of two years deliberation and construction, the structure was composed of a tim-



Artist David Best at 'Temple' on Kelly's Field on the Corrody Road.

Photo Lorcan Doherty Press Eye

ber frame, and clad with intricate panels. Many of these decorative panels were designed and created by local young people. Each panel a representation of what Derry/Londonderry meant for them. For the seven days after its unveiling over 60,000 people visited the temple 'covering the inside of the structure and its pillar with personal messages.' Soon it became a shrine of hope, a place to validate personal suffering, and an opportunity to come to terms with the past.

Best is an American sculptor internationally known for his building large flammable structures for the sole purpose of settling them alight. Of course the purpose is not simply to burn and destroy but, in the case of the Derry temple, to symbolize

the power of 'forgiveness'.

Over a short period of time, people took the opportunity to bring to rest a grievance, a painful memory, in the hope of either finding or giving forgiveness. In other words, a sacred space was created for reflection, remembrance, and offering. It was an inspired opportunity for a community to express its desire to reconcile itself with past hurts. Best's intention to create a sanctuary to hold and heal the secret wounds of the past found a way into the hearts of many

affected by the worst of the Troubles.

Since Northern Ireland is familiar with the annual seasonal bonfires, and the continued proliferation of sectarian sentiment

at such times, it seemed appropriate that the cleansing power of fire, a spiritual symbol of healing or purging, should be implemented in a new fashion and therefore redeeming and utilizing fire in a positive way.

Bonfires have always been a divisive means of reinforcing tribal differences. Whether it's the eleventh night (July) or August 15, the burnings have demonstrated an ongoing contribution to the cycle of religious bigotry.

On Saturday, March 21st, eight people set the temple alight, and a work of art and labour quickly turned to ash. Those who did not pay to see the event watched from their windows or other vantage points. The burning of the temple caught the imagination of even the most cynical. It was

an event not to be missed.

Over the months leading up to the 'burn', I was fascinated by how local people responded to the idea of burning a religious symbol. There were of course clerical reservations on both sides. The

idea of a pagan ritual being used to promote peace and reconciliation seemed at odds with the Christian faith. While others thought the location one-sided, in Catholic area, and therefore would potentially exclude the Protestant community also seemed to dog the construction of the temple. However, the argument over being one-sided was countermanded by involving youth from both sides to contribute in the building process.

This work of art has taken polarizing work of the nationalist and loyalist icons out of political tribalism and offered, by fire, healing instead of hatred. And by bringing both communities together, the burning of the temple unified by using a medium shared by both traditions.

The burning of the temple symbolically suggests a desire to move beyond the past. Derry, in recent years, has seen the emergence of a new hope since becoming recognized as a city of culture. As photographs, messages, poems, craft, and art became engulfed in flames, a fragmented community shared in the hope that from those ashes would rise a new tomorrow.

For some, the whole thing smacked almost a throwback to the idealism of the 60s and the love generation (a criticism regularly aimed at Best, and his work). Yet, such ideals speak to the best that we can hope to be, even if we continue to fail to become what we aspire to. Cliché's such as 'keep the faith' and 'love not war' are bandied about so flippantly and casually, as though these statements represent a futile attempt to put a Band-Aid on mortal wound. However, even the worst cynic would like to hope, would like to believe that humans are capable of being more than killing machines.

And, it was this aspiration that caught fire on March 21st on Derry's Waterside.

What's Going On ... Gandolf's Grande Opening

Gandolf's Pub, named after owners Sean & Michelle Lackey's beagle, not the wizard, is blessed with a great staff, great food and a friendly atmosphere. It is fueled by a passionate commitment to entertain, engage and form friendships with patrons from near and far. Everything inside is wood and warm: floors, booths; soft and welcoming. Come for a sit, have a pint, laugh with the staff and eat hearty. Gandolf's opened at the end of March, but I feel it will be here forever.



Sean is a CPA, and both the creative mind and the labor (of mostly!) love behind Flanagan's Wake, and The Yank. Michelle is a professional Dressage Rider and Instructor. Their constant cracking jokes, slapping friends on the back in welcome and enthusiasm for fun translate into a busy bar and a fast building reputation as THE place to be in Valley City, and beyond.

I went for an hour, left after five and great chats with previously unknown barstool neighbors. We were strangers, now we've made a regular meeting place plan.

Plentiful seating, and plenti-



ful parking next to and across the street, an outdoor patio to open soon and a sunroom too.

I had Blackened Chicken, monster soft pretzels and a salad. Oh, and a happy hour beverage too. It was simply fantastic. Flavorful, with a generous portion, the menu offerings made my eyes bigger than my belly, and, hard to do, my belly left happy.

Gandolf's has eight taps and coolers full of bottled beer and wine, TV's for every vantage point and comfortable seats too. The menu is varied, with burgers, chicken, soups & salad, Irish specialties and fantastic appetizers. At an \$8 average menu price, Gandolf's is a fantastic value too. I'll be back, maybe I'm here as you read this right now.



Gandolf's Pub: 6757 Center Road, Valley City, Oh 44280, 7 miles from I71 and Rte 303/ Brunswick interchange.

www.gandolfspub.com
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Gandolf's-Pub

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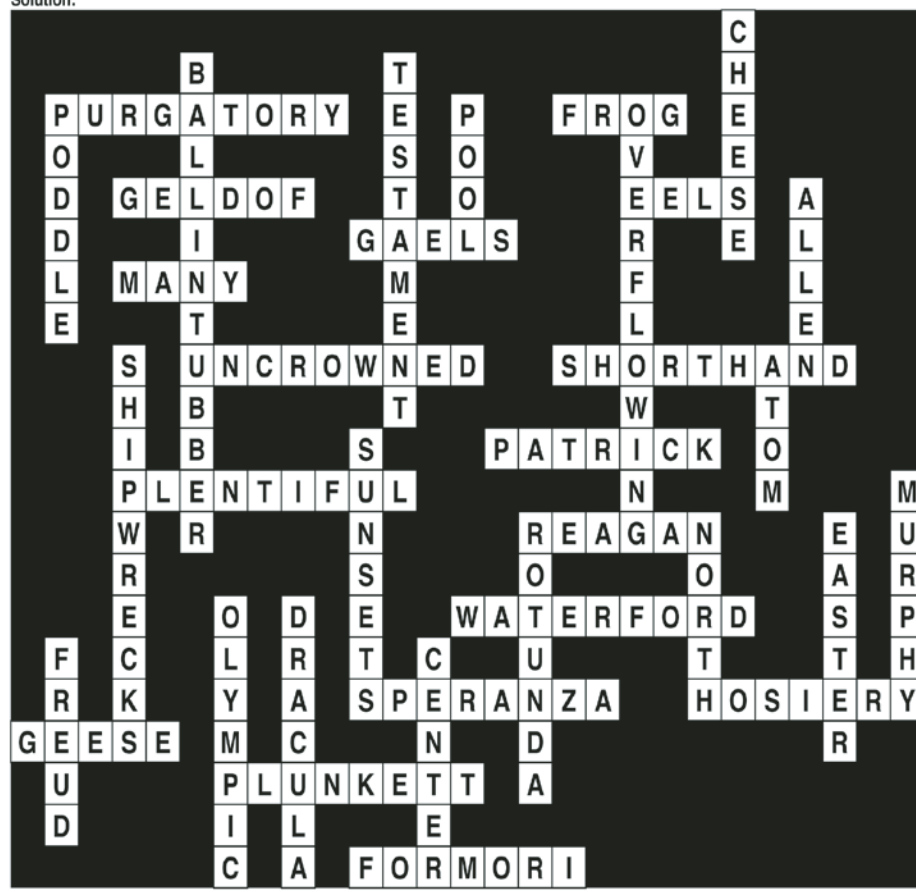
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First Sash

Perhaps it is the rain falling in waves through recently humid skies that makes me humorless and wistful. Too timid to slop though the sodden muck of our backyard to check on the possible rising of violet-hued heads of asparagus, I peek through the worn planks of redwood on our deck. At long last, the raised bed is without a covering of snow, but the asparagus lies dormant, paralyzed by the unknown shifts of Lake Erie weather.

The birds seem confident though that spring is well on her way. Their early morning chatter is contagious among the



flocks of house-finches and chickadees that socialize around our feeders. Fat-bellied robins are building nests within the rhododendron bushes and leafless cherry trees. Without any greater proclamation than the golden hue cast from an oak's strong limbs, spring will arrive. The asparagus will pop through fertile soil, a tender reminder of this swiftly fleeting season.

It is just this instinctive quality of nature that bolsters me when damp melancholy settles over like a gray stratus cloud. Recently, on a long drive back from the World's Irish Dance competition in Montreal, my husband and I occupied ourselves by observing the flocks of geese and ducks flying back to springtime destinations. Truly, there were thousands of birds carried in "V" formations by strong currents, resting every so often to feed in dormant fields of dried corn. The white down of geese and ducks looked like billows of snow sprinkled throughout the pastures.

The plight of the birds and nature's ferocious push toward spring reminded me of the determination of the young and the old on life's journey.

Me, I am somewhere in between. My

parents are in their eighties; my two older children are in their teens; with my baby on the cusp of his adolescent years. Somewhere in the past decade, my children have grown, my parents have gotten older, and I have become middle-aged. What that means, I am trying to decipher.

I like to imagine that people live out this metaphor of the birds. Birds appear cheerfully optimistic. There is always a song for a new day and grain to eat in a farmer's field. Beneath seemingly fragile wings, birds have the dogged strength to fly. To me, my children are like the young birds who have the courage to alight, but rely on Mother Nature to keep them from straying rudderless in the open skies.

