



October 2016
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**Greater Cleveland Famine
Memorial 15th Anniversary**
photo by John O'Brien, Jr.

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by **Terry Kenneally**

A TOP Shelf Selection



Dinosaurs on Other Planets

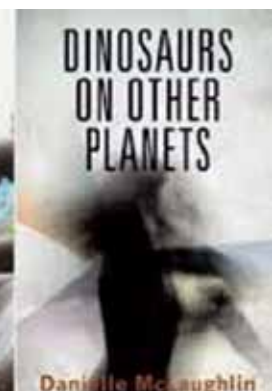
By *Danielle McLaughlin*
Random House ISBN 978-0-
8129-9842-9 240 pp 2016

Off the Shelf recently reviewed books by two new Irish writers who have achieved widespread critical success. The books, *Young Skins* by Colin Barrett and *Academy Street* by Mary Costello, are indicative of new Irish writing which is capturing the attention of readers on both sides of the Atlantic. This month's selection is in the same writing vein.

Winner of several prestigious writing competitions, such as the William Trevor/ Elizabeth Bowen International Short Story Competition and the Merriman Short Story Competition, Danielle McLaughlin's debut collection deals primarily with psychological alienation, and the desolate upheaval of humans in crisis.

The majority of the stories are set in small towns and rural areas, from Cork to Donegal, to the Midlands. The title story is a phrase taken

from a conversation in the last story of the book where a child speculates that if dinosaurs were made extinct after a meteor hit earth there could still be dinosaurs on other planets (this particular story was originally published in *The New Yorker*,



September 15, 2014).

"All About Alice" is a Trevor-like story about a woman, Alice, who lives with her father. When her father goes to West Cork for a week, she suddenly, "has a whole week stretched in front of her: a wild west of freedom, waiting for the charge of Alice's wagon."

Other stories include a young husband commutes a treacherous route to his job in the city, fearful for the wife and small daughter he has left behind; and a mother struggling to understand her nine-year-old son's obsession with dead birds, and the apocalypse.

The pervasive undercurrent

is no need to ask what Danielle McLaughlin will do next- she has done it already". I rate this book a TOP SHELF read.

***Terrence J. Kenneally is an attorney and owner of the Kenneally Law Firm in Rocky River, Ohio. Mr. Kenneally defends insureds and insurance companies in insurance defense law suits throughout the State of Ohio. He received his Master's Degree from John Carroll University in Irish Studies and teaches Irish history and literature at Holy Name High School. Mr. Kenneally is the President of Holy Name High School for the 2016-17 school year. He may be reached at terry@tjkenneally.com.*



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Editor's Corner



John O'Brien, Jr.

It's October. The political season is about to end, at least for a little while. Though it is part of what I do for a living, the animosity, the way too broad expectation that the world should revolve around you, not you evolve around the world, has dimmed my faith and hope.

If we want better candidates, we have to offer the candidates a better chance of making a difference. Gridlocked America is a direct result of gridlocked Washington ... the sense of injustice rises and the patience wanes into defeatism. Only by choosing different actions. People, processes can we expect

different results. More of the same, is simply known as insanity. "You're on fire stupid".

Locally, the election is just as important, as federal, state and local elections will shape our communities. Don't Boo, Vote, is not a cliché without deep and lasting meaning. If you are unsure of how to cut through the noise, sites like judge4yourself.com are excellent, unbiased looks and recommendations for the best candidates, irrespective of any criteria besides doing a good job. Not voting is not a protest, it is abdication.

Have you enrolled in Speak Irish Cleveland yet? The first of the 10 week sessions starts Tuesday October 4th. All levels are welcome, and will find great opportunity to learn a little or a lot. The class closes to new students after the 2nd, October 11th class. It is not too late; this is the invite you have been asking for. See the ad on page 12 to join a fun, engaged group, who are not only learn-

ing Irish, but volunteering at other events, meeting new people and creating an Irish speaking community full of fun and experiences, right here in Cleveland, 3,000 miles from Eire.

So much to see; so much to do this month. The summer has gone, the fall is full of chances to broaden and brighten our world, in full blazing, glorious color. Hope to see you at the Al O'Leary Hurling Tournament on Saturday the 1st; the James Kilbane and Batt Burns show at the @WSIA on October 8th, The Mayo Ball on the 15th; Tommy Fleming @ MusicBoxCLE on October 20th ... the list goes on and on, and is filled with great music and great events. Check out the Out & About Ohio section within and the Coming Next Month feature for even more. Your ripples reach far, if you stand by me.

Go dtí an mhí seo chugainn, slán a fhágáil

(Until next month, goodbye)
John

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MILESTONES

Congratulations to John & Eileen Lackey, celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary
(Pictured right)

Congratulations to Erin Conway Houghton and Mark Houghton, celebrating their 25th Wedding Anniversary.



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On This Day in Irish History

by Terrence J. Kenneally

1 October 1761 - The first major outbreak of violence by the "Whiteboys" begins in Co. Tipperary. The Whiteboys were a secret Irish agrarian organization that used violent tactics to defend tenant farmer's rights for subsistence farming.

2 October 1852 - Birth of William O'Brien, Irish Party MP, associated with campaigns for land reform which would force landlords to reduce exorbitant rents.

7 October 1910 - Henry McIlhenny, art collector and philanthropist, who in 1979 donated his Donegal estate, which operates as Glenveigh National Park, to the Irish State, was born in Philadelphia.

8 October 1974 - Sean McBride became the first Irish citizen to be awarded the

Nobel Prize for Peace.

14 October 1885 - Eamon de Valera, nationalist campaigner, Fianna Fail leader, Taoiseach, and president of Ireland, is born in Brooklyn, New York.

16 October 1890 - Michael Collins is born in Clonakilty, Co. Cork.

19 October 1745 - Death of Jonathan Swift, author and poet, known for Gulliver's Travels.

22 October 1641 - The start of the Ulster Rebellion, when rebel Catholics surprised Protestant settlers, massacring large numbers.

29 October 1816 - Death of Arthur O'Neill, Last of the Itinerant Harpers.

About Our Cover

Front and Back: The Greater Cleveland Famine Memorial celebrates 15 years on the shores of the Cuyahoga.

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Off Shelf/On This Day- Terry Kenneally
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Global Autism Local Ambassador Heads to Nicaragua

by Tara Quinn

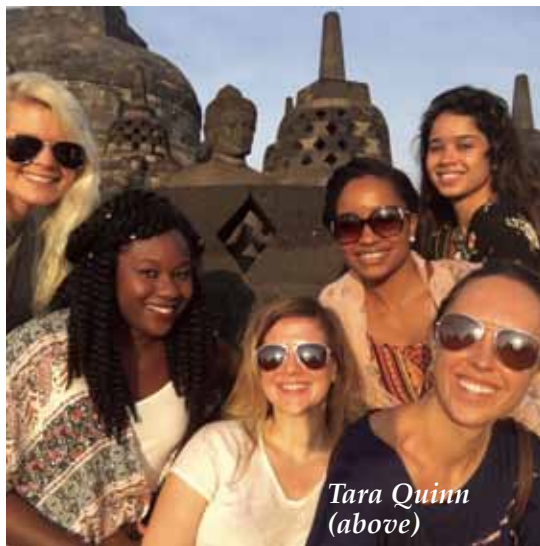
I first traveled with the Global Autism Project in March 2016. I was able to be a part of an incredible team that traveled to Jakarta, Indonesia to participate in continuous training at a center for children with autism, called Hi5. The Global Autism project partners with centers in different countries to address the needs of children with autism by providing training to staff, parents, and caregivers.

The Project also takes on cultural humility in order to tackle pressing community issues, like awareness and advocacy. They are committed to sustainability.

They are honest, transparent, and determined. It is what makes the Global Autism Project stand out from the crowd.

My experience with the Project started when I first heard a co-worker talking about raising \$5,000 so she could be on the team going to India to train teachers. I doubted she could do it; \$5,000 is a lot of money, a lot!

But the wiser I get, the more I see that if we are supposed to be somewhere, it



Tara Quinn
(above)

happens. And so she raised the \$5,000 and headed to India. And two years later, with the help of so many, \$5,000 was raised and off to Indonesia I went. My life was changed. In feeding others, we feed ourselves.

While in Jakarta we worked at Hi5. We worked closely with staff on supervision training, implementing checklists with regards to social skills, and parent training presentations. I saw firsthand the profound affects the Global Autism

Project has on students coming to the center.

In one of the most populated cities in the world, Hi5 is one of the only centers that provide services for children with autism. Children who had no services are now being provided with an opportunity to learn, communicate and socialize with family and others in the community. Your donations provide that.

The teachers and therapist there are so hard working; they want to learn as much as possible from the team that volunteers their time to spend two weeks training the staff. A woman named Shinta runs the center. She is one of the most wonderful human beings I've ever met.

