



May • 2010



**Ohio Irish American News and Cleveland
Public Theatre Present *An Evening of Yeats...* Page 9
Midwest GAA Play... Page 5 *God Never Blinks...* Page 13**

Cleveland Public Theatre's Executive Artistic Director Raymond Bobgan. *Photo by Steve Wagner.*

irish american news



by **Cathal Liam**
www.cathalliam.com

A Letter From Ireland



“fifth” province “Meath” and that Ireland’s ancient four provinces (not its present-day political ones) had boundaries that intersected at this “Stone of Divisions.”

In earlier times, a bonfire on Uisneach could be seen from a distant ring of radiating hilltops including the Hill of Tara. In turn, from this primary ring of bonfires others were lighted on a further circle of hills, sending a signal throughout the entire breadth and width of the land.

Martin Byrne, on his wonderful website, www.carrowkeel.com, mentions that hilltops in twenty of Ireland’s thirty-two counties can be seen (on a clear day) from Uisneach. He also notes that Ireland’s four ancient seats of power, Emhain Macha in Ulster, Alhmu (Allan) in Leinster, Croc Áine in Munster and Rath Croghaun in Connaught, all appear laid out and spaced in relation to the Hill of Uisneach.

A line drawn from Ulster’s seat of royalty in Co. Armagh (Emhain Macha) passes southwest through the Catstone straight on to the Hill of Anya (Croc Áine), near Lough Gur in Co. Limerick. Another sighting from Connaught’s capital, the legendary home of Queen Maeve, runs through Uisneach and points directly southeast to the Hill of Allen (Alhmu), Leinster’s ancient capital in Co. Kildare.

Additionally, much like the amazing astrophysical findings surrounding the megalithic structures in Ireland’s Boyne Valley and on England’s Salisbury Plain, Uisneach demonstrates that our ancestors, over five thousand years ago, had an enormous understanding of worldly phenomena without the use of GPS.

Turning to matters more contemporary, I’m angered that our island neighbour continues to be so disingenuous. For thirty-eight years we’ve waited for the British government to own up to their complicity in the murders of fourteen Irish citizens in Derry whose only crime was their willingness to march for civil rights’ justice on 30 January 1972. [Seven of the dead were teenagers and five victims were shot in the back]. Once again, the heavy hand of our British overlords meted out an obscene measure of deathly violence as their obsessive compulsion for domination spilled out of control. [For a fascinating insight into the art of deceitful British misinformation, listen on your computer to BBC’s Radio 4 programme entitled “Document” which aired on 22/03/10.]

Immediately after the 1972 blood-

This May issue is as eclectic an issue as we have ever assembled. Following on the heels of two sell out issues in a row, the *OhIAN* continues to find a way to grow and prosper, thanks to your continued, active support. Music and history have always been the backbone of the *Ohio Irish American News*, and this month is no exception. But stories and features, book, food and music reviews, and a slew of fantastic events fill this issue with something for everyone.

This summer the *OhIAN* will be featuring the Midwest GAA sports teams each month: results and pics, events and news in Gaelic athletics in Ohio get their due. Take a few hours to see Hurling, the national sport of Ireland, or Gaelic Football—a fast paced, exciting cross between soccer and rugby, Local



John O'Brien, Jr.

and Live. The schedule for the Midwest Division is included on page 5; games start in May and go through until the North American County Board Finals held over Labor Day weekend in Chicago in September. This month, Mark Owens’

Owens Sports column gives details and histories of the Midwest clubs to get you started.

Festival season is just around the corner. Our 4th Annual Festival Focus issue will be here next month, highlighting the great Irish and Celtic festivals in and around Ohio; an issue not to be missed. The festivals are family friendly and a great value for your entertainment dollar. All the details will be in the June issue. Add a festival or three to your summer plans!

Hope to see you Out & About in Ohio, John

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The Hill of Uisneach

herds of livestock were driven out to summer pastures or lush mountain grazing lands.

Though the 21st-century stretches out before us, you’d be surprised how many old customs and beliefs still influence the lives of the Irish back home, especially in rural society. Sure if you’re ever in or near Mullingar on 1 May and wish to experience a bit of ancient Ireland, pay a visit to the so-called “Catstone” on the Hill of Uisneach (pron: ISH-knock). As with most rural Irish celebrations, the night

sky will be punctuated by the light of huge bonfires. The hill is about ten miles due west of this Co. Westmeath town. Probably the most direct way is to take the R390, heading to Ballymore and Athlone. Just past the village of Loughanavally, look for a signposting. If all else fails, ask for directions.