This year, both my daughter and youngest son competed in the World's competition. My daughter was happy to have had the experience, while my son wished for a bit more. Months of training for all dancers: teams and choreographies, solos and dramas, fresh-faced first time World's dancers, and experienced senior dancers, all leads to a few minutes on stage in front of seven judges.

There is no room for error. The dancer needs to soar with strength, not trepidation. Victory is exhilarating and hard won, disappointment, a more likely outcome. Those at the top are not content unless they win, those at the bottom wish for a second chance: to train harder, be more courageous, to soar higher. My husband and I encourage our children to prepare for life's challenges with perseverance and determination. They are encouraged to embrace life's opportunities, but to not get caught up in the drama of disappointment.

I reflect on my dad, who has had his fair share of medical challenges in the past year. How does one reconcile one's athletic past with the reality of age? His answer would have to be with humor, grace, and goals. Some fields may provide a host of seeds for the taking, while in others, you may have to dig with a bit of patience. Food more precious than manna may lie beneath hardened soil.

We tell our children to soar while they are young. Do not live in fear of hard work or challenges. Disappointment only makes you more resolute. Do not look back on your life with feelings of regret or the pervading sense of "if only." Work hard and leave your best effort on the field

or the stage, in the classroom or in your workplace. Inspire and lead, rather than follow and regret.

In many pop songs from the early eighties, there is a recurrent image of a teen-ager on the front porch. The screen door slams, punctuating the dreams of the young, but also accompanying fears of flight. The porch itself is a place to imagine and to create dreams, but the brave need to step down from the porch even when the future is filled with the unknown.

When I hear the lyrics, "Now I'm ready to grow young again," I cannot help but think of my father and his boyhood club, The Beaver Chiefs. Ironically, his gang of boys lived out the romantic nostalgia of World War II, while the generation before him were fighting on the front. Together, women and children, old men and young boys, the sinners and the saints, bonded together in patriotism and confidence. There was no room for fear or trepidation, only confidence and hope.

Middle-age is okay. I am young enough to enjoy a bit of whimsy, but old enough to appreciate my parents' past. I can look back and wish that I did some things differently, but there is still time to change my course. My only wish is that my children did not have to arrive at enlightenment through hardship or pain. The children are not yet at that unique place where they appreciate the wisdom of their elders.

Even at their tender ages, my children

have had boundless opportunities for self-improvement. They all did well in championship Irish dancing. It seemed at every feis, there was a colorful sash to mark their achievements. As they became older, the competition became more intense, but they still earned a sash or two at each feis. Currently, we have ribbons of every color a hundred or more collectively - on hooks and walls, strewn over trophies, and squirreled away in hope chests. It is my only desire that they treasure, rather than take for granted, these tokens of achievement. Not everyone is afforded such opportunity.

My mother-in-law recently received her first sash when she was honored as the WSIA Irish Woman of the Year. Without regard to honors or awards, she trained selflessly for this achievement. She did not expect to be awarded for doing what she does best: caring for people, embracing causes, and loving her family.

When my children are in danger of flying off course like a wayward flock of springtime geese, I hope that they look to their grandparents and gain perspective. First sashes only emerge when seeds of labor, duty, and forbearance are set. No matter the harshness of past winters, spring will always arrive, if we welcome her with open hearts and fresh dreams.

*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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Out of the Mailbag ... Comes Songs & Stories

By John O'Brien, Jr.

Fr. Ray Kelly, Where I Belong

2015. 12 Tracks, 49 minutes

Father Ray Kelly's "Original Big Surprise for Bride and Groom...Chris and Leah O'Kane" personalized version of Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah wasn't the first wedding song Fr. Ray has sung at a wedding. It is just the first that was posted to Youtube. Now, with more than 40 million views, it has made Fr. Ray a household name. Even sweeter, is Fr. Ray's rich, powerful voice, which translates the world over. His passion for his faith, and singing, transcend time and geography, to leave Fr. Ray, right "Where I Belong". The whole CD highlights the power, the grace and the beauty of his voice and of his faith, that adds a richness and unique perspective to the song, and the CD, that I love.

American Idol and The Voice often expose power: the merely pretty from the pretty powerful. Oftentimes, vocals lose their beauty when forced. Not Fr. Ray. Together Forever and the next track, Halleluia, soar, as the vocal power is allowed to fly; the beautiful tones don't fall by the wayside in the surge, they actually shine. I listened to the song three times before I went on to the next, even though I knew the next was one of my favorite songs of all, and knew that the success of Fr. Ray's version was what brought Fr. Kelly to the recording studio for his first CD. Anticipation for the next was put on hold, as I reveled in the song – range, power, stunning.

Fr. Kelly's quiet mischievous humor evident in the Youtube video made many, myself included, wish for more. Where I Belong fulfills. Big Thanks to Fr. Kelly's U.S. representative, Anita Daly, for sending the CD along.

"Looking back, I would be called on to perform for the aunts and uncles; I suppose I did always want to sing," said Fr. Ray. "Like all teenagers, I rebelled from music for a bit, but I came back to it. At parties and such, I was always called upon to liven things up. Singing is just something I love to do. I was working in civil service in Dublin for the government for eleven years. We would socialize after work, I would sing; it was a lot of fun.

"My call to the priesthood began in the late 70s. Lent was coming up,

and I said to myself, 'I must do something special, I will get up early and go to mass every day.' And while there, I thought

to myself, 'Ray, you could be up there like that priest'. This tug of war went on in my head for a year and a half. I talked to a number of priests about it; I was 26 or 27, not just out of school.

"John Paul II was a big influence. He came to Ireland, then a year later, a bunch of us went to Rome to say thank you for coming. I remember singing for him at a castle, Danny Boy. He presented each of us with a rosary."

Fr. Ray was appointed as parish priest in Oldcastle in 2006, after serving nine years as parish priest in Navan, County Meath, and seven years of study. "Ah the parishioners, they love it; very complimentary, understanding. They are very proud of me and say it put a little town in the north of Meath on the map. People can feel forgotten; they say this brightened their lives.

"I had sung at weddings before; a lot have been recorded, but none ever put to Youtube. A lot of stuff comes out of the closet from Youtube! A bride and groom would suggest a song they wanted, Ave Maria, Panus Angelicas, You Raise Me Up, The River – or I'd say, 'I might sing an auld song for you' when we were planning the wedding, but it didn't really register with the busy bride and groom. I had personalized songs before, because it makes it special for the bride and groom. It had just never been put on Youtube.

"I was ordained 25 years ago in June, and the amazing Youtube thing happened at the same time – it was 25 years, but everyone was talking about Youtube! I love being a priest; it is such a part of my life. I would never want to leave that.

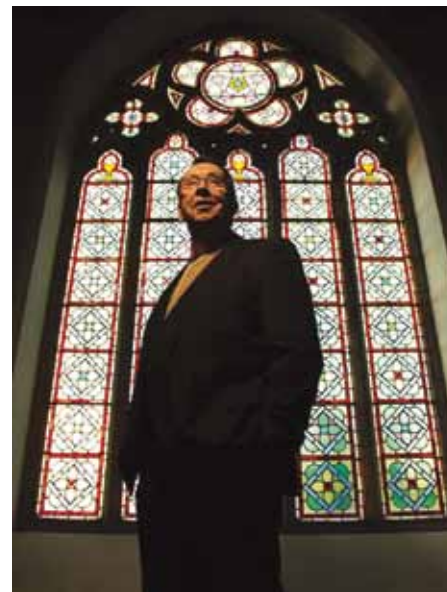
"I was excited when I heard the CD. I never thought I could sound so good! It sounds fantastic. Most importantly, I wanted to show my faith, how much it means to me [Amazing Grace, How Great Thou Art and How Marvelous]. When we got permission to record Hallelujah with the changed lyrics, I was so happy, wasn't sure we would be able to.

"To have two songs written for you (Together Forever, with Love; Where I Belong), is something really special. Some pop was suggested as well [Tears in Heaven and Everybody Hurts] and I didn't think I could sing them, but ...

"We wanted to have an Irish/Celtic

flavor, so Danny Boy; Galway Bay and Isle of Hope, Isle of Tears. We knew it would be heard in America; being a church man, a priest, we wanted that included as well. I just felt the emotions of the songs – they still take me to another level. As a priest you feel the pain of that, at suicides and such, of what people are going through, and you can share it.

"I have been to America. When I came back from Africa in 1992, after six months as a missionary, I came to America, it was a great way to see America – fantastic. I was ten weeks in California, from San Francisco to San Diego, then Cape Cod and New Jersey – I was a younger lad then, I had a lot more nerve!



"I hope America enjoys it, above all, embraces it. I hope they see it as the Songs of God's heart, and bringing a little bit of Ireland over, to them. People from the U.S. ring me up, ask what time is mass? They come over, come to mass, to meet me, have a chat and a photograph, then go on with their vacation!

"A funny story: I was going to a funeral on the west coast, in Mayo. People are looking at you suspiciously, trying to remember where they know you from. I was staying in a hotel in Westport. Two German ladies walked by, both looking at me suspiciously. One lady came back, pointing a finger at me – 'Mr. Hallelujah, yah?' I said 'Yes, Mr Hallelujah.'"

Mr. Hallalujah has brightened lives in his parish, his community, and now with Where I Belong, across the world.

1. Hallelujah – I do not have words sufficient to extol the beauty of Fr. Ray's wedding customized version of Leonard Cohen's mega hit Hallelujah. This is the only version I have

heard that holds up to the original.