She doesn't stop, she pushes through barriers and has given so much of herself to help this kids. Shinta and the staff crave the knowledge and experience we bring. They want to improve and develop their centers so they can best serve children with autism in their area.

The opportunity to be of service on that scale and to be a part of something much bigger than I, fed my soul on a

level I never experienced. I became a better behavioral therapist and a better human being.

My experience with The Global Autism Project will continue; I am so grateful I have been accepted to travel to Nicaragua in February 2017. Nicaragua is the newest center the Project is working with. The center there has the only BCBA in the country. They are the first center to be able to accept insurance and are in immediate need of staff training.

The Global Autism Project has played a huge roll in this center starting up. Should you support me, your donation will help so many children that otherwise would never have the chance to reach their potential. I have faith that the community around me will support this Project. If I am supposed to be there, it will happen.

If you want to be a part of the magic that the Global Autism Project spreads, please consider donating to my crowdise page: <https://www.crowdrise.com/skillcorps-nicaragua-february-2017/fundraiser/taraquinn>

For more information on the Global Autism Project head to: <http://globalautismproject.org/>

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Irish Neurologist: 3 ALS Discoveries

By David McDonell

Earlier this year, the discovery of the gene NEK1 became worldwide news, as it was a direct consequence of funding raised by the social media craze of 2015 that was the ALS Ice-Bucket Challenge. It was uncovered by leading Irish scientist Kevin Kenna, along with his wife Aoife and his brother Brendan, at the University of Massachusetts.

This discovery revealed that the NEK1 gene is present in 3% of people who are diagnosed with Motor Neuron Disease. For Irish neurologist Orla Hardiman, who is currently the Academic Director of the Biomedical Sciences Institute at Trinity College Dublin, this find was particularly pleasing, as it was the third time one of her former students has discovered a gene involved with ALS/Motor Neuron Disease.

In 2006, Hardiman's PhD student Matt Greenway found a faulty gene named ANG, which contributes to less than 1% of ALS sufferers, in addition to sufferers of Parkinson's Disease, while in 2011, her former student Brian Trainor, discovered the gene C9ORS72, which accounted for 10% of Motor Neuron Disease sufferers of European extraction around the world.

However it was Kevin Kenna's breakthrough that received enhanced media coverage, as his find was a result of money raised by the Ice-Bucket Challenge that became a viral craze in 2015. The discovery of genes with direct links to ALS opens up pathways for scientific research as well as allowing scientists, through gene therapy, to insert a genetic code to turn off faulty genes and slow down the effects of the disease.

Hardiman explains: "When you find a gene like NEK1, it opens up a whole new landscape of possible treatments. It also opens up a new area so that

we can better understand the biology of the gene.

"Kevin is working in John Landers' lab in Boston. He is looking at cells that have the NEK1 mutation and looking to see if we can normalise the effect of the disrupted gene. It is an important finding. Even though it is a relatively small number of people with the gene (3%), it opens up a new area where we can attack in order to find new



Orla
Hardiman

treatments."

Orla Hardiman began studying neurology in the 1980s and she trained at Harvard before working at Bob Browne's laboratory at Harvard. She came back to Ireland and became the 11th neurologist appointed in the country. She set up clinics with multidisciplinary teams of specialists for diseases including Motor Neuron Disease in the 1990s. She has been working at Trinity College Dublin since 2007 and Orla is very proud on having three of her former students making leading discoveries in their field.

"I was able to spot talent very early, and it is great having picked the right people, who

have gone on and succeeded in their careers. I have been very lucky with the young people that have come to work with me.

"Brian Trainor was my first student who came to work with me and he now works in the US. He was very smart, the same with Matt Greenway, who works in Canada now. We would love to get some of those people back, but I suppose it doesn't really matter from a disease point of view where people work.

"Kevin's story is quite an interesting story. Kevin's mother was my patient. She had Motor Neuron Disease. I looked after her and I remember her very well.

"Then back in 2011, a successful Alzheimer scientist in UCD called Dominic Walsh rang me up one day and said; 'I have a really clever young man called Kevin Kenna. He has been doing fantastic work and he is going to get a first class honours on an absolutely terrific project, but his heart is in motor neuron disease and asked me would I give him a job?'

"So I met Kevin and I decided to take him on based on the recommendation that Dominic Walsh gave me and he has just flown like a bullet in terms of the quality of work that he is doing. So Kevin did his PhD under my supervision and on the basis of his work and his abilities, I introduced him to John Landers. John snapped him up and Kevin has become invaluable to that lab in the University of Massachusetts. He is a superb scientist and brings a lot to the field."

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David McDonnell: Our Sports Man on the Irish Street



Heroes Aplenty in Para-Sports

For those of the sporting persuasion, the names of Usain Bolt and Oscar Pistorius are well-known monikers. Of this there is little doubt.

However, I don't know what, if anything, the name Jason Smyth means to sporting people, especially those of you who reside outside of Ireland. If you can't place the name, I'll put you out of your misery.

Jason Smyth is an Irishman and the fastest Paralympian the world has ever seen. Last month he won Gold in the 100m sprint at Paralympics in Rio (T13 Classification), which matched his previous wins in the 100m and 200m at both the Beijing and London Paralympics in 2008 and 2012 respectively. His achievements mirrored Bolt's last three Olympics performances, yet in terms of an equal-

ity of recognition the sprinting pair are poles apart.

In a lot of ways, this is a pertinent example of how under-represented para-athletes are in the media and consequently in our sporting consciousness. In para-sports, there are many of the same sporting dramas and rivalries that exist in able-bodied sports and yet, because of a lighter shade of spotlight, many of these sporting gems barely get a mention. Most people don't know that Jason, who has a severe eye impairment, has competed for many years on the able-bodied Irish sprint teams.

Garreth Greene - If you haven't heard of Jason Smyth, then there is little chance you will have heard of Garreth Greene, an Irish sports personality of whom most commentators at home would struggle to locate on the sporting spectrum. This is his story.

Garreth is Ireland only wheelchair ten-

nis player. Last year he ranked 367th in the world, but since has climbed steadily to currently occupy the 84th position in the International Tennis Federation (ITF) rankings. This is significant progress and what makes Garreth's development all the more remarkable is that he has achieved this without any institutional funding from Paralympics Ireland or Tennis Ireland.

Four years ago, Garreth played wheelchair tennis as a hobby. However, he then went to the London Paralympics in 2012, the event that went on to dramatically change his life. Garreth's has been in a wheelchair since he was a child after he was diagnosed with chondro dysplasia in his legs. He played wheelchair basketball competitively in his teens and it was much later that he started playing wheelchair tennis.

Garreth went to the London Paralympics as a communications volunteer, where he helped with the social media feeds at some events. Earlier this year, he confided to me that before he went, he felt he had seen everything para-sports had to offer.

However, the Paralympics was para-sport competition at a level Garreth didn't comprehend, and within weeks of coming home, he decided to pack in his full time job to become Ireland's only representative on the professional wheelchair tennis circuit. It also became his sporting goal to compete at the Paralympics in Rio.

These days sees Garreth working as a graphic designer at the Irish Wheelchair Association on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays of non-competition weeks. He trains before and after work at the Westwood Tennis Club in Clontarf. On Tuesdays and Thursdays he spends six hours training on the courts with his tennis coach Natasha, in addition to strength and conditioning work in the gym.

For game practice he doesn't have other wheelchair tennis players to hit with, so sometimes his friend Justin, who is a qualified tennis coach, will sit into a chair and compete. Other times he will

take on able-bodied kids at the tennis club as their shots are more comparable to the trajectory of a shot from a wheelchair tennis player.

Garreth funds all his own competitions, and so far this year, he has played tournaments in Italy, the Czech Republic, Switzerland and in the UK, in the hope of qualifying for Rio. Although, reaching the Paralympics in Rio was his long-

term goal, this did not come to fruition. However, he has already stated his intention to get inside the top 40 and qualify automatically for the Games in Tokyo in 2020. He also hopes to grow the game in Ireland by setting up camps to introduce younger players to the sport.

Here is a link

to a short documentary about Garreth entitled 'A Sporting Parable.' (<http://bit.ly/28WD14Y>)

Lesson - There is a lesson to be learned. In a time when football stars of various codes compare multi-million dollar contracts and vie for the most economically enriching endorsements, it is refreshing to come across someone who competes at their sport for sporting reasons even at financial cost to themselves.

It is to our shame that somewhere among the television contacts, these pioneers of para-sports get left at the sporting wayside. I watched more events at the Paralympics this year in Rio than I ever had before, and I enjoyed hearing the narratives from the losing and winning competitors even more so than the Olympics. It was sport at its most untainted and it was soul nourishing to witness.