On my last visit to this sacred place, I came through Rathconrath and followed back roads to this unpretentious piece of hilly pastureland. But when you consider the significance of this unique bit of geography, you’ll be impressed. Just below the shoulder of the hill is a massive piece of limestone said to be in the shape of a crouching or squatting cat. This stone purportedly marks the exact centre of Ireland, Ireland’s navel. It is also believed, at least by some, to be at the centre of Ireland’s

bath, British Prime Minister Edward Heath ordered an investigation. Five years later, the Widgery Tribunal issued its report. Essentially, their conclusions exonerated the British military for their actions that Sunday afternoon. This whitewash, however, did note that some soldiers’ behaviours “bordered on the reckless.”

In January, 1998, then PM Tony Blair ordered a re-examination of the facts surrounding Bloody Sunday, as that horrendous day became labelled. Today, however, more than twelve years later, and at a cost of almost £200 million, no public finding has been issued. Instead, with the Saville Inquiry’s work finally completed, its results are being “checked” by British military and MI5 intelligence specialists. Now, frustratingly, with British elections looming on the horizon, it is hypothesized the inquiry’s conclusions will be withheld indefinitely.

Despite his reputation as an outstanding jurist, do you actually expect Lord Saville to point the finger of blame at those who committed the crimes? Past experience with British colonial imperialism says they won’t own up to their wrongdoings, deflecting the blame elsewhere.

Maybe the Brits will splash around a few thousand pounds, saying that day is past and isn’t it better to move on? And what about the military leaders who ordered the onslaught? Retired? Dead? Forgotten? And what about the citizens of Derry and the others in Northern Ireland who’ve been subjected to all measure of prejudice, discrimination and bigotry, not just on the one day, but for decades upon centuries? So the struggle for justice, for freedom and for life free of tyranny goes on in Northern Ireland. But do keep the faith my friends. If each of us does our little bit, maybe just maybe some day...

Until next month, from the backroom of the Palace Bar on Fleet Street, I bid you fair weather, lasting friendships and the best of times. Sure and don’t forget, while you’re sitting at your computer, do give Midwest Irish Radio, www.irishmidwestradio.com, a listen. Their music and chatter can only but help lift the spirits. *God bless & all the best, Cathal.*

**Cathal is a freelance writer and the author of Consumed in Freedom’s Flame, Forever Green, and Blood on the Shamrock. He will have a new book out this fall. www.cathalliam.com.*

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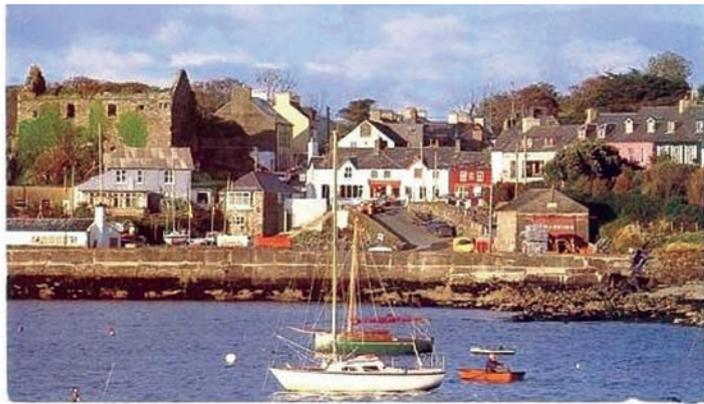
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By J. Michael Finn



The Sack of Baltimore



The village of Baltimore (Baile na Tighe Mór or Village of the Big House) is located in County Cork, Ireland and is a quiet coastal fishing village. In the 1600's English settlers and a few native Irish populated the village. Fineen O'Driscoll, a more English friendly member of the O'Driscoll clan, had leased the land to English settlers in 1607. The harbor of Baltimore had maintained a deserved reputation for trading with pirates thanks to the many illicit enterprises of Fineen. Our story takes place in Baltimore and is one of the most unusual events in Irish history.

Ever since Spain cleared the country of the Islamic Moors about 1614, Islam had been out to get Christians. A holy war, or jihad, had been declared and kidnapping and enslavement of Christians was common. Often a ransom was demanded for the safe return of the captives, but governments were often reluctant to cooperate in the exchange. The English stopped ransoming captives, as they believed that the practice only encouraged further hostage taking.

Islamic pirates commonly raided the coast of Western Europe and England, going as far north as Iceland. Like the Vikings of an earlier time, these raids were quick and efficient. Kidnappings of women and children were most common as they generally brought the highest prices as slaves. Often they were deadly for anyone who tried to resist. The Barbary pirates (also known as corsairs) also attacked coastal shipping, confis-

cating the cargo, kidnapping the crew, and sinking the ship if it proved unusable.