2. Galway Bay – We all know this song. The clarity of the lyrics stand out for me – and as I become more aware of the symbolism within it.

3. Everybody Hurts – is there such a thing as an upbeat lament? REM nailed it in their song, Fr. Kelly did too. I instantly identified with Everybody Hurts; everybody needs and has the desire for comfort born of understanding; another great track

4. How Marvelous – How Marvelous, how wonderful, to be in the presence of the Lord. Here is where faith is sung, with joy. You can feel the faith, and aspire.

5. Where I Belong – The Title Track, is a softer story, still laced with beauty and power, but more subtle, identifiable, and timely.

6. Isle of Tears – The Irish American immigration classic tells the story of Ellis Island, the Isle of Tears, "and the first to cross the threshold, in this isle of hope and tears, was Annie Moore, from Ireland, who was all of 15 years."

7. Tears in Heaven – This Eric Clapton classic is a perfect and new perspective, sung beautifully, and he sounds like Paul too!

8. Amazing Grace – Grace has been a theme in my life, faith too. I love this song when sung with a bagpiper accompaniment. This version is sung without a piper, but it reaches the same way – with gratitude for faith raising us out of our troubles and the joy in knowing it always will.

9. Danny Boy – a more rousing version than a lament, Danny Boy is a prerequisite song for many. The opportunity to soar again is used, honestly.

10. How Great Thou Art – Have you ever seen the Vince Gill / Carrie Underwood version from The Women of Country? Go on Youtube. Time stood still for me; apparently for everyone in the audience too. Again, the unique perspective of a priest singing How Great Thou Art stood out for me on Where I Belong, gave me a different perspective indeed. I expected similar soaring; Fr. Ray's is more reserved, but no less heartfelt; a different tenor.

11. Love Shines a Light – Fr. Ray's version is a much more lighthearted, playful, full of joy singing. I imagine those fun filled eyes, feeling in heaven, during this song. I have been writing a lot lately about letting our light, shine a way out of the darkness for others. For most priests I know, this has been my take away time and time again. Fr.

Continued on next page

Fedor, Fr. O'Donnell, Fr. Ray.

Where I Belong was recorded with a 200-person choir at Fr. Ray's parish, St. Brigid's Catholic Church and parochial house, in Oldcastle, Co. Meath, Ireland. This CD has a place reserved on the Top Shelf of my 1,000+ CD's, but it won't reside there - it stays in my car, wearing grooves and playing (and praying too I suppose) with each singing verse. Where I Belong is a Top Shelf Selection. Get it. Capitol Distribution. www.facebook.com/Fr-RayKelly

Fionnuala Moynihan, The Ivory Lady 2014. 11 Tracks, 40 minutes.

Fionnuala Moynihan is widely acknowledged as one of Ireland's leading pianists. Fionnuala became the first person to be awarded a Doctorate in Music Performance from the Royal Irish Academy of Music and the Dublin City University. Fionnuala also studied at the Paris Conservatoire from 1999-2000, where she studied with Madame Brigitte Engerer and at the Aspen Music Festival and School where she studied with Yoheved Kaplinsky. Fionnuala performed the Complete Piano Sonatas of Mozart in the Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin, in a series of five recitals, which ran from February to June 2010. She is the only pianist to have undertaken the formidable challenge of performing this cycle in its entirety in Ireland. "I grew up in a very musical household. My father and mother were national school teachers. They gave us a very rounded outlook on life I like to think! Music was a big part of our world. We were involved in both traditional and classical music circles and made life long friends. Sport, dance and school were also very important and we all enjoyed all the opportunities we were lucky enough to have been given.

"I am from Cork city, County Cork, Ireland. I began playing music on the tin whistle with my father who taught me as a child. At age four I went to the Cork School of Music and began learning classical music. I studied piano and violin

there until I was seventeen. At this time I went to study for my Degree in Music Performance at the Birmingham Conservatoire in England.

"I studied at the Paris Conservatoire for one year, the Franz Liszt Academy for three where I received my Piano Performance Diploma and then returned to the Royal Irish Academy of Music and the Dublin City University where I received my Masters in Music Performance and my Doctorate in Music Performance.

"During this time I never lost my love for traditional music and have for many years toured with members of my family, performing trad music in Ireland, Hungary, Poland, Japan, France, England and



many more wonderful places.

"I have three brothers and three sisters. All of us have toured together. My Dad often performed with us also. He was a wonderful accordion player. Six of us are professional musicians.

"I am very proud to have my father play Inisheer with me on this CD. He taught me it when I was a child and it has always been a favourite of ours. It is wonderful to have most of my brothers and sisters on this CD. In a way it is a tribute to my parents and all the wonderful opportunities they have given us through the years to learn and play music. Music is at the heart of our family and has always been something we love and share.

'The Ivory Lady' is my debut CD. I wanted to marry together my love for both the traditional and classical genres. I wanted to celebrate Irish music and culture and I wanted it to be a

tribute to my Mum and Dad. I composed two tracks on this album, one for my parents and one for my boyfriend Tim. It is wonderful to be able to bring my love for music to audiences around the world, it is what I love doing and hope to continue doing so."

Fionnuala has been awarded many prizes both at home and abroad including a Bank of Ireland Millennium Scholarship, the prestigious Maura Teissier Bursary and the Rena Menasche Award from the Tel-Hai Piano Masterclass series, held in Israel. She was awarded the John Field Prize at the 2009 AXA Dublin International Piano Competition.

Dr. Fionnuala Moynihan currently teaches piano performance at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. The Ivory Lady is a fresh, creative and soulful CD, filled with original, ancient classic and contemporary performances by a gifted Pianist.

1. The Ivory Lady - The title track, written by brother Diarmuid for her; a slow melodic introduction to Fionnuala.

2. Lokrum Prince - A Fionnuala original, written in tribute to her husband Tim and their visit to Lokrum Island, off the Croatian coast. Fionnuala described it rustic, colorful and beautiful, a place where time stands still; you can feel it in this song.

3. No Frontiers - Singer/songwriter Jimmy McCarthy composed this lovely sway inducing song; it is one of Fionnuala's favorites, mine too.

4. Anach Cuan / Rose Catha na Mumhan - a poem written in the Irish language, put to sean nos song. It commemorates a sailing disaster that occurred in 1828. Rose Catha na Mumhanis also called The Battle Cry of Munster, said to be a Catholic warning to new settlers.

5. The Parting Glass - The first four tracks are songs new to me, and wonderful. With this track, Fionnuala shifts. The remaining are a mix of original and instrumentals I

grew up singing and humming. It is highly unusual to be able to receive recorded instrumentals of the ballads I love; I love being able to sing along while hearing such a gorgeous played piano to accompany.

6. Imo Chroí go Deo - another beautiful Fionnuala original, written in tribute to her best friends, her parents, thanking them for all the love and support they have provided.

7. Inisheer - joined in by her father on accordion, Fionnuala recounts the timelessness of the 1970s Thomas Walsh song. Inisheer is one of the Aran Islands off Co. Clare. It is a moving, and another of the songs on this CD that transport you in the rich, expressive playing of Fionnuala.

8. Cath Chéim an Fhia / The Butterfly - a haunting sean nos song put to gorgeous music, it is about a battle in 1822 in West Cork, followed by the perfectly matched, though faster paced slip jig, The Butterfly.

9. Mo Ghile Mear - This traditional and well-loved tune is a lament going back to the 18th century. It tells of the Goddess Eire's lament for her prince.



You will recognize and love this one too. Celtic Women are probably the most recognized recorders of this song today.

10. Ar Eirinn Ní Neosfainn Céhí / Kings of Laois - A love song, that translates to "For Ireland I Did Not Tell Her Name. This sway inducing lovely song I especially enjoyed; perhaps (it is hard to pick), my favorite on this CD. Haunting. King of Laois, a traditional Irish march, follows it.

11. Red is the Rose / Will You Go Lassie Go - These

two Celtic classics are ingrained in the Irish psyche. Love for another makes the world sing, fulfilled or not.

w/ guests Donncha Moynihan, Diarmaid Moynihan, Deirdre Moynihan, Kieran Moynihan, Patrick & Aoife Nic Athlaoich.

I only got through a track or three of The Ivory Lady before I knew I would review it.. It will placate and refresh a restless soul. I have never met Fionnuala, but I am sure I will, in my Irish music travels. Fionnuala Moynihan's The Ivory Lady is a Top Shelf Selection. Pick up yours at www.fionnualamoynihan.com.

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 **The Forever Seven**
The Seven Men Who Signed the Proclamation
 By Anne Waters



Tom Clarke

Tom Clarke was the first Signatory to the Irish Proclamation and the oldest of all seven. He is epitomised by his dedication and continual struggle throughout his life for Irish Independence. He was the spirit of the revolution, the indefatigable and undefeated hero, so highly respected that he was nominated as the first signatory to the Proclamation. Thomas MacDonagh refused to sign until Clarke had done so, stating, "No other man was entitled to the honour". (ref 1).

Tom Clarke was born in 1858 in the British Army Barracks on the Isle of Wight. His mother was from County Tipperary and his father, a native of County Leitrim, was serving in the British army. As the family of a British soldier, they lived in a variety of garrison towns and spent many years in South Africa. Eventually they settled in Co. Tyrone.

Dungannon fulfilled that sense of home for Tom. It was there he attended school and for a time worked as a classroom assistant. In 1878 he heard John Daly speak; this became the catalyst that precipitated the radicalization of Tom Clarke.

Daly, a committed Fenian, swore Tom Clarke into the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) and Tom was soon at the centre of the organization. A clash broke out in 1880 between members of the Orange Order and the Ancient Order of Hibernians following which Clarke was involved in an ambush on police headquarters.