It is a pity that for two weeks every four years, a little sporting gaze gets briefly cast in the direction of para-sports for so fleeting a time. It is undoubtedly to our loss.





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The Battle for Ohio

In the late 1880s, the populace of northwestern Ohio lobbied for a regional university to meet the demand for quality education and educators. The Ohio General Assembly authorized Governor Judson Harmon to commence the process of establishing two new Ohio universities, one in the northwest and one in the northeast.

Kent, Ohio, was chosen for the northeastern university of Kent State, the alma mater of John Kane. Bowling Green edged Van Wert as the location of the northwestern university, due to the excessive number of saloons in Van Wert, some seven years before the Volstead Act and eight years before the election of 1920.

The 34th presidential election was held in 1920. Woodrow Wilson declined a third go of it, having a stroke in 1919. Teddy Roosevelt had a by chance at the nomination, but passed away in 1919. Two newspaper publishers won their party's nomination.

The Republican nominee was Warren G. Harding. The G was for Gamaliel. Gamaliel was a Pharisee, a teacher of the law and respected by all the people, according to Acts 5:34. The Democratic nominee was James M. Cox, whose running mate was Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The M was for Middleton, a very rare blended Irish whiskey.

Yet, Cox was a supporter of the Volstead Act, which was vetoed by Wilson 25 days after his stroke. It became law on October 28th, 1919. There is no evidence Cox campaigned in Van Wert. He was born near Jacksonburg in Butler County, Ohio. Warren Gamaliel Harding was born in Blooming Grove, Ohio. Neither candidate went to Kent State or Bowling Green.

This election was the first since the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment on August 18, 1920. As a result of extending the right

to vote to women, the total popular vote enlarged considerably, from 18.5 million in 1916 to 26.8 million in 1920.

It was over seventy years since Elizabeth Stanton and Lucretia Mott organized the first national convention in Seneca Falls for the women's rights movement. Mott was a Quaker. They don't drink so much. Warren G. won 37 states and enjoyed a four-to-one spending advantage.

The election wasn't even close. He passed away in 1923 while in San Francisco. If you make it there, try the Little Shamrock. Established in the 1890s, it continued to serve booze during Prohibition.

On July 27th, 1919, Chicago was the site of major racial conflict, perhaps the worst of the 25 race riots across the county that summer, the Red Summer. Thirty-eight people died and five hundred were injured in eight days.

The Great Migration, of war veterans, competitive labor and housing markets on the South Side began. The Irish were there. Future mayor Richard Daley was there, first generation Irish from County Wexford. He was an active member of the Irish "Hamburg Athletic Club." It was clubs like the Ragen's Colts and the Hamburg Athletic Club that controlled the Bridgeport neighborhood of Chicago. It was to clubs like these that some of the violence was attributed in 1919. Bridgeport was the home of the first Chicago area chapter of Clan na Gael, established in 1869.

The Irish had been on the South Side for a while. They had been there since the days of Michael "Hinky Dink" Kenna and "Bathhouse John" Coughlin. Kenna and Coughlin were elected aldermen who controlled all things official and extraofficial on the near south side for decades. They were famous for the First Ward Ball. It was infamous for drunken debauchery. The Ball had become grand enough to be

held at the Chicago Coliseum. In 1908, 10,000 quarts of champagne and 30,000 quarts of beer were consumed at the Ball. Hinky Dink called it a "lollapalooza."

Less than a year after the riots, the Chicago Coliseum hosted the Republican National Convention. Same Coliseum, perhaps less drunken debauchery. Irish-Americans had worked hard to ensure Ireland was a part of the 1920 election.

Irish American leaders had already negotiated and secured the adoption of an article containing the acknowledgement of Ireland's right to absolute independence. All that work was undermined by another Irish American. President de Valera rushed to the convention in Chicago and insisted the Republican platform include the official recognition of the Irish Republic.

De Valera was adamant and forced a committee vote on his resolution. It garnered one vote. The independence article was adopted by the committee. De Valera denounced it as unacceptable, and with his help it was defeated. When all was said and done, there was no mention of Ireland in the Republican platform.

Boss Murphy led the transition of Tammany Hall to respectability and to its role as a champion of workers' rights. He is the basis for political boss Jim Gettys in Citizen Kane. In real life, Boss Murphy was a political ally of William Randolph Hearst until Hearst ran for the mayor of New York in 1905. Hearst utilized his newspapers to pressure Woodrow Wilson to send 5,000 troops to Mexico under the command of General John J. Pershing. The expedition was attempting to capture Pancho Villa, a venture in which they had no success. It was, however, the US Army's first use of airplanes in military operations, a footnote to the Mexican Revolution.

A year before the Chicago Convention, Cohalan broke with Éamon de Valera and Irish American leader Joseph McGarry in late 1919. It was not his first rodeo; he had been a close associate of John Devoy and assisted in raising funds for the Easter Rising and Roger Casement.

Cohalan was a member of Clan na Gael as well as the Friends of Irish Freedom.

He used his experience and clout to ensure the inclusion of Irish independence on the 1920 Republican platform in 1920, or so he thought. Judge Cohalan strongly opposed President Woodrow Wilson's League of Nations, considering that the Irish Republic had been shut out at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919. Wilson would not cower to the pressure of Irish America nor Daniel Cohalan.

The British government maintained a temporary reprieve of state inflicted violence in Ireland in the early summer of 1920 as to ascertain the disposition of the newly elected in America. De Valera's debacle in Chicago was instantly construed by the Eng-

lish government as the absolute abjuration of the Irish question by American politics. It became the neoteric catalyst for the launching of the saturnalia of slaughter and devastation at the hands of Churchill's Black and Tans. In July of 1920, six unarmed Volunteers were detained in Cork. The Black and Tans "cut out the tongue of one, the nose of another, the heart of another, and battered in the skull of a fourth."

For further reading please see: America and the Fight for Irish Freedom, 1866-1922 by Charles Callan Tansill; De Valera in America, the Rebel President and the Making of Irish Independence, by Dave Hannigan; Paddy Whacked, the Untold Story of the American Gangster, by TJ English and The History of Tammany Hall by Gustavus Myers.



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View From Ireland

By Maurice Fitzpatrick



A Fast Unto Death

Hardly eight years have passed since Steven McQueen gave the world in his film, *Hunger*, an inescapable depiction of one of the

core plot points of the Northern Irish struggle: the decision by incarcerated Republicans to fast unto death, if necessary, in Long Kesh Prison. As galling as a portrait of such an act is, there nevertheless persists a restless curiosity

to understand the motives and the drive behind it. With Brendan Byrne's recently released film, *Bobby Sands: 66 Days*, we now have a feature documentary that forms an intriguing companion to McQueen's drama.

The film benefits hugely from the BBC's wealth of archive. Much of the archive used will be unfamiliar to even the most inveterate documentary viewer; its vividness and pervasiveness in this documentary helps to compensate for the fact that Sands was a relatively unknown figure when he entered Long Kesh—very little archive of Sands himself is extant.

Visually, this documentary is at times wondrous: presented almost from beginning to end with a grainy, filmic finish; the mixture of animation with photography and archive is superbly well achieved. Solid media research complements the beautiful images: that the British and US media covered Sands' protest so extensively is unsurprising, but it was news to me that, for example, Russian newspapers gave such coverage to Sands' protest and death.

The rostrum of participants is unconventional. Granted, a slew of Sinn Féin and IRA comrades appear as do a predictable retinue of writers and journalists. But the presence of so many American contributors is quite surprising, given that they had only the most tangential connection (or none) to Sands' Hunger Strike. They are a fresh alternative to a tiresome reaching for phoney "balance" and on the other handism in documentaries. Journalist Fintan O'Toole is so extensive in this documentary that one is tempted to describe him as its protagonist. While O'Toole had a role as analyst in the Hunger Strikes period, his

inclusion as the front man was a peculiar decision but an occasionally invigorating one.

Not everything works so well. In textual side-glances we are told rather self-evident factoids like Ireland was for a long time governed by Britain. As a history lesson is that not rather feeble? Also, Father Seán McManus' acerbic tones are countervailed by Irish Ambassador Seán Donlon—two people whose missions in Washington DC during the Hunger Strikes were in direct opposition to each other. But the pressure exerted on US Congressmen who represented heavily Irish constituencies is unexplored, despite the fact that the politicisation of the grassroots in the US was a big consequence of the Hunger Strikes.

As is evident from Sands' Prison Diary and his poem, "The Rhythm Of Time", Sands embodied diehard resilience. We learn early in this documentary that that resilience sprang in part from the will of his parents to encourage violent resistance against the occupying British Army's barbaric harassment of Belfast Catholics at the outbreak of the Troubles. Scenes here of the Strikers' families, principally their sisters and mothers, is harrowing. Yet in searing footage filmed in the closing days of his life, Sands' mother made the simple plea that her son's death should not beget more violence.