On June 17, 1631, two Algerian pirate vessels attacked an English vessel captained by Edward Fawlett and manned by a crew of nine off the English coast. The captain and crew were captured and the ship scuttled. The lead Algerian ship was a 300-ton Dutch-built man-of-war, armed with twenty-four cannon and crewed by 200 men. The other vessel was approximately half that size.

Both ships were under the command of Morat Rais, a Dutch convert to Islam whose Dutch name had been Jan Jansz. He was a professional pirate who was famous throughout North Africa for delivering many Christian captives to the slave markets.

By June 19th the raiders were off the Old Head of Kinsale, where they captured two fishing boats from Dungarvan, one captained by John Hackett, the other by Thomas Carew, both containing five-man crews. The two Irish boats, now sailed by corsairs, joined the two Algerian boats and continued westward.

Morat Rais demanded that Hackett pilot them into Kinsale harbor. Hackett encouraged Morat to bypass Kinsale harbor and attack the village of Baltimore. Several reasons for Hackett's cooperation with the corsairs have been proposed. It could have been Baltimore's reputation of being pirate friendly or Baltimore's majority Protestant population (Hackett

was a Catholic). Hackett also knew that a Royal Navy ship, the Fifth Lion's Whelp, was anchored at Kinsale, making a landing difficult and dangerous.

Arriving at the entrance to Baltimore harbor about 10:00 pm on June 19, 1631, Morat and a ship loaded with ten Janissaries reconnoitered the Baltimore coast. Captain Fawlett, also cooperating with Morat, piloted the boat and showed them the most opportune place to land. Returning to their ships, the pirates waited until about 2:00 am on the morning of June 20, 1631. Morat came ashore with 230 Janissaries armed with muskets, swords, and torches.

Spreading his forces, Morat led an initial coordinated attack on twenty-six homes. The invaders set fire to the thatched roofs and used iron bars to break down the doors, taking the sleeping occupants by surprise. Morat raided forty houses that night, taking the occupants captive, most still in their nightclothes. Two men attempted to resist capture during the raid and were hacked to pieces by the large swords of the Turkish invaders.

One of the villagers, William Harris, spotted the attack and began firing his musket to raise an alarm. Another villager in the distant high ground began beating a drum, which to Morat meant the possibility of British troops in the area.

Fearful of attack and having lost the element of surprise, the corsairs lost no time in returning to their ships with their captives. One count claims the total captives amounted to twenty men, thirty-three women and fifty-four children, in addition to the captive crews of the English ship and the two Dungarvan fishing-boats.

Before leaving the harbor, five of the captives were returned to shore. Two were elderly people from Bal-

timore, along with Hackett, Carew and Fawlett.

Hackett was later tried, condemned to death, and hanged at Cork for his cooperation with the pirates. There appear to be no records of what happened to Fawlett and Carew. About 4:00 pm, the two Algerian ships with a total of 154 Irish captives on board, began the voyage back to Algiers and the slave markets (the total number of captives can vary by source).

Little has survived regarding the fate of the captives of Baltimore. There is some reference to letters sent requesting ransom, but the letters have been lost. There is no record of a government ransom being paid in keeping with the English policy.

We do know from the experiences of other captives, that upon arrival in Algiers the captives were likely separated into groups without regard to relationship. The children were separated into one group, particularly the male children, as they were prime targets for conversion to Islam. The men who were capable of hard labor were consigned to backbreaking work on land or they ended up chained to an oar as a galley slave at sea. The women were either sold as concubines to some wealthy official or they spent their remaining years at hard labor

(most often domestic work).

By 1633, according to British records, a private contributor had redeemed only one captive (a woman). All the rest of the Baltimore captives either died or converted to Islam. Between hard labor, torture and disease, Christian slaves had a very short life expectancy in Islamic Africa.

Morat Rais continued his career as a pirate. Sometime after the Baltimore raid he was captured by the Knights of Malta, sworn enemy to the Barbary pirates. In 1640, he managed to escape and returned to North Africa, where he was made governor of El Oualidia, Morocco.

To learn more details about the Sack of Baltimore, try, *Stolen Village: Baltimore and the Barbary Pirates*, by Des Ekin (O'Brien Press). In addition, for a poetic version of the events, *Young Ireland* poet Thomas Davis (1814-1845) wrote a famous poem titled "The Sack of Baltimore."