He felt it expedient to move for a time to America but before doing so he made contact with the Irish American Revolutionary Organization, Clann na Gael. Clarke's involvement with Clan na Gael grew to such an extent that he became expert in bomb-making, so was sent to England on a mission in 1883. The mission's activities aroused suspicion; Clarke and others were arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Clarke's account of prison life is gruesome. Persons convicted of treason received the most harsh of treatments. Separated from the main prison body, the guards were able to inflict continual harassment with impunity.

In Clarke's own words, they engaged in "a scientific system of perpetual and

persistent harassing". (ref 1).

Sleep deprivation, regular rations of bread and water and heavy laborious work all combined to break the health and spirit of the prisoners. Having close friends as compatriots in the prison helped ease Clarke's burden, but many Irish prisoners had total mental breakdowns. It is a testament to Clarke's mental and emotional strength that he survived relatively intact.

Meanwhile, in Ireland there was a campaign organised to lobby for prisoner release and Tom Clarke's cause was championed by the activist Maud Gonne. In 1898 he arrived home and during a celebratory reception in Limerick he was introduced to Kathleen Daly, a niece of John Daly. Kathleen's family were somewhat opposed to a match, apparently on account of Tom being twenty one years older than Kathleen, but nonetheless she agreed to marry and they set up home in New York.

Clarke's nationalist activities recommenced and in a similar vein to the other Signatories, he became involved in a newspaper, "Gaelic American". Despite a reasonably contented life, he was anxious to return to Ireland. He had become enamoured with Bulmer Hobson, a leading member of the Irish Volunteers, having heard his speeches on Irish Nationalism. He felt a renewed vigour that the Fenian movement had younger blood emerging and wished to see a rebellion when the time was right.

In 1908 the family returned to Ireland and with assistance opened a newsagents shop. Tom now threw himself fully into the cause of Irish independence and shortly after his return was elected president of a ward of Sinn Fein and co-opted onto the Supreme Council of the IRB. He believed the younger generation were now essential to the rejuvenation of the cause.

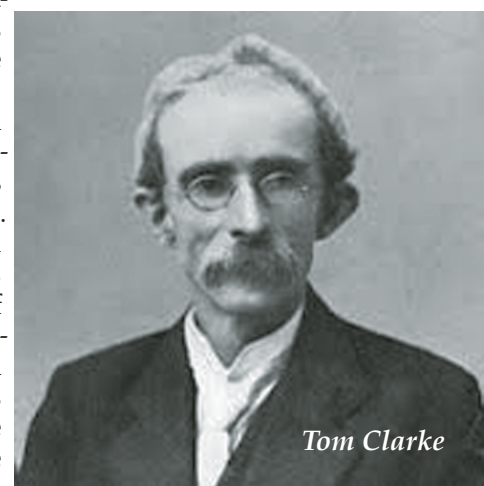
Clarke formed a close friendship with Sean MacDiarmada and facilitated the entry of Padraig Pearse to the organisation. By 1911 Clarke, MacDiarmada and Bulmer Hobson were central figures in the movement.

Disagreement emerged following John Redmond's speech at Woodenbridge calling on Irish men to fight for Britain. Bulmer Hobson supported Redmond, with Clarke and MacDiarmada taking an op-

posing view. Those who followed Clarke were now set on the road to rebellion.

The new Supreme Council of the IRB consisted of Pearse, Plunkett, Ceannt, Clarke and MacDiarmada, with MacDonagh and Connolly eventually making the full complement of seven signatories. Clarke directed the funeral arrangements for the old Fenian, O'Donovan Rossa, inviting many organisations to attend. Aware of the importance of the moment and the inspirational power of speech, he asked Pearse to deliver the now famous oration at the graveside.

The fifteen years Clarke spent in prison had taken a toll on his health. By 1916



Tom Clarke

he was showing signs of age. His frailty necessitated him travelling by car to the GPO on Easter Monday, but he stood side by side with Pearse outside the GPO on Dublin's O'Connell St. when Pearse read the Irish Proclamation for the first time.

Clarke was highly respected as the guiding force and spirit of the movement. This spirit refused to be cowed and he objected strongly to the proposed surrender. He wanted to fight on and broke down in tears when the decision to surrender was agreed. This spirit stayed with him until the end. He dismissed the priest who came to hear his last confession, refusing the request to express sorrow for the Rising. He told his wife Kathleen how he had asked the priest to clear out of his cell: "To say I was sorry would be a lie, and I was not going to face my God with a lie on my tongue." (ref 1)

In a message to the Irish people he states: "I and my fellow signatories believe we have struck the first blow for Irish freedom. The next blow, which we have no doubt Ireland will strike, will win through. In this belief we die happy." (ref 2)

References: 1: 16 Dead Men Anne Marie Ryan, Mercier Press 2014.2: Last Words Piaras Mac Lochlainn OPW Govt Pub. 2006



Fiona Patrick Gannon on top of the Reek

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The St. Ignatius High School rugby team in Galway, Ireland Holy Saturday, heading to their first game vs. Saint Ignatius College. On Easter Sunday the group went to Cong and Croagh Patrick to celebrate Easter Mass before heading to Belfast.



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Katherine Mary the V

By Katherine Boyd



I hated my name when I was a kid. "Katherine Mary? Well, that's an Irish name for sure!" grown-ups would reply when I told them my name. "Katherine Mary! Well, that's a good Catholic girl name," was another frequent response.

It bothered me that

my name was so generic. So Irish. So Catholic.

I didn't want people to put me in a slot simply by learning my name. I was angry that my parents would give me such a boring name. Why couldn't it be something cool like Cher, Cheyenne, or Kat.

When I hit middle school,

I started spelling my name "Cathi". And I never let anyone know my middle name. Ever. So I simply became "Cathi Boyd". That way, I thought, no one will automatically label me "Irish", or "Catholic" when they heard my name.

I didn't want to be pigeonholed. Labeled. Predictable. I wanted to be unique. An individual. Special. And a girl with a name like Katherine Mary Boyd could never be that. So I thought.

For ten years I kept the name Cathi Boyd. Through the rest of middle school, all of high school, all of college. Then I graduated and realized I needed a professional sounding name; Cathi Boyd didn't sound professional. It sounded young. Immature. Silly.

So, I went back to "Katherine".

But the "Mary"? Well, that was never brought up again. I really detested it. My goal was to be a news reporter and news reporters had to have serious, professional sounding names. Soon, my professional news career took off.

Through a college friend, I landed a news anchor job at a tiny AM radio station in a tiny town in Pennsylvania. My newscasts always ended with, "Reporting for WKEG News, I'm Katherine Boyd." It sounded so professional. So serious. So grown-up. It was perfect.

From there I quickly climbed up the news world ladder, with stops in Bluefield, West Virginia; Flint, Michigan; and Cleveland, Ohio. About a year in, I segued from radio to TV news, because TV paid more, was more prestigious, and was more high profile.

It was also a lot more competitive, which I loved. It made me feel special. Important. Unique.

My career was everything. I had an agent and was

rocketing up the TV news food chain. By age 30 I was the main anchor at the ABC O&O in Michigan and pulling in six-figures. My name was on billboards, in magazines, on TV. When I won an Emmy award for a show I'd worked by butt-off on, they called my name, "And the Emmy goes to... Katherine Boyd!" It sounded amazing. I was so proud. I was on top of the world.

But still, I wanted more. I wanted a family. Underneath my cream silk gown that evening, I was hiding

the first daughter has been named Katherine Mary.

Finally it dawned on me that my birth name was one to be proud of, because it honored the women in our family. From Catherine Mary Seery who immigrated to America from Ireland to Catherine Mary Gillis, to my grandmother Katherine Mary, to my great cousin, Katherine Mary, to me.

Everything that I was embarrassed about as a child, I was now proud of as an adult. My Irish ancestry, my Catholic roots, my birth name. My husband didn't feel the same.

He wanted our daughter to have a unique name. "So she'd feel special." "Be remembered." "Stand out."

Sadly, I agreed, but insisted her middle name be "Katherine."

He agreed. When our baby was born, my life, and priorities, changed again. My career was no longer #1, my daughter was. When my contract at the TV station was up, I put my career on the backburner to become a fulltime Mom. My Emmy awards were soon put away, and in their place on the mantle were photos of my daughter, then our son, and our whole family.

The benefit of living a long life is being able to grow, learn and mature. Things that used to embarrass me as a child, I now value more than anything. Tradition, heritage, being connected to one's roots. They're not a source of shame or embarrassment. They're a source of pride. A connection to those who endured unthinkable hardships so you could be here today. Hence, why I named this column "Katherine Mary the V."

I hated my name when I was a kid. Then I grew up and learned what's really important in life. Family. And what better way to honor your family than with the name you give your child.



Katherine Mary and her eldest daughter
Briar Katherine

a secret. I was expecting a baby. My life, and its priorities, was about to change.

At the doctor's office a few months later, my husband and I were starting at the ultrasound machine. "Do you want to know the sex?" the doctor asked.

"Yes," we replied.

"It's a girl."

A girl. At that moment, something clicked. "I want her to be named Katherine Mary," I thought. It's a long-standing tradition in our family that the first female daughter is named Katherine Mary. Well, sometimes it was spelled Catherine Mary.

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Congratulations to Murphy Irish Dancers

2015 World Champions Senior Dance Drama

The Murphy Irish Dancers of Cleveland, Ohio competed in the World Championships of Irish Dance in Montreal, Canada over Easter weekend. They were among thousands of dancers from all over the world who traveled to Montreal to compete in solo and team dancing for the World Titles.