Byrne and his collaborator Trevor Birney have in the past made films (witness *The Docklands Bomb: Executing Peace*) using the device of a countdown. This device, applied to the case of Sands, is problematic: his fate is so widely known that surely placing a greater emphasis on his legacy would be more intriguing? In a historical documentary made thirty-five

years after the Strikes, why was a more rigorous investigation of the consequences of the Hunger Strikes not undertaken? True, there is scant support today for diehardism but the fact remains that the ultimate political objective of the Hunger Strikers, a United Ireland, was not achieved and that fact is the great unmentioned here.

Sands' election in absentia to Westminster Parliament during his hunger strike was a coup for and a central milestone in, the rise of Sinn Féin. But a little less party politics and more deeper political enquiry would have been welcome. Sands and his cohorts' extraordinary courage in facing death signified an absolute determination to achieve rights. The Strikers demanded political status rights in prison and their right to assert a United Ireland of all the people on the island of Ireland. Sands and the other nine Strikers who fasted onto death had a clear goal, and the IRA leadership settled for less. Yeats' famous lines from 'Easter 1916', "was it needless death after all?" come to mind in recalling their sacrifice.

At the same time as the Hunger Strikes a newly formed theatre company based in Derry, Field Day, headed by Brian Friel and Stephen Rea, determined that they would insert themselves into the political crisis in the North of Ireland. Tellingly, they produced a version of Sophocles' timeless masterpiece, *Antigone*, partly in response to the scenes of Long Kesh—its walls pasted with excrement, its naked and starving protestors' descent into hell found in an Ancient Greek play an almost perfect parallel. The point being: Irish-speaking poetry-writing, story-telling, history-reading prisoners created a climate of self-examination and enlightenment, and it was that mindset that enabled an end to the vicious conflict in Northern Ireland. The Hunger Strikes, like so much else that occurred in the North, seems now to have been a process towards that central discovery. But was it needless death after all?

Brendan Byrne's *Bobby Sands: 66 Days* is on general release in Ireland.



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Terry From Derry

by Terry Boyle



Wake Up Call

I don't know how many times I've heard the expression, 'I've had a real wake up call'. Suddenly someone has had that one memorable event that wakes him or her from the slumber they found themselves in. Sometimes the effect is tangible, a change of lifestyle, a change of job or location etc.

At other times, it goes no further than a dead end. Nothing changes, there are no significant differences made, and the slumbering one continues to live in a destructive cycle.

In this year alone, there have been almost 500 killings in Chicago. We have outstripped New York City and Los Angeles when it comes to murder rates. The blame finger is of course pointed in all the usual directions but nothing fundamentally changes. The root cause, the gun laws, remains unchanged. No one wants to deal with how easy it is to get possession of guns.

I've lived in this country for over a decade, and I'm still amazed at the lax laws concerning guns. There is much that I love about this country, and there's much to be proud about, but the 'right to bear arms' is not one of them. It seems that even the continuous racking up of fatalities is not enough to persuade the general public that something needs to be done. We want to sleep in the past, guarding some archaic, outdated second amendment that continues to keep us in an abusive relationship with gun possession.

How many people need to die in order for us to 'wake up'? How long will we continue to read about the killing of innocent people? How long will we shrug our shoulders, and do nothing?

'We the people' have it within our right to make our mark by removing the danger by voting to make it increasingly difficult to own weapons. Do we want to need to hear stories of kids

being killed, execution style, by gang members, or innocent school children gunned down by a mentally unstable individual, or home grown terrorists who, with the blessing of Uncle Sam, are provided the means to kill off decent, honourable, citizens?

I have watched what violence can do to a society. People are forced to live in fear of their neighbours. A simply disagreement can easily escalate into a murder, when in a fit of anger a gun is reached for. The easy acquisition of weapons is not a deterrent, it is recipe for disaster.

The second amendment has not guaranteed the freedom of its citizens. It has forced many to fear for their lives. Gang members terrorize their neighbourhoods, teachers fear the wrath of a disgruntled student, and a simple brawl can turn fatal very quickly. The fear factor rules our lives when weapons are so readily available.

Donald Trump claims that he can fix Chicago's problems in a week, which makes me wonder if his solution is to fight fire with fire. Whenever a businessman meddles in affairs that are outside his comprehension, the effect is laughable. Will he approach gang members individually and fire each one respectively? His comments undermine the already struggling law enforcement, and hold no real weight, since he cannot substantiate his claims with any viable solution.

What we need, here in Chicago, and in the country at large, are those politicians who care about causes and not simply their effects. We need people who work towards dealing with poverty, racism, and political corruption.

We do not need a television personality who is only interested in his ego and his popularity ratings. We need people who listen to those who work tirelessly in these neighbourhoods to help victims of violence. We need politicians who do not side-

line the question of the second amendment because they fear the wrath of the NRA.

Donald Trump's clichéd 'let's make America great again' rings hollow when it comes from someone who alienates minorities, and offers a quick fix to problems he cannot even comprehend.

If America is to become great again, then it needs to get rid of the outdated, destructive, and corrosive second amendment. Make the country a safer place, so that we can wake up from the murderous nightmare that has become commonplace, and unacceptable to any civilized society.

It seems we human beings are prone to being destructive, without ever thinking about the consequences. We are caught in a cycle of abusing the very planet that we call home. We have for years heard the calls to change our ways or pay the price, and yet it seems as if the call for change has hardly registered.

We are as loathed to changing our environmental policies as we are gun laws, even though

we are in danger of pushing ourselves over the brink. Each year we hear of the ice glaciers melting, rising sea levels, and disaster at our doorstep without blinking an eye. We are slumbering through the apocalypse without realizing it.

Will there ever be a 'wake up call'? Or will we hit the alarm and roll over and go back to sleep?



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By Lisa O'Rourke

**Don't
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Boyle Alert

It seems that I have had Boyle on my mind lately. Not the 'Boil, boil, toil and trouble' one, but the pokey rural town in the West of Ireland one. Looking up the background on a song a while back, I was sure that a story was one that I had heard involving King House in Boyle, but more about that later.

Then, the actor Chris O'Dowd seems to be on both on television and film screens. He is Boyle's current hometown hero who went off to Hollywood to find fame and fortune.

Boyle has become a something of a hot spot in Ireland, and it isn't all about the ironic town's "boil alert" which was removed last year. The local water was plagued by a by-product of old plumbing, the cryptosporidium parasite. No, the current surge in interest is due in large part to the show 'Moone Boy' which was both centered and filmed there.

"Moone Boy" is the semi-autobiographical story of the childhood of O'Dowd, who grew up in there in the 1980s. Chris O'Dowd shares the Hollywood spotlight with legend Maureen O'Sullivan, who also grew up in Boyle.

Boyle is a pretty improbable town to find itself in the limelight. On first glance, it can appear to be a small and shabby town-that-time-forgot. The town department store often has undressed mannequins and if you do happen to see any fashion, you can be sure it is either a school uniform or something that is at least twenty years out of date.

However, if you persevere, there are some wonderful things to be found around town. First off, Boyle is set on the aptly named Boyle River. There is a charming old stone bridge in town that goes over the river and is perfected by a lovely little tea shop situated on the river bank. There are some other nice little shops and restaurants in town too.

You would want to have the time to walk around a bit and explore. In the center of the town is a really unique Cistercian Abbey ruins. The ruins are partially covered by a kind of Plexiglas wall. The walls function to protect some

crumbling parts of the outer walls and they also give a better feel for what the Abbey was like originally.

Just outside of the town is Forest Park. Forest Park in its current state started life as an English landlord's estate. It was owned by the King family. Their former house, King House is open for tours and worth a visit. It is one of

the few English houses that survived the Rising in the West.

The unique grounds were landscaped and designed as a park-like setting by the architect John Nash. He designed Regent's Park in London, among other things. Nash is responsible for the whimsical feel of the estate and some of the things in it, like the Fairy Bridge, "folly" castle and Wishing Chair.

The lands were donated to the locals when times changed in the last century. The trees in the park are themselves amazing; many giant, monkey-limbed old cedars. Lough Key sits in the middle of Forest Park. You can take a boat trip around Lough Key and see the many little islands that are in the lough.

One island has a picturesque little castle which is a "folly" designed by Nash. There is old abbey or castle ruin on one of the other little islands that is a genuine relic and among other signs that people have lived here for a long time. All of the islands are currently uninhabited. Legend has that the region hosted many touring musicians and poets, a famous harpist is buried there. Today, you could rent a boat, a Segway or take a zip line through the park. Another distinctive feature of the activity center at the park is the riddle game from Sweden, Boda Borg. Boda Borg is a series of puzzles that you solve as a team; around four people constitute a good team. The puzzles can be mental, physical or both.

So how did such a small town give rise to no less than two actors? A while ago, I heard an interview with Chris O'Dowd, where he discussed being inspired by Maureen O'Sullivan. He said that she was the one person from the town who everyone admired and therefore, he came to believe that being a famous actor was the way to go.

Maureen O'Sullivan is most famous for being "Jane" in the Tarzan movies. However she was a supporting actress in many other films throughout her long career, as well as being the mother of Mia Farrow. Maureen does not seem to be talked about as much as her Irish contemporary, Maureen O'Hara, maybe because her career was not as directly



Lough Key

linked to Ireland.

Still, she was well-liked locally and professionally. Chris O'Dowd seems to share her appeal. A portrait of his Moone Boy character is on the town signage, just in case anyone didn't know about the show yet.

The show itself is quirky, funny and charming. The main character is an eleven year old boy, Martin Moone, who lives with his parents and three older sisters. O'Dowd plays Martin's imaginary friend who advises young Martin. The family members are far from perfect, but they are good-hearted and likable all the same.

There is something so Irish in the attitude and sense of humor that the show really gets right and consequently, it is very popular in Ireland. It can be hard to access here in the US, but it has been picked up by some PBS stations or it is on HULU, an internet provider.

Boyle is far from a "must do" on any tourist map, however that is another thing that makes it worthwhile. You can walk the Abbey ruins without a hundred cameras going off. Forest Park and Lough Key are real gems. Or maybe you might just want to walk in the footsteps of Moone Boy and think about a time in the not so distant past where things seemed a bit simpler and kinder.

*Lisa O'Rourke is an educator from Akron. She has a BA in English and a Master's in Reading/Elementary Education. She is a student of everything Irish, primarily Gaeilge and runs a Gaeilge study group at the AOH/Mark Heffernan Division. Lisa can be contacted at olisa07@icloud.com.

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Some Castles in Ireland

by Linda Fulton Burke



Answers on page 20

ACROSS

- 1 _____ Castle, Co. Kildare
- 3 _____ Castle, Co. Cork
- 6 _____ Castle, Co. Galway
- 7 _____ Castle, Co. Galway
- 10 _____ Castle, Co. Laois
- 11 _____ Castle, Co. Cork
- 12 _____ Castle, Co. Kilkenny
- 13 _____ Castle,, Co. Cork
- 14 _____ Castle, Co. Dublin
- 17 _____ Castle, Co. Donegal
- 18 _____ Castle, Co. Kilkenny
- 20 _____ Castle, Co. Kerry
- 24 _____ Castle, Co. Clare
- 25 _____ Castle, Co. Cavan
- 28 _____ Castle, Co. Kilkenny
- 29 _____ Castle, Co. Kildare
- 30 _____ Castle, Co. Clare
- 31 _____ Castle, Co. Dublin
- 33 _____ Castle, Co. Kildare
- 34 _____ Castle, Co. Kilkenny

DOWN

- 2 _____ Castle, Co. Galway
- 4 _____ Castle, Co. Galway
- 5 _____ Castle, Co. Laois
- 8 _____ Castle, Co. Donegal
- 9 _____ Castle, Co. Kerry
- 11 _____ Castle, Co. Kerry
- 15 _____ Castle, Co. Dublin
- 16 _____ Castle, Co. Clare
- 19 _____ (Clonegal)
_____ Castle, Co. Carlow
- 21 _____ Castle, Co. Galway
- 22 _____ Castle,, Co. Dublin
- 23 _____ Castle, Co. Galway
- 26 _____ Castle, Co. Cork
- 27 _____ Castle, Co. Kildare
- 32 _____ Castle, Co. Kerry

Mayo Ball to Honor Cleveland Indians Paul J. Dolan

Paul J. Dolan, Chairman/CEO of the Cleveland Indians, has been chosen to receive the Mayo Society of Greater Cleveland Person of the Year Award

Born in Chardon, Ohio, Dolan is one of six children of Larry and Eva Dolan. He attended high school at Gilmour Academy and received a B.A. from St. Lawrence University, playing baseball while there. He earned a Juris Doctorate at Notre Dame Law School in 1983.

In 2000, he was hired by the Cleveland Indians as a Vice President and General Counsel. Four years later he became the Team President. In 2011 he was named to his current position.

Dolan and his wife Karen, who has County Mayo roots, live near Chagrin Falls. They have two sons, Jack and Peter.

Paul's cousin James is CEO of Madison Square Garden Co., who own the New York Knicks of the National Basketball Association (NBA) and the New York Rangers of the National Hockey League (NHL).



Some of Paul's other involvements include: Independent Director of Dix & Eaton Inc., Director of The J. M. Smucker Company and Director of Cablevision Systems Corporation. He is also involved with many philanthropic and civic boards throughout the Northeast Ohio community and supports many causes.

He will be honored at the Mayo Society's Annual Banquet and Ball on October 15, 2016 at the Renaissance Cleveland Hotel. Being named Mayo Person of the Year has inspired him to learn more about his Irish roots. His wife Karen (Rath) was raised in the West Park area of Cleveland.

"She's more Irish than I, which means my boys are more Irish than I am. My running joke is whenever you run into someone from that neighborhood it doesn't take them long to find out how they're related. "Receiving the Mayo Person of the Year Award is the beginning of a personal journey for me and it really inspires me to better understand my family's Irish history."



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Cleveland

leycorn, 28th - Iced Cherry, 29th - Stone Pony: Halloween Party - cash prizes, \$500.

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Cincinnati

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Columbus

Shamrock Club Events
1st - Quiz Night; 2nd - General Meeting; 8th - John Schwab Party Band; 9th - Blood Drive; 15th - Joe Conley Extravaganza; 29th - The Hooligan's . Happy Hour every Friday from 5-7pm! 60 W. Castle Rd. Columbus 43207 614-491-4449 www.shamrockclubofcolumbus.com

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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.

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Hooley House Montrose

14 - Old Skool, 21 - Almost Famous, 28 - Hooleyween Party w Faction. 145 Montrose West Avenue Copley, Oh 44321 (234) 466-0060 www.1funpub.com

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Cleveland Comhra by Bob Carney

Art by John P. O'Brien

Ar Scáth a Chéile a Mhairimid

In April of this year, I attended the Easter Rising Centenary at the West Side Irish American Club. Jack Kilroy put on a great presentation celebrating this event. After the re-enactments and wonderful music, Tomás Sharkey took to the podium to deliver a short speech on the historic events of 1916. Tomás works as a history and language teacher in County Louth and has served as an elected member of Louth County Council since 2003. His talk that evening was insightful. I was able to speak with him briefly afterwards, we promised to stay in touch and recently I asked for permission to share a copy of his address that evening with all of you.

"It is great to be here amongst so many of the Irish community in Cleveland, Ohio. I want to start by congratulating Jack Kilroy and his team for a wonderful play. I have only known Jack a few weeks and already know how he is calm, determined and tenacious leader in his community. You are lucky to have him. Keep him well.

"We are part of a global event tonight. All across the world this weekend people are taking time to read the 1916 Proclamation of the Irish Republic, to remember the women and men of that time, to understand the reasons, planning, hopes, dreams and the unfolding outcome of the Rising. A century ago it was said that the sun didn't set on the British Empire. Today, the sun does not set on the 1916 Rising and Proclamation.

"It is a proud time to be Irish. It is an exciting time to be an Irish Republican. Easter is an important time in our calendar and although I know it is not Easter weekend this 24th April, the Easter spirit of renewal and birth of good things after death is part of the Irish 1916 Rising story.

1916 was a global effort, just like the commemorations are a global event. Here in the US, we know that 1916 could not have happened without our gallant allies. Thomas Clarke, the senior and wisest of the seven signatories of the proclamation lived in the US for a period. His bride Kathleen was a niece of John Daly of Brooklyn – a Fenian, a patron and a planner.

"When Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa died in 1915, Tom Clarke sent a telegram to the US, 'send his body home'. With that came the start of a major public rela-

tions project. Cumann na mBan, Fianna Éireann, The Irish Citizen's Army and the Irish Volunteers used it as the first opportunity to drill together, to march in step together, to take orders from a combined leadership and to see a rising star in the struggle - Pádraig Pearse.

"That funeral of O'Donovan Rossa was a tipping point. Tom Clarke told Pearse to prepare his oration and to 'make it hot.' He knew that the time was fast approaching when the ability would be there to make a bold strike for freedom. That oration set Irish Volunteers on a fast road to 1916.

"The 1916 Proclamation was and still is a radical document. It was vital to have that document to ensure that those surviving the Rising would know the road to take. You see, a revolution can be like getting on a carousel and getting off at the same place you started on.