Tanya Stafford, 9 years old and Meg Hogan 10 years old with Sheila

The event took place at the Palais des Congrès de Montréal. More than 5,000 competitors arrived from all over the world -- some as young as 10 -- to compete in a variety of age groups.

The dancers performed three dances in front of a panel of seven international judges, with their final result based on all three rounds.

The dance teams are comprised of eight to 16 members who dance traditional or figure dances in synchronization.

This year's championships honored people described as being at the forefront of Irish dance in the country: Mary Bryan, Brigid Grant, Paula Woodgate, the Butler Family, Sally Houston, Finnuala Irwin, Violet Moore and Margaret Mullen.

The Dance Drama category requires the teams to portray a story of Irish background



Murphy Irish Dancers Team

through music, sets, props, costumes and make up and of course excellent dancing. The required skills make the dancers stretch their abilities to include acting. The Dance Drama category competed on Friday, April 3, in a special production that ran from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. in the Convention Center in Montreal. "Miracle on Whiskey Island"

was the title of the Murphy Irish Arts Center entry. The story revealed the life of the Irish immigrants who worked on the docks in Cleveland and lived in a run down area known as Whiskey Island in the 1800s. Whiskey Island is still there today, though much different.

The seventeen dancers portrayed a mother with her two

daughters; a mean landlord with his four bosses and their apprentice boys who do all the dirty work; three magical fairies from Ireland; and two children of the landlord, who start out mean and wild, but end up obedient and pleasant.

The seventeen dancers on the Murphy team range in age from 9 to 24. They are from the

eastern suburbs of Cleveland and include a policeman, a Ph.D candidate at Case, a senior and sophomore at John Carroll University, three seniors and a sophomore in high school, seven middle school dancers and two children.

The Murphy Irish Arts Center is in its 37th year, and under the



Annie Profeta, Heather Voss-Hoynes, Anna Bridge

direction of its founder, Sheila Murphy Crawford, who developed the Whiskey Island story and dance. Sheila, and her niece, Maureen Cavanaugh

are both certified Irish Dance teachers with the governing body of Irish Dance in Dublin, Ireland. Sheila's husband, Bob Crawford, is the technical director and helps parents with the development and construction of the sets, props and costumes.

The team received five first place votes from the judges, one second place and one fourth place. Throwing out the high and low, they scored 475 out of 500 and beat out the next closest team by 105 points..



Graduating High School Seniors: L to R. Catherine Andres, Magnificat High; Michaela Brennan, Cornerstone Christian Academy; Mara Zolikoff, Notre Dame Cathedral Latin High School



The oldest dancers in the group with Sheila. Left to right: Erin Hogan (sophomore at John Carroll) Heather Voss-Hoynes (Ph.D. candidate at Case Western Reserve) Tom Conket (a Cleveland Heights Policeman and graduate of the University of Findlay and the Police Academy) Annie Profeta (senior at John Carroll)



**Don't
Forget
Us!**



Beantown / Irishtown

We often learn something of ourselves, not just by straight exposition, but by comparing ourselves to others. A recent trip to Boston has again highlighted the reasons why many people think of it as the most Irish city in the United States. Our hometown of Cleveland also boasts a strong Irish presence, but it is somewhat muted by the other Europeans who flocked to this city.

It is hard to imagine that an Irish person landing in Boston for the first time would not be a little surprised by the number of bars and restaurants that they could choose from and feel like they never left home. While that identity is often defined by the number of pubs and bars that are easily found, that definition is a little trivial; the truth of that claim runs much deeper.

While on a walk that was designed to find some of the Revolutionary US historical sights, we happened upon a

Famine memorial, on the corner of School Street and Washington Street in downtown Boston. The memorial contrasts a healthy looking family gazing backward at a desperate family group looking back at them with outstretched arms. Eight stones that contain plaques with descriptions of the Great Famine times surround the statues of the two groups.

One that struck a note contained the descriptive terms "the coffin ships sailing over a bowl of tears". The memorial did seem a bit of a cliché, at the same time, it is hard not to think about what and where it came from and not feel the sadness. Reading a bit on it later, I found that the monument was initially well-received, but has been called "pure kitsch" by Boston Globe art critic Sebastian Smee and representing "pious clichés and dead conventions" by Fintan O'Toole of the Irish Times.

I recognized the cliché when I saw it, but I wonder how else one would tell the story. I am not sure that it would be as touching without a human face. Perhaps it is in the nature of success to not want to think about the bad times.

It was built in memory of the 150th anniversary of the Famine and unveiled in 1998. In a city where the Irish have thrived, it seems that something needs to be there to recognize where and why they came.

The city certainly has plenty of immigrants, but the initial wave of Irish came to Boston as they did Cleveland; not so much for opportunity but running for their very lives. The famine years brought the biggest numbers to both cities.

The Boston Irish have very strong representation from Galway, like the Cleveland Irish do from Mayo. There are plenty of names from the Town of the Tribes to be found in Boston, like Lynch, Joyce, Kirwin and Martin. They are found on businesses in the present, in the historic graveyards and the ubiquitous pubs.

We went into a few that a tourist would not even neces-

sarily know the name or reference, like J. M. Curley's, a pub with a name commemorating a popular Irish "Mayor of the Poor", from the Irish Rebellion era of the early 1900s. There are pubs whose names are very obvious, like The Burren.

Named for the rocky landscape area of Co. Clare, The

descent. While Cleveland is not a bad place to be Irish, the ethnic balance here does not give it the clout it has in Boston.

Where there is positive leadership, there is almost always some that is more colorful, to be polite. There are the stereotypical South Boston working class characters portrayed in



Burren is a pub that is not on any tourist guides that I saw, but one that I would recommend. It is in the Boston College neighborhood of Somerville and it boasts plenty of music and good traditional food. The walls are covered with pictures and posters of all kinds of visitors, everyone from Bono and the Edge to Sharon Shannon and the Saw Doctors.

One of the other characteristics of Boston is that it is still a very good place to be Irish, even the cab driver mentioned it while we were on the way to our hotel. While Boston did have some of the "No Irish Need Apply" signs in the early 20th century, they had far fewer than many other cities that hosted immigrant Irish.

Boston was and still is more welcoming than some of its European counterparts to the Irish. Irish heritage is respected and celebrated and means more to the city than an annual parade. Boston has an Irish consulate and other supports for recent immigrants that have disappeared in many other US cities. The current mayor is a Galway man, Martin "Marty" Walsh, another in a long line of Boston politicians of Irish

films like "Good Will Hunting" and "The Fighter". There is also the more dangerous Boston mob. Where Cleveland had Danny Greene in the 70's, Boston had James "Whitey" Bulger as their larger than life mobster. He has been portrayed loosely several times, maybe most prominently by Jack Nicholson, in the film, "The Departed", filmed in part, of course, in Boston. A more direct telling of the life and times of Whitey just completed filming in Boston and is scheduled for release this year; "Black Mass" starring Johnny Depp, based on a book of the same name.

The Irish cultural markers are everywhere in the city, from statues of influential leaders, to buildings named for them, to the pubs that seem to be almost everywhere. Even the size of the city and the look of some of the buildings are comparable to Dublin. Boston is about the closest that a person could come to visiting Ireland without leaving the US

Sources: www.irishcentral.com/news/, "Boston Globe art critic slams Irish Famine memorial", October 14, 2013, and Wikipedia



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Cleveland

The Harp
1st - Irish Session, 2nd - The Porter Sharks, 6th - Lonesome Stars, 8th - Pitch the Peat, 9th - Chris Allen, 13th - Chris & Tom, 15th - Clearfork, 16th - Foir Gael, 20th - Lonesome Stars, 22nd - The New Pitch, 23rd - The Porter Sharks, 27th - Chris & Tom, 29th - Brent Kirby, 30th - Kristine Jackson. 4408 Detroit Road, 44113 www.the-harp.com

Stone Mad
3rd - Holleran Traditional Session, 10th - On Shot Paddy's, 17th - Thor Platter & Friends, 24th - Chris Allen & The Guilty Hearts. 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
1st - Jimmy-O, 8th - Donal O'Shaughnessy, 15th - Blues Chronicles, 22nd - Sums Divide, 29th - Bluegrass Platte. r1114 Center St. Cleveland 44113-2406 216. 696.6968. www.flatironcafe.com

Treehouse
3rd - Walkin' Cane, 10th - Terry Campbell, 17th - brokENGLISH, 24th - Cats on Holiday. 820 College Avenue, Cleveland, 44113 www.treehousecleveland.com

Cleveland

PJ McIntyre's
1st - Monthly Pub Quiz w/ Mike D 7pm, 3rd - Burning River Sound, 4th - New Barleycorn, 10th - Mystic Taxi, 11th - Carlos Jones, 17th - City Heat, 18th - Iced Cherry, 23rd - Craic Brothers, 24th - Spazmatics, 25th - LEO & ANTO (from the SawDoctors), 2nd show Added!

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1st - Claire Stuczynski, 2nd - Rob Dusky, 8th - Brent Kirby, 9th - Kristine Jackson, 15th - The Bar Flies, 16th - No Strangers Here, 22nd & 23rd - New Barleycorn, 29th - Walking Cane, 30th - Swap Meet. 323 East Prospect, Cleveland 44115 216.781.7782 www.flannerys.com

Cincinnati

Irish Heritage Center
19th - Opening Night of the Acting Irish International Theater Festival: 7 plays in 5 days, 19th - The Cavalcadors, 20th - The Field, 21st - The Maiden Aunt, 22nd - The New Electric Ballroom, 22nd - Sea Marks, 22nd - McKay, 23rd - The Chastitute, 23rd - Moment, 25th - Awards Breakfast & Closing of the Theater Festival. Irish Teas/Library /Genealogy Detective/ all three by appointment. Irish Heritage Center 3905 Eastern Avenue 513.533.0100. www.irishcenterof-cincinnati.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.