"The authors of the Proclamation knew they were to make a blood sacrifice. They needed to ensure that the hopes and dreams of their republicanism could be read and said aloud for generations. They promised equality for all at a time when women did not have the right to vote. They promised prosperity for all at a time when Dublin had the highest infant mortality rate in Europe and was a sea of tenements. It is important to note that the proclamation warned of the dangers of the Irish people becoming divided.

"I am a politician at home in County Louth. I compete against other parties. Believe me when I say that politics can be absurd. We often create divisions for the sake of it or to get a media cycle success over our competitors. Here in the US you know too well about the creation of division in society by the very politicians whose job it is to create harmony, equality, understanding and prosperity. At times like this we need to think back to the fundamentals of our democracies.

"I can't speak for the dead. None of us can or should claim to know what our 1916 heroes would make of the world we live in today. But let me have this one small luxury of saying what I think they would tell us.

"They would tell us that their proclamation does not belong as ink on a page behind a glass frame; they would tell us

that the 1916 Proclamation should be witnessed in the healthy and nourished bodies of everybody in our community; it should be seen in the good quality homes, villages, towns, and cities we live in; it should be heard in the singing of confident, safe and well-educated children in their classrooms; clever minds of our workers and loved and cared for bodies of our old and sick. The Proclamation should be witnessed in each sunrise over a clean and safe environment and sunset over productive land and seas. I believe they would tell us that the Proclamation should be heard in the laughter of our children.

"So let's promise here tonight, that our children and our children's children will hear about the 1916 Rising. Let's tell them the story of O'Donovan Rossa, Elizabeth O'Farrell, Joseph Mary Plunkett and his bride Grace Gifford. Don't forget to tell them about Dr. Kathleen Lynn or Roger Casement.

"Even today we should talk about the ever unfolding outcomes of the Rising. I say it in the present tense. No revolution is ever fully over. We have marriage equality in Ireland. The wounds in the North are healing. Our international family occupies parliaments and positions of influence. Irish communities play our games, sing our songs, speak our language and speak proudly of our history. Each of these things ensures that the Irish revolution continues to revolve and evolve.

"My last request to you here in Cleveland is to keep your community alive. Maintain our roots. Look after each other and your centre. Appreciate and celebrate all that you have and make the generations to come proud. Go raibh maith agaibh."

With this election year, Tomás pointed out the purpose of government and political leaders, is to bring us all together. Unfortunately, most politicians seize on any event to point out the failures of the opposition. If our politicians worked the way our founders envisioned, there would be no opposition, but rather co-workers with different views, still working together to bring us to a common center.

John F. Kennedy said, "Let us not seek the Republican answer, or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future."

Our country has seen tumultuous times in its past, from 1776 to a nation torn in half, numerous wars and domestic problems. We have overcome these times by coming together and working with one another. Let's pray that come November our elected leaders are granted the wisdom, humility, and guidance to remember what government is for, because we truly do "live in the shadow of one another."

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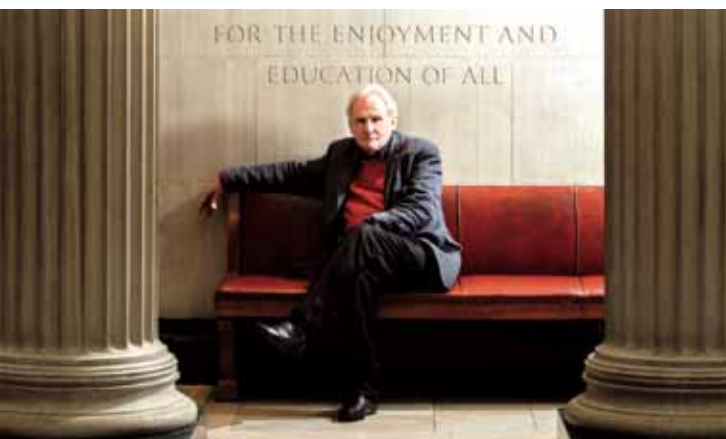



Paul Durcan, at the Toledo Museum of Art

by Maury Collins

In His book, "Wild, Wild Erie", Paul Durcan explores the spirit of Northwest Ohio and its museum in prose that is equal turns heartfelt and humorous. Winner of the Lifetime Achievement Irish Book

The collaboration between Mr. Durcan and the museum culminates in a Master Series presentation on Thursday, Oct. 13 at 6 pm in the Peristyle. Durcan will perform a free reading; a book signing by Mr. Durcan will follow. Durcan will also perform a reading on Saturday, October 15th at 2pm. The museum will have informational placards next to the works of art involved.



Award in 2014, Durcan, was commissioned to write poetic responses to works of art in the collection of the Toledo Museum of Art. The writer, whose book is available at the Toledo Art Museum Store October 13th, created the collection of poems during multiple residencies at the museum at the invitation of Dublin-born director, Brian Kennedy.

Dr. Kennedy said; "He's very passionate about art and intensely curious. We're thrilled he's bringing his talents to Toledo." The March 17, 2015 edition of The Irish Times called Paul Durcan, "The most playful poet in Ireland." His readings should be very entertaining as well as educational.

Durcan was born in Dublin, Ireland, on October 16, 1944. He was

educated at University College, Cork, where he studied archaeology and medieval history. In 1974 he won the Patrick Kavanagh Award, and published his first collection, "O Westport in the Light of Asia Minor" in 1975. His 1985 collection, "The Berlin Wall Café", a series of poems about the break-up of his marriage, was a Poetry Book Society choice and is regarded by many critics as his most important work.

He was Poet in Residence at the Frost Place, New Hampshire, in 1985, and Writer in Residence at Trinity College, Dublin, in 1990 and Ireland Professor of Poetry, 2006-8. He was awarded the

Irish American Cultural Institute Poetry Award in 1989 and his collection "Daddy, Daddy" (1990) won the Whitbread Poetry Award. He was joint winner of the 1995 Heinemann Award. His later collections of poetry are "The Art of Life" (2004), and "The Laughter of Mothers" (2008).

Brian Kennedy has been president, director and CEO of the Toledo Museum of Art since 2010. He came to the Museum with extensive experience in senior leadership positions at art museums in Ireland, Australia and the United States. Born in Dublin, Ireland, Kennedy studied art history and history at University College in

Dublin, earning bachelors, masters and doctoral degrees.

From 2005-2010, Kennedy was director of Dartmouth College's Hood Museum of Art in Hanover, New Hampshire, which has one of the largest and finest art collections at an American college or university. Prior to coming to the United States, Kennedy spent eight years as assistant director of the National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin (1989-1997) and seven years as director of the National Gallery of Australia (1997-2004) in Canberra.

More information and a map to the Toledo Museum of Art are available at

www.toledomuseum.org



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InnerView

by Bob Carney

Don't Forget Us Columnist Lisa O'Rourke

I enjoy doing these profiles of the people who are columnists for the Ohio Irish American News. Everyone I've spoken to, I've felt a special kinship to. All have a passion for Irish culture and history, and all have been very helpful in these interviews, even though most would rather focus on the history or the writing, rather than themselves. This is especially true of Lisa O'Rourke.

Lisa was born and raised in Akron. She attended Kent State and received degrees in English and Elementary Education. She also has a Master's in Elementary Education and Administration.

OhIAN: Lisa you lived abroad for a time, when was that?

Lisa: I met my husband, Dónal, in New York City in 1989. We went to Ireland at that time. Eventually, we moved to London. We were married there and stayed there for three years. During that time, I worked as a teacher and our son Danny was born. We decided to go back to Ireland, and lived in Moycullen in Co. Galway for a year. Our second son, Liam, was born there.

OhIAN: You and your family moved back to Akron, what do you do there?

Lisa: I'm a proud employee of Akron Public Schools. I taught first grade for over ten years and now work with teach-

ers to help them maintain their licensure and to find professional development. I got involved with the Irish Language group in Akron and have continued that at the Hibernian Club

in Akron. My family travel to Ireland almost every summer to visit family and friends. My other hobbies are painting, reading and listening to music.

OhIAN: How did you get involved with the OhIAN?

Lisa: I came to the paper through a personal recommendation from Mike McKenzie of the Mark Heffernan Ancient Order of Hibernians in Akron. My first column appeared in the August 2014 edition.

OhIAN: Lisa and

I spoke at some length on the phone, doing this interview. We have a shared enthusiasm for the Irish Language and spoke mostly about Gaeilge, and different ways of making our respective classes enjoyable. Lisa's next group of lessons will start at the Hibernian Club

on September 28. The lessons are from 6:30 to 8pm on Wednesdays in the Hall and run for ten weeks. Anyone interested should contact Lisa via phone (330-836-2887) or e-mail olisa07@me.com prior to that date.

For information on Speak Irish Cleveland classes, see the ad in these pages. Help Lisa and all of us involved in Irish language start our own Gaeltacht here in Northeast Ohio.

"Beatha teanga í an labhairt" (ba-ha tang-a ee un low-ert) The life of a language is to speak it.

Slán go Foill!

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Aoife Scott Band on US Tour at Pj McIntyre's

SPEAK IRISH

Labhair Gaeilge

By Bob Carney



Labhair Gaeilge

Cead Míle Fáilte (kayd mee-luh fawl-cha) One hundred thousand welcomes to the Irish language. Irish is one of the oldest languages still spoken today. But, it very easily could have disappeared. English oppression over the centuries saw Irish banned, its teaching and writing prohibited. The famine of the 1840s hit the Gaeltacht (areas where Irish is spoken, primarily rural communities at the time), extremely hard, reducing the Irish speaking population through death and emigration. Ireland's population prior to the famine was eight and a half million, by the turn of the century it was closer to four million.

In the late 19th century, Ireland was in the midst of a Celtic revival. The Irish were reuniting with their past identity. This would lead the way to the events of 1916, and Irish independence. Many, such as Padraig Pearse, saw the Irish language as the ultimate expression of a free Ireland. Still many of the greatest writers of that era found themselves in a quandary. W.B. Yeats, James Joyce, George Bernard Shaw and Oscar Wilde wrote in the language of their oppressor. A difficult choice, but they were able to reach a much larger group by writing in English.

Many of those speaking Irish at the time could neither read nor write in their native tongue. Douglas Hyde was active in the Society For The Preservation of the Irish Language, and wrote poetry in Irish under his pen name, An Craoibhín Aoibhinn (the pleasant little branch). In 1892, he gave a very famous speech, "The Necessity for De-Anglicizing Ireland." He said for Ireland to flourish, it must stop turning to England for its culture and instead "nurture its own language, poetry, art and imagination."

These were all different approaches to the same end, those who put the language at the fore-front as well as those who saw it as part of the greater Irish identity. All gave an awareness and made Ireland and the Irish what we have today.

I wish I could say I had a noble reason for becoming involved in the Irish language, but I can't. I thought it might be fun to know a few words or phrases and

maybe meet some new people along the way. And it has been fun, and I've met some great people. I've also come to believe that it's important for me to do my very small part in keeping Irish a growing and living language.

Whatever your reason, I hope you find joy in the study of this ancient and beautiful language we call Gaeilge!

Dia duit (jee-uh hwitsh) Hello
Dia is Muire dhuit (jee-uh smwir-uh hwitsh) Reply to hello

Conas atá tú? (kun-us uh-taw too?) How are you?

Tá mé go maith (taw may guh-mah) I am fine

Cén t-ainm atá ort? (ken tan-um a-taw ort) What is your name?

Is mise... (iss meesha...) I am...
... is ainm dom (... iss ann-um dum)

... is my name

Maidin mhaith (mo-djin wah) Good morning

Tráthnóna mhaith (tra-no na wah) Good afternoon or evening

Oíche mhaith (ee-ha wah) Good night
Slán (slawn) Goodbye

Slán go fóill (slawn guh foyle) Goodbye for now

Oíche Shamhna (ee-ha how-na) Eve of Samhain (sow-in)

Sciathán leathair (skihawn la-hair) Bat (lit. leather wing)

Cailleach (col-yokh) Witch
Creatlach (crat-lokh) Skeleton

Puimcín (pum-keen Pumpkin)
Spiorad (spyor-ud) Spirit

Tabhair féirín dom nó buailfidh mé bob ort! (tower fay-reen dum nó boolig may bub urt) Trick or treat (lit. give me a present or I'll play a trick)

Samhain marked the first day of winter. It was believed the gods were closest to the earth, and sacrifices and gifts were offered in thanks for the harvest. With the spread of Christianity, Samhain was changed to Halloween, a feast to honor the dead, but has retained many of its ancient traits.

Ná scanraigh mé! (naw skon-rig may) Don't scare me!

Slán go Fóill!

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By J. Michael Finn

An Olympics to Remember

The past summer Olympics in Rio were not without their moments of athletic achievement and not without their moments of controversy. This seems to be true of most Olympics in the modern era. The 1908 summer Olympic Games held in London, England were no exception.

In 1908, the summer Olympics were held in London's White City Stadium. The games that year were originally scheduled to be held in Rome, but the 1906 eruption of Mt. Vesuvius devastated the city of Naples. Reconstructing Naples left the Italian government financially unable to put on the games, so the games were moved to London. The games lasted a total of 187 days, or 6 months and 4 days; the London games were the longest in modern Olympics history.

If you want to find out where the controversies started in 1908, you need to start with the opening ceremonies. The English had lined the top of the stadium with flags representing the participating countries. The first problem was they left out the American flag. The American team, which was chocked full of members of the Irish-American Athletic Club of New York, re-

find an American flag in London, so they just omitted it from the display. A flag was found and the US Team marched in the opening ceremonies.

But, the controversy did not end there.

The Olympic teams from each nation marched into the stadium and past the royal box occupied by the King of England, Edward VII. Each team was expected to dip its flag as a salute to the English King.

The American flag bearer was a young shot putter from California named Ralph Rose. As they approached the box, Rose heard the Tipperary brogue of Matthew McGrath, the 6ft. 248 pound Irish-American hammer thrower say, "Dip that flag and you will be in the hospital tonight!" Rose wisely kept the flag straight as the team marched in front of the King.

The English, of course, took this to be a great insult to the King and they confronted Martin Sheridan, the captain of the US team, for his response. Sheridan, like his teammate Matthew McGrath, was a member of the Irish-American Athletic Club and they were both New York City Police Officers. In response Sheridan reportedly said, "This flag dips for no

earthly king!"

earthly king!"

Oddly enough, this "incident" by the US Team had an impact on the official length of the Marathon race. The original distance of a Marathon was 25 miles. At these games it was changed to 26 miles so the Marathon could start at Windsor Castle. It was changed again at the request of Princess Mary so the start would be beneath the windows of the Royal Nursery. To ensure that the race would finish in front of King Edward's box, the finish line was moved a third time by British officials who, in re-



Irish Whales

John Flanagan, Martin Sheridan, James Mitchell

sponse to the US flag dipping incident "felt compelled to restore the importance of the monarchy." As a result of these changes, the Marathon covered a distance of 26 miles 385 yards, which became the standard length starting with the 1924 Summer Olympics.

In addition, the US flag incident sparked retaliation by some of the British judges. Several decisions by British judges went against American athletes during the games, and U.S. spokesmen felt they stemmed from bias, caused in part by the flag incident.

In one race, an American runner was accused of touching the British runner and was disqualified by the all British judges. It was decided that the race would be re-run. The other two runners, who were also on the US Team protested.

The Americans withdrew themselves from the race, leaving the lone British runner as the only participant. As a result, the International Olympic Committee ruled that, in the future, the officials would no longer be supplied solely from the host nation but would come from an international pool.

Bias by the British judges did not prevent the Irish Americans from winning many Gold, Silver and Bronze medals in 1908. In fact the members of the Irish-American Athletic Club dominated the medal competition. They took home a total of 18 medals from the 1908 Olympics (ten of them Gold Medals).

Not all of the athletes who trained at the Irish-American Athletic Club were Irish. In fact, one of the members, Dr. John Baxter Taylor, was the first African-American to win an Olympic medal (in 1908 he won the Gold Medal for the Medley Relay). Sadly, he died just five months after returning from the 1908 Olympics, of typhoid fever.

In the seven Olympic Games held from 1900 to 1924, members of the Irish-American Athletic Club won a total of 26 Gold, 22 Silver and 8 Bronze Medals for the U.S. Olympic Team. But the most unique group

within the club was a group known as the Irish Whales. As their name implies, these were the big guys. All of them were six feet tall and weighed close to 300 pounds.

Some of them were born in Ireland and others were first generation Irish. Their name was acquired because of their size, as well as, their ability to consume huge amounts of food. While their dining habits were legendary, their performance as athletes also made history. Many

of them were New York police officers or detectives. Membership in the group fluctuated, but the previously mentioned athletes, Martin Sheridan and Matt McGrath were members, as was hammer thrower John Jesus Flanagan.