Euclid

Irish American Club East Side
8th - Kevin McCarthy, 15th - Club Dinner w music, 22nd - Mary Agnes Kennedy, 25th - Memorial Day Parade w Pancake/Sausage (\$2) before parade and \$1 hot dogs after, 30th - Irish Wake to celebrate the lives of deceased loved ones: Mass @6:00, music & light food to follow. PUB: 7:30 - 10:30. IACES 22770 Lake Shore Blvd. Euclid, 44123. 216.731.4003 www.eastsideirish.org

Findlay

Logan's Irish Pub
Trad Sessiún 3rd Wednesday. 414 South Main Street, Findlay 45840 419.420.3602 www.logansirishpubfindlay.com

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Westlake

Hooley House.
1st - Marys Lane, 2nd - Tony Rio, 8th - Caliber, 9th - Big in Japan, 15th - Charlie in the Box, 16th - Mourning Glory, 22nd - Matt Johnson's Dueling Pianos, 23rd - Lincoln Way, 29th - The Players Club, 30th - Grunge DNA. 24940 Sperry Dr Westlake 44145. 1FunPub.com (440) 835-2890



Marys Lane: 1st - Hooley House Westlake, 2nd - Sully's Irish Pub, 16th - Hooley House Brooklyn, Cincinnati Acting Festival

Olmsted Township

W S Irish American Club
2nd - Kentucky Derby Party: Horses avail 4pm til Race time, Prizes for best hats, Mint Juleps & food avail. Contact John Patterson @440-716-2545. 17th - Early Irish Parishes, Cemeteries and Irish Undertakers 6pm, 23rd - Steak Shoot 7:30pm. 31st - Irish tenor Emmet Cahill from Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. Great food & live music every Friday in the Pub. WSIA Club 8559 Jennings Rd. 44138 www.wsia-club.org. 440-235-5868.

Medina

Sully's
1st - Music Men, 2nd - Marys Lane, 8th - Westside Steve, 9th - Donal O'Shaughnessy, 15th - New Barleycorn, 16th - Brit-tany Reilly Band, 22nd - The Other Brothers, 23rd - High Strung Irish, 29th - One, a U2 Tribute Band, 30th - Tom Evan-chuck. 117 West Liberty Medina, 44256 www.sullysmedina.com.
Hooley House Montrose
1st - Walk of Shame, 2nd - Big in Japan, 8th - Velvet Shake, 9th - POP Fiction, 15th - Pat Dailey - \$15.00 cover, 16th - Grunge DNA, 22nd - Carlos Jones, 23rd - Charlie in the Box, 29th - Mossy Moran, 30th - Phillip Fox Band. 145 Montrose West Avenue Copley, Oh. 44321 (234) 466-0060 www.1funpub.com

Mentor

Hooley House
1st - Carlos Jones, 2nd - Usual Suspects, 8th - Abbey Normal, 9th - Top Dog, 15th - Players Club, 16th - Monica Robins & the Ninja Cowboys, 22nd - Almost Famous, 23rd - Jukebox Heroes, 29th - Collage, 30th - Bluestone Union. All starts @9:30: Every Tuesday - Open Mic w Nick Zuber, Every Wednesday - Trivia Night. 7861 Reynolds Rd Mentor www.1funpub.com (440)
The Twisted Paddy
7079 Lakeshore Boulevard, Mentor, OH 44060 (440) 525-5565. <https://www.facebook.com/thetwistedpaddy>

Willoughby

Croagh Patrick's Pub
4857 Robinhood Dr, Willoughby, OH 44094. (440) 946-8250 www.croaghpatrickspub.com.
Mullarkey's
1st - Thrifters, 2nd - Kevin McCarthy, 8th - Eric Butler, 9th - Craic Brothers, 15th - Nick Zuber, 16th - Dan McCoy, 22nd - 107.9 Band, 23rd - Mossy Moran. Wed: Karaoke, Thurs: Ladies Night w/ D.J. 4110 Erie Street www.mullarkeys.com
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Irish Eyes Heavenly Pub, 1st Wednesday of month. 3324 Secor Rd, Toledo
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Plank Road - Every Thursday 7 - 10. All ages and experience welcome. 16719 Detroit Road, Lakewood, 44107
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 7 - 9 Slow Train Café, 55 East College St., Oberlin. Informal all experience welcome: www.oberlin.net/~irishsession
Claddagh Irish Pub - Sundays 6:00pm-9:00pm. All experience levels welcome

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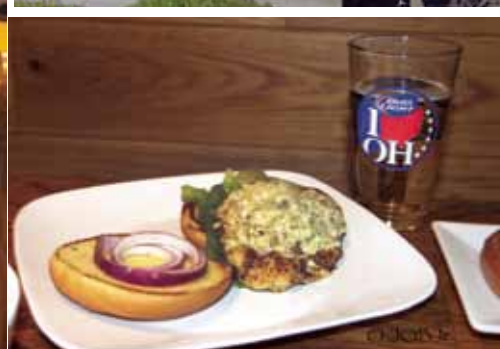
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Driving north from Cincinnati, I was on my way to Columbus and the 2015 St Patrick's Day-Shamrock Club's Family Gathering. Staged in the city's posh downtown convention centre, it's a big affair. With two thousand-plus people, each dressed in their best green get-ups, the festive throng gathers around tables of sundry food and drink, all tapping their toes to the strains of live Irish music. Aided by the creative talents of former Shamrock president Patrick Fallon, who ingeniously designed the green, white and orange lighting scheme, the club's membership will happily keep the party going all through the afternoon.

It will be good to see the Fallon clan again after the recent six-month winter hiatus. I'll renew friendships, sign some books, pass out copies of OhioIAN and ring up a few sales for Fallon's Irish Imports. In between, we'll enjoy the odd beer and talk of another coming summer festival season. It's a great life if you can make a go of it, but I find that more and more difficult to do these days.

Interspersed with eager anticipation and fleeting melancholy thoughts, the two-hour morning journey found me playing some of my favourite CDs...two in particular. The first, was a tribute to Jim McCann, who'd died only days before. For years, Jim enjoyed a fine solo career of writing and singing, all occasionally punctuated with musical performances shared with The Dubliners. Probably, his greatest claim to fame was his recording of Sean and Frank O'Meara's song, "Grace", the story of Grace Gifford and Joseph Plunkett's marriage in Kilmainham Gaol on the eve of Joe's execution in May 1916.

Jim, a Dublin man, had struggled with throat cancer since 2002, but alas, had finally succumbed to the ravages of that damnable disease. In a recently

recorded interview, you could hear his once melodic but now raspy voice struggle to retell the story, as he once again spoke of that fateful wedding.

As I listened to Jim's music, I couldn't help but think of another Dublin friend, Danny Doyle, who now has forsaken his celebrated musical career because of throat surgery gone awry. It is Danny, who so eloquently places the role of the Irish ballad in its proper context. "I long ago came to understand that the ballads and the history are the same. The ubiquitous balladry sings the stories of those who lived the events, leaving a legacy of poem and song that binds us to our past and country.... Balladry is perhaps better suited than narrative history to explain the driving forces behind events in Irish history, forces sufficiently compelling to send men out with hay-forks in 1798 and poets out with rhetoric in 1916."

As the stained glass windows and the mosaic artwork found in centuries-old cathedrals once taught an illiterate congregation bible stories, the balladeer's song retells the old stories of Ireland's noble though tortured past. Through scores of generations, each imbued with the desire to overcome the Stranger's oppression, Ireland continues to hold the seeds of a proud people, waiting for the day they'll sprout anew. Patiently, she nourishes them, repeatedly inspired by the songs of the balladeer.

This is what Danny means when he speaks of the power of balladry. In one of his songs, "The Minstrel Boy" words written long-ago by Thomas Moore, The Doyler carefully weaves the words of Pádraig Pearse's poem, "The Rebel" into the ballad's lyrics:

*"I am come of the seed of the people,
the people that sorrow;*

*Who have no treasure but hope,
No riches laid up but a memory
of an ancient glory.*

*My mother bore me in bondage, in
bondage my mother was born,
I am of the blood of serfs.*

*The children with whom I have
played, the men and women with
whom I have eaten*

*Have had masters over them, have
been under the lash of masters,
and though gentle, have served
churls."*

.....

*"And now I speak, being full of
vision;*

*I speak to my people, and I speak
in my people's name to*

The masters of my people.

*I say to my people that they are
holy,*

*That they are august despite their
chains.*

*That they are greater than those
that hold them*

And stronger and purer,

*That they have but need of cour-
age, and to call on the name of their
God,*

*God the unforgetting, the dear
God who loves the people*

*For whom he died naked, suffer-
ing shame.*

*And I say to my people's masters:
Beware*

*Beware of the thing that is coming,
beware of the risen people*

*Who shall take what ye would
not give.*

*Did ye think to conquer the people,
or that law is stronger than life,*

And than men's desire to be free?

*We will try it out with you, ye
that have harried and held,*

Ye that have bullied and bribed.

Tyrants...hypocrites...liars!"

Yes, McCann's, Doyle's and Pearse's words continue to inspire. They serve as templates for today's Irishmen and women to judge their resolve against all that have gone before.