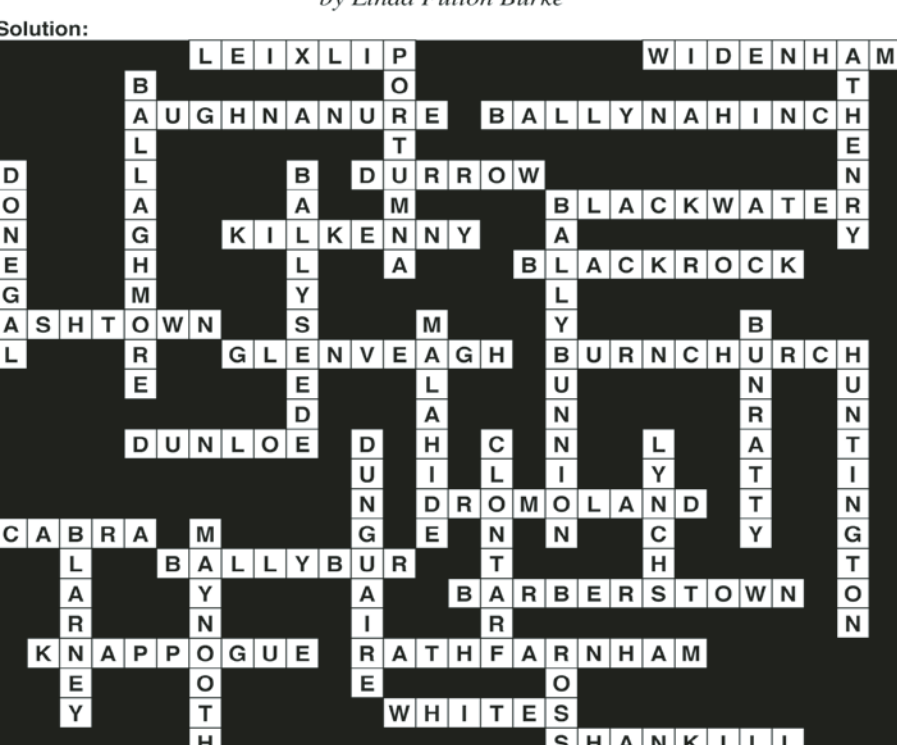
At the 1908 Olympics, Sheridan won two Gold Medals for the Discus and one Bronze Medal for the Standing Long Jump; Flanagan won the Gold Medal for the Hammer Throw; and McGrath won the Silver Medal for the Hammer Throw (pictured here are three of the Irish Whales – John Jesus Flanagan, Martin Sheridan and John Mitchell).

Irish-American athletes dominated the Olympics in the early 1900s. While initially derided as lower-class scum by the Ivy Leaguers who ran America's Olympic movement, the Irish-American Athletic Club athletes were too good to keep off the team. If you would like to find out more about the Irish-American Athletic Club you can visit their historical website at <http://www.wingedfist.org/home.html>

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

Some Castles in Ireland

by Linda Fulton Burke





Ireland Past and Present

By Niamh O'Sullivan



Hidden Honour

In the early 1990s, several years after the Kilmainham Jail Restoration Society handed Kilmainham Prison back to the Irish State, it was decided to build a new museum in the jail complex. What exciting times! Discussions raged about the kind of museum it should be and how it might unfold the story behind this ragged, sacred building to the public.

One fascinating suggestion was to display on the top floor balcony area the name of every prisoner, political and 'ordinary', appearing in the Prison Registers. One register, from the years 1824-1829, was missing. This proposal to display every name generated much support and much opposition. The names never did appear. Some believed that highlighting those few ordinary prisoners jailed for serious and disturbing crimes should never be tolerated. I accept their point.

But, oh! They missed some remarkable men and women of honour. I recently learned the life story of one such 'ordinary' prisoner; we'll call him Jim. He was born in 1866 to a mother who had grown up during the Great Hunger. Family historian Michele McClory mentions intriguing research in her narrative: a study by Dr Oonagh Walsh, Senior Research Fellow in Medical History, Cork University, examining the impact of severe nutritional deprivation suffered by mothers on health issues of succeeding generations.

According to family lore, Jim's marriage was arranged. Such marriages seemingly were not uncommon after the Famine. Present day family members all accept that husband and wife developed a deep love and respect for one another. Our prisoner Jim lost two small children within weeks in the newly dawned 20th century. He registered the death of the first little girl, but a neigh-

bour registered the second, subtly emphasising the profound grief suffered by this loving family.

Jim held down many positions throughout his incredible, often difficult, life; among them the ubiquitous Labourer, Carter, Shale Miner, Dock Worker, Coal Porter and Private in the Labour Corps. In Dublin he lived at several addresses, including Crumlin, Dolphin's Barn, the Liberties and tenements in Dublin's North Dock.

He unfailingly met every challenge to maintain his wife and growing young family, which included a relatively brief move early in his marriage to Scotland, where his second and third children were born, whilst he worked as a shale miner.

Jim lived in the centre of Dublin during the harrowing days of the 1913 Lock Out; his job as coal porter suffered. His ten children had already been born. He lived through the 1916 Easter Rising.

He missed the beginning of the Irish War of Independence, having joined the Royal Marine Labour Corps in 1918, whilst WWI was still raging. On application, Jim lied about his age, describing himself as slightly younger, perhaps to ensure acceptance. During his service, he injured a leg. Gangrene set in and the leg was amputated. After hospitalisation in both France and England, Jim returned home in 1919. His service record makes no less than eight separate references to his "very good character". He was in receipt of a war gratuity. However, Jim had arrived home to a country with a vastly altered political climate. He became one of the Forgotten Men, having served with the British.

A humorous tale exists circa 1920 of the Black and Tans entering his Dublin home whilst Jim was resting in bed. His wife, Mary, was baking. A discussion ensued with one of the young Black and Tans, who spoke of his own mother baking bread in

England. Our ex Kilmainham prisoner's wife wrapped up the cooling bread and gave it to the soldier.

In 1925 Jim died from leukaemia in the South Dublin Union - a workhouse. The family believe he wished to end his days there to protect his wife and surviving children and not drain their resources, selfless as ever. His devastated wife missed him terribly, dying in hospital two years later from stomach cancer. A further heart-warming present-day family story mentions our ex prisoner Jim serenading Mary with a song as popular today as it was then: When You Were Sweet Sixteen.

The name of this former Kilmainham prisoner and honourable man? James Curran, from County Kildare. His offence? In July 1900 he was arrested after throwing stones at members of the Salvation Army preaching at the Canal Bank in Dolphin's Barn. There was no alcohol involved. James Curran further resisted arrest by assaulting two police constables.

It emerged during his hearing that people in the area viewed the Salvation Army as a nuisance. The judge maintained it was their right to preach. James expressed his regret for what had occurred. His solicitor examined witnesses who attested to James' "good and industrious character".

Having been asked for leniency, Judge Swift imposed fines in lieu of imprisonment. Unable to pay, James served fourteen days in Kilmainham. By July 1900 James and Mary had five children. The family today believe James chose prison to spare his family having to find unnecessary extra money for his fines. Those who know Kilmainham will gratefully realise his fourteen days were served during the summer.

The Kilmainham Register documenting James offers excellent information. He was 6 ft 4 and 1/2 inches, 233 pounds, with blue eyes, dark brown hair and a fresh complexion. Burn marks to his shins, knees and elbows were recorded - results of an industrial accident during his shale mining days in Scotland?

Initially I was fearful about presenting James' crime - how to be honest, unprejudiced. Whilst

writing this account, I realised it simply did not matter. James Curran's life speaks for itself. Whether he snapped on that July day, whether he had a grievance against the Salvation Army, whether he had no valid reason, it simply does not matter. It has all been said already. At his trial, eight times in his Service Record. I concur fully: James Curran was a "good and industrious character".

Not suggesting any parallels, when writing this story a quote echoed in my head from 1916 leader James Connolly's wife, Lillie. Shortly before Connolly's execution in Kilmainham Prison, Lillie exclaimed: "But your beautiful life, James. Your beautiful life". This quote might also apply to James (Jim) Curran 1866 - 1925: former Kilmainham prisoner.

(Source The Curran Family Papers, thanks to Michele McClory)



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

• Oberlin's Traditional Irish Session - 2nd Sunday of the month 7 - 9 Slow Train Café, 55 East College St. Oberlin. Informal all experience welcome: www.oberlin.net/~irishsession

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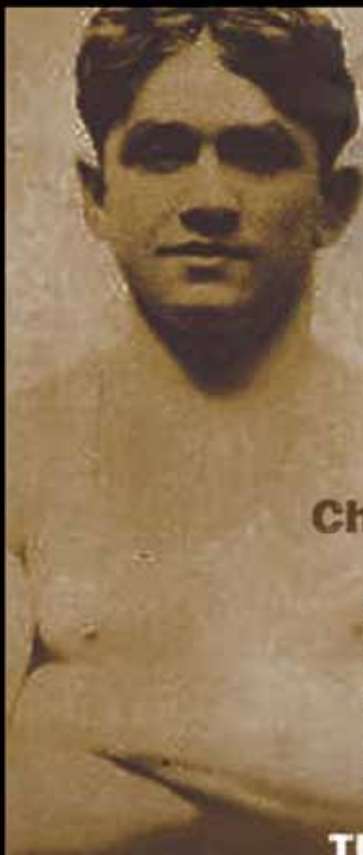
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6pm - 7pm: *Songs of Britain & Ireland* WCPN FM 90.3

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