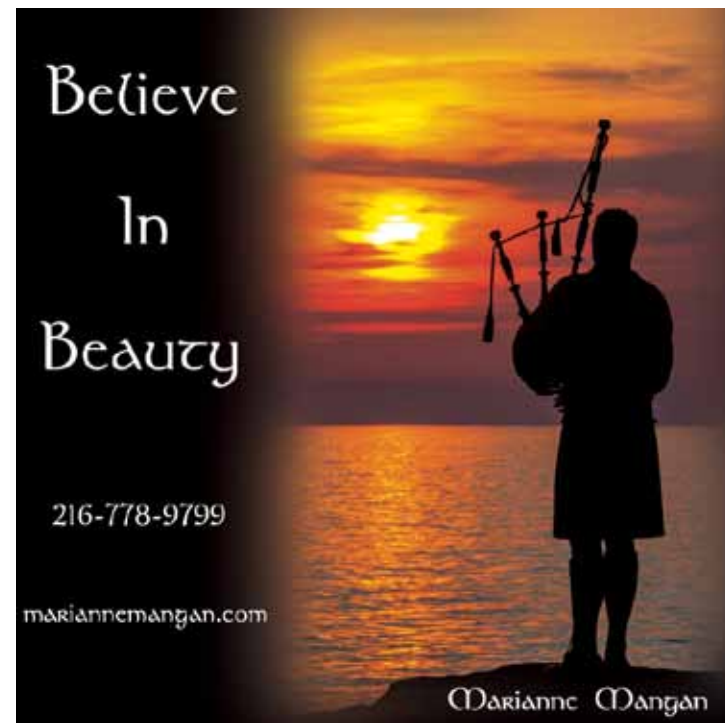
Now happily, I'm able to end this piece with a bit of good news. Here on 1 April, RTE announced that the Irish Government finally would buy the Moore Street [Dublin] 1916 Rising site. In its press release, they stated, "The Government has said it is to acquire the national monument site at 14-17 Moore Street. The

site was the location of the final council of war of the Leaders of the 1916 Rising, and is where the decision to surrender was made. It is planned to develop the monument as a commemorative centre."

Pleased beyond what any words can express, I remain yours, Cathal Liam



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Irish Sports Prepare to Take the Fields of Glory, in the USA

I grew up playing Gaelic Football, as my father did before me. Ohio and the surrounding areas have a thriving Irish sports community. We will show highlights each month as we support the Midwest Division of the GAA, of which Akron, Cincinnati, Columbus and Cleveland are members. The Midwest Division is made up of the following eleven clubs:

Akron Celtic Guards
Albany Rebels
Buffalo Fenians
Cincinnati GAA*
Cleveland:
Cleveland St. Jarlaths
Cleveland St. Pats*
Cleveland St. Pats Ladies
Columbus Naghton Street*
Detroit:

Detroit Wolfe Tones
Detroit St. Annes
Kalamazoo GAA
Pittsburgh:

Pittsburgh Celtics
Pittsburgh Banshees
Pittsburgh Pucas
Rochester Erin's Isle
Syracuse Gaels

* Featured in last month's issue

Club News:
The Columbus Naghten Street Irish Football Club has a big May ahead! We kickoff our 2015 Columbus Irish Foot-

ball League season with our Opening Day on Sunday, May 3rd at Huntley Bowl Park in Worthington, Ohio. The season will continue every Sunday through late June with an open date for Memorial Day Weekend. Our Men's competitive team will also be participating in the Cleveland 7's Tournament in late May.

National News: Survey of American GAA Attitudes

A new survey on Hurling in America, the first of its kind, and paper was published on April 8th. Conducted as part of a student project, the survey claims to measure the attitudes on professionalism of those involved with the GAA in the country. Hurling among Americans has been on the rise in recent years as evidenced by large clubs like Milwaukee and Indianapolis. But has the administration and development of the game kept up with the wishes of those who play it? Have the wishes of

MIDWEST MENS FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS SCHEDULE - The Tom O'Donoghue Cup					
DATE	WEEK	HOME	AWAY	HOME	AWAY
MAY 30TH	WK1	Cincinnati	Buffalo	THIS GAME PLAYED IN CLEVELAND	
JUNE 6TH	WK2	Cleveland St. Pats	Pittsburgh		
JUNE 13TH	WK3	Cincinnati	Pittsburgh	Buffalo	Cleveland St. Pats
JUNE 20TH	WK4				
JUNE 27TH	WK5	Cleveland St. Pats	Cincinnati	Pittsburgh	Buffalo
JULY 4TH	4TH JULY HOLIDAY				
JULY 11TH	WK6	Cincinnati	Cleveland St. Pats	Buffalo	Pittsburgh
JULY 18TH	WK7	Pittsburgh	Cleveland St. Pats		
JULY 25TH	WK8	Pittsburgh	Cincinnati	Cleveland St. Pats	Buffalo
AUGUST 1ST					
AUGUST 8TH/9TH	MIDWEST DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI FINAL AND FINAL				

MIDWEST HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE			
DATE	WEEK	HOME	AWAY
JULY 11TH	WK1	Pittsburgh	Akron
JULY 25TH	WK2	Akron	Pittsburgh
AUGUST 8TH/9TH	MIDWEST DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL (if needed)*		

the fundamental elements of the GAA, the clubs, been adequately heard?

The debate over professionalism has largely centered on payments to players in Ireland. Overseas players nowhere near number those playing on the island. With the swell in ranks among 'indigenous' populations, will there be a difference of opinion on the subject in their respective countries, or, will there be adherence to the amateur principle? How do those in

America, where nearly everything is commercialized, feel about the professionalization of hurling? The results of the survey, and the paper, represent a portion of the GAA in America.

Survey Link: <https://americanhurlingstudy.wordpress.com/survey-results/>

Resulting Paper link: <https://americanhurlingstudy.wordpress.com/research-paper/>

Contact Information: Chris Horan
chrishoranunk@gmail.com

Hurling: Akron Celtic Guards

The Akron Celtic Guards Hurling Club are Ohio's premier GAA-sanctioned hurling club, devoted to the enrichment and growth of Irish sports and heritage in the Akron area. The club competes in hurling tournaments locally, regionally and nationally, competing at the Junior-C level. In recent years, the Celtic Guards have travelled to represent the city of Akron in Orlando, Chicago, Indianapolis, Boston, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh.

They have represented the Midwest division at the last three NACB National Championships. They have also sustained a city-series league, fostering growth at a local and social level, allowing all ages to develop their skills. As ambassadors of the community, they teach at multiple clinics

throughout the year, including the annual Dublin Ohio Irish Festival.

The Akron Celtic Guards Hurling Club was started in 2002, and mentored early on by the infamous Al O'Leary, who was a founding member of the Cleveland Kickhams Hurling Club. Originally coached by Seamus White, then Noel Morton, and now lead by Mark Agner; they have bloomed with the help of the City of Akron, a strong Board of Directors, dedicated players, their loyal fans, and support of our sponsors and vendors.

The Akron Celtic Guards' crest is laden with symbols that represent Ireland, the Irish, Hurling, the City of Akron, and the state of Ohio, to build upon the roots of the club. It is with these roots that the Akron Celtic Guards continue to grow in the community, and build upon its foundation for years to come.

Contact: akronhurling@gmail.com





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by Terry Kenneally
A TOP Shelf Selection



Fortunate Son is an historical novel revolving on the actual events encompassing the case of *Annesley v Anglessea* (1743), which was one of the longest trials in Irish history. James Annesley (1715-1760), a peerage claimant, was born at Dunmore, County Wexford, the son of Arthur Annesley, 4th Baron Altham, the identity of his mother being of controversy. This was to furnish the focus in the lawsuit in the Irish court of Exchequer (a senior court of common pleas, one of the four courts which gave their name to the building known as the Four Courts in Dublin).

Richard Annesley, Arthur's brother, proclaimed himself the rightful heir to the peerage, due to the issue as to whom was James' mother, either Mary Sheffield, the second wife of Arthur, or Joan Lundy, a maidservant. Richard arranged for the kidnapping of James and his transportation to the American colonies as an indentured servant.

The story moves along at a brisk pace combining a blend of historical fact and details of adventure and peril with a bit of courtroom drama. One of the more interesting legal aspects of the case and the story, is that the trial remains the basis of modern "attorney-client privilege."

After returning to England, and while perfecting his claims, James acciden-

tally killed a poacher. Richard seized on the opportunity and tried to hire a leading criminal lawyer to prosecute

James for murder and offering 10,000 pounds to get James hanged. The lawyer refused to accept the case. In the subsequent suit for title to the contested property, James called the lawyer to testify about Richard's communication with him to show that Richard was conscious of James' claims of title. In its holding, the court said that Richard's communication to the attorney in carrying out a prosecution was an "unnecessary" communication and

thus allowed the lawyer to testify.

The denouement of the story will further pique the reader's curiosity. The author of the book is a lawyer and "self-taught" historian. I found the book of page-turning quality and rate it a TOP SHELF read.

**Terrence J. Kenneally is an attorney and owner of Terrence J. Kenneally & Associates Co. in Rocky River, Ohio. He defends insurance companies and their clients in insurance defenses cases throughout the state of Ohio. After receiving his Master's Degree in Irish Studies from John Carroll University he began teaching Irish Literature and History at Holy Name High School in 2014. He may be reached at terry@tjkenneally.com.



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By J. Michael Finn



Turlough O'Carolan

Persons who play the Irish harp are known as harpers, those who play concert harps are known as harpists. By far the most famous Irish harper was Turlough O'Carolan. In his lifetime he composed over 200 pieces of music for the harp. Even more amazing, he was totally blind. He is considered by many to be Ireland's national

composer and is often referred to as either O'Carolan or Carolan.

O'Carolan was born in 1670 in Nobber, County Meath, where his father was a blacksmith and metal worker. The family later moved to Ballyfarnon, County Roscommon in 1684. In Roscommon, his father took a job with the MacDermot Roe family. Mrs. Mary MacDermot Roe, the wife of his father's employer, gave young Turlough an education, and the youngster showed talent in poetry. At the age of eighteen

he was stricken with smallpox, a common disease in Ireland. Although he recovered from the disease, it left him permanently blind.

In those days there were few opportunities for someone blind. Mrs. MacDermot Roe apprenticed O'Carolan to a good harper. It

is believed that his teacher was Ruairi Dall (Blind Rory) who was living with the MacDermot's at the time. At the age of twenty-one Turlough was given a harp, a horse and a guide. He then set out to travel Ireland and compose songs for patrons. The patrons gave him food and lodging and in return Turlough would compose a piece of music, often naming the song in their honor. Music named for a patron is known as a planxty, a word that O'Carolan reportedly invented.

O'Carolan's first patron was George Reynolds of County Leitrim, who suggested that Turlough try his hand at composition. With the encouragement of Reynolds, Turlough composed Si Bheag, Si Mhor, which means "Big Hill, Little Hill." and refers to a site in County Meath where, according to folklore, two battling giants were turned into two hills by a wizard.

Turlough was not your typical classical musician. Sources say that he was cheerful and gregarious, enjoyed practical jokes, as with many harpers of the time, he also drank a great deal, and he had a temper.

A story about O'Carolan concerns an encounter he had with another harper, David Murphy. Murphy was a disagreeable fellow musician who was so mean he once threw his own mother down a flight of stairs. Murphy once told O'Carolan that his music was like "bones without beef." O'Carolan encountered Murphy in a pub and a fight began between the two. O'Carolan eventually dragged Murphy kicking and screaming from the pub. While Murphy was screaming, O'Carolan remarked, "Put beef to that air, you puppy."

Among his compositions, Farewell to Whiskey is about the aftermath of a doctor forbidding him to drink anymore, and O'Carolan's Receipt is about getting a prescription from the another doctor to go back to drinking whiskey again. Accord-

ing to the biographers, he stayed up all night with the prescribing doctor and wrote the tune in his honor.

O'Carolan composed music and verse for some of the most famous families in the country. He was a product of Gaelic Ireland: he spoke and wrote in Irish and did not speak English very well, but, he appealed as much to the native Gael as to the Ascendancy families. The names

of those for whom he composed music included Coote, Cooper, Crofton, Brabazon, Pratt, O'Hara, Irwin, Betagh, Stafford and Blayney, all of them Protestant land owners. But, he also composed for well-known Catholic families, such as the Plunketts. It has been written that often

weddings and funerals would be postponed until O'Carolan could arrive to perform.

The Cruise family, too, figures prominently in his works. He is said to have fallen in love with Brigid Cruise, in whose honor he composed no less than four songs of praise. Legend has it that many years later, on a pilgrimage to Lough Derg, he recognized her by the touch of her hand.

O'Carolan's fame came from his gift for musical composition and poetry. His usual method was to compose the tune first and then write the words. This was the opposite of traditional Irish practice. Today most of his music is played as strictly instrumental music, but O'Carolan wrote words to roughly a third of his songs. All of these were written in Irish; only one was in English. Some of O'Carolan's own compositions show influence from the style of continental classical music, whereas others such as Carolan's Farewell to Music reflect a much older style of "Gaelic Harping."

O'Carolan did finally settle down and marry, to Mary Maguire. They lived on a farm near Mohill, County Leitrim and had seven children. Mary died

in 1733 and just five years later, feeling ill, Carolan returned to the home of Mrs. Mary MacDermott Roe.

When Turlough O'Carolan died at the MacDermot Roe house 1738, his former music pupil Charles O'Connor recorded his passing in sadness: "Saturday, the 25th day of March 1738. Turlough O'Carolan, the wise master and chief musician of the whole of Ireland, died today and was buried in the O'Duignan's church of Kilronan, in the sixty-eighth year of his age. May his soul find mercy, for he was a moral and religious man." O'Carolan's final composition was to the butler, Flinn, who brought him his last drink. And in a final fitting salute, his wake lasted four days.

If you would like to read more about O'Carolan and his compositions, the definitive biography is titled Carolan: The Life and Times of an Irish Harper, by Donal O'Sullivan, originally published in 1958 and reprinted in 1983 and 1991 (set of 2 volumes). Another biographer, Grainne Yeats, sums up O'Carolan in an excellent tribute: "O'Carolan bridges the gap between continental art music on the one hand, and the Gaelic harp and folk music on the other. At his best he wrote music that is distinctively Irish, yet has an international flavor, as well. It is this achievement that suggests that Turlough O'Carolan does indeed deserve the title of Ireland's National Composer."

*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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Remembering Whiskey Island

by E.M. Rooney

Grandma told us the story, my parents would repeat it, coveting the legend as the family's sacred honor, bragging rights on the West Side of Cleveland. "Your Great Grandpa had the best Irish bar on all of Whiskey Island". I often shared my family's heritage to friends and strangers, but still wondered if my ancestry's tale of rugged American hospitality was true.

All true sleuths need more than the family's oral history and I eventually found collaborating evidence. In *The Cuyahoga*, William D. Ellis pens a chapter on the infamous island, its establishments and its stories. He interviewed one Mr. Cohalan (after earning some street-cred on Whiskey Island history) and heard him tell of a time when the Island smelled of iron ore, urine, beer and liver-and-onions frying. The wind off Lake Erie relieved the heat of summer and froze the



John Dare (rt) & unknown friend

bone in the winter. Business was the raw elements of America's backbone: iron, coal, limestone and the labor to move them. Most of the human backbone was Irish.

The street code of conduct was beyond the written word. Traversing through the pages of testimony, it is clear Mr. Cohalan still chose his words with care. One passage caught my attention. A description of "the most distinguished saloon on the island" - Fat Jack's. Wisely, Ellis quoted Mr. Cohalan's without the interference of paraphrasing:



John C. Dare at his Bar - 1st from left

"JC Dare was his real name, but nobody called him that. He was a good-lookin' fellow and not exactly fat, just paunchy. Jack ran the only place on the island where you could pick up your change and have a fair chance of getting out with it. Nobody fooled with Fat Jack."

John C. Dare Cafe was his saloon. I found another tantalizing clue on the last page of the chapter. Ellis wrote, after meeting with Mr. Cohalan he walked back to Whiskey Island. He found "a little cement building that still stands in the curve of the road where it angles in front of the new bridge. It stood like an old, lonely guardian of the river's history.

And very faintly, in faded whitewash on the dirty wall, ... the peeling letters: J.C. Dare Cafe." Ellis who wrote his book in the 60s, saw a different Whiskey Island than we see today. We see the efforts to revitalize a historic landmark, Wendy Park, the Marina, Sunset Bar & Grill, sightseeing on Lake Erie and the Lighthouse. He saw the past and my Great Grandpa's bar.

Whiskey Island bustles in the summer season. I walked the perimeter of Wendy Park with a copy of a 1800s map in hand, attempting to retrace the steps of Grandpa Dare's Whiskey Island. I was never sure I saw where Willow Street became Willow Street Bridge. If you crossed the bridge there was Fat Jack's.

I watched the steel bridge lower for the trains, and then rise for the tankers navigating the mouth of the Cuyahoga. I waved at the crew and they waved back. I stared at the blocks of old whitewashed cement scattered on the East end of the Island and

wondered.

In the end, Ellis wrote, "I wonder if Mr. Cohalan had made it all up." To Mr. Ellis and Mr. Cohalan, I would say truth is a stubborn thing. I wish I could share with them what else I found - more collaborating evidence in the family photo album of Olive Dare Rooney, my Grandma. Olive was the only child of John C. Dare and Ellen Sheehy. All the family treasures were bequeathed to her and left in the old family home where I live. In the back of the dining room closet, I found pictures of the John C. Dare Cafe. Great Grandpa's bar was real and the legend true - if pictures can speak a thousand words.

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Amazing Grace

By J. L. Scarry

My friend Grace Kenneally, from Galway City, Ireland is battling Neuroblastoma, a rare childhood cancer. In Ireland, ten children are diagnosed with it every year. Ireland has no central fund for Neuroblastoma and without coming to America or abroad for treatment, Grace only has a 4% chance of survival. Her motto is "Never Give Up" and her inspiring spirit has caught the attention of Irish Americans in Ohio. All of Ireland are raising money to help save her life.

Grace has been seriously ill for half her young life, but you wouldn't know it to look at her mischievous smile and bright, blue eyes. When I followed an Irish friend to her Facebook page and saw Grace's courageous zest for life, I knew I had to help. I im-

mediately begin sharing Grace's story with friends and writing words of encouragement on her page, but I wanted to do more for her.

Bolstered by Grace's hard working friends and family and my families own favorite saying of "The Irish Stick Together" my friend Dana Donnelly and I decided to do a raffle sale for Grace. In the end, we raised \$900 for Grace's treatment, raised awareness for Neuroblastoma and shared the "Stick Together" mentality of the Irish with everyone we met.

Grace just finished her third round of chemotherapy and is on the mend, but her family still needs your help to bring her to America, to help save her life. You can donate and find fundraising ideas for Grace at <http://www.savinggrace.ie/home.html>. Become friends with Grace on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/savingourgrace>

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