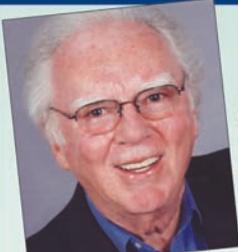
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By Susan Mangan



Mind Your Pennies

Incensed, the furrow between my daughter's brow deepened as she threw herself into a spectator's chair at a local Irish dancing competition known as a feis. Surrounded by her royal blue and white meringue of a dress, she renounced her love for dancing and declared her final farewell to competitive "feising."

After huffing and puffing over unfair placements, my daughter went in search of comrades who might prove to be more sympathetic than her current company. A light-hearted family member perched my daughter's jig shoes bearing a "For Sale - Please Inquire" sign atop a chair.

That was over a year ago. The shoes remain with their rightful owner and my daughter is still dancing. Although, at times of despair over a difficult new step or disappointing results, she questions, "Where has all the fun in dancing gone?" During low times isn't my daughter fortunate to have me a veritable seanachie, storyteller, in her midst to remind her of the true spirit of the dance?

With a roll of her eyes, my daughter exclaims, "But Mom, you aren't even Irish, what do you know about anything?" Quickly I respond, "Perhaps not, but didn't all my girlfriends back in Chicago take step dancing from Sheila Tully?" Granted they never got past their jig, but it was pure magic to a little girl like me to watch them step in time. During high school I never enjoyed dancing, the freestyle kind where you had to move, or gyrate, or bump, or do whatever dancers do. The thought of prom sent me into a panic. I longed to live during the Big Band era when dances had names, set moves, and you were never too far from your partner.

When my husband and I were just dating, I became initiated into the world of dance, Irish style. Now I don't mean competitive step dancing, but rather the dance of Irish weddings, fundraisers, and St. Patrick's Day parties. Looking back, our courtship seemed to revolve around such social functions. If I were going to blossom into anything other than a wall flower, I had to fall in with the dance.

During one particular function at the Irish-American Club, a neighbor of my father-in-law was watching me spin during the Siege of Ennis, a rollicking set danced with a group of four facing four. A fine, strong dancer with perfectly turned out feet and a ramrod straight back, the neighbor watched my display in horror. I danced more like the Scarecrow from the Wizard of Oz than a girl dating a proud Irish boy from

the West-Side of Cleveland.

With great confidence the Lady of the Dance took me by my elbow and exclaimed, "Didn't anyone ever teach you

how to spin?" Feebly, I croaked, "No, but I am a quick study." Essentially, one foot remains stationary while the other pivots in time. With a little practice I was spinning with the rest.

Irish dancing was great. The sets were set, the moves established, and for the most part you didn't have to move your arms, one less concept for me to worry about. If only I could figure out how to not step on my husband's shoes during the waltz.

When my children first began their Irish step dancing lessons, I knew that I could help them to keep their arms straight at their sides. Having spent many a year fretting over what to do with my arms when dancing, keeping them parallel to your body seemed like a simple concept that even I could master.

My daughter tended to hold her arms out like an airplane, whereas my son pointed his fingers into a peace sign. I encouraged the children to pretend that they were holding a fistful of pennies and if their arms moved from their sides or their fingers spread open, the pennies would all be lost. That took care of that; my children love their money and would not want to lose even a penny.

It was great fun to watch the children dance during their early years as competitive dancers. My one son had great timing, but couldn't stay on the stage. During his first feis, he started off strong, a bit too strong as he hopped one, hopped two, hopped directly off the right of the stage. During the next feis, my son hopped off stage left. Finally, during the last feis of the season, he had the stage to himself. He executed the first step of his jig: first to his right, then to his left. Oh great miracle, he stayed on the stage, until his second step in which he danced right off the back of it! Given that he was the only dancer, he took a first nonetheless.

There is nothing quite like a boy, and later a man, who can throw a football and spin a partner with ease. Mostly all the children in our family, both boys and girls alike, take Irish step dancing. Each has their own strengths as dancers.

One of the little cousins who is as handsome as a summer's day is long completed a fairly flawless jig at his first feis. Dressed in a pastel suit and high heels, the judge clacked, clacked, clacked over to the line of young boys with a handful of medals. Only one would take the first and it belonged to our cousin.

So enamored of the medal was the young lad, that he stashed it into his pocket and refused to take his hand off it even for a moment. Pockets are known to have holes in them, don't you know?

During the next round of dancing, the cousin kept the medal in his pocket. In truth, his fingers remained tightly grasped over the cool gold medal lest it should fly out of his pants during a particularly athletic over 2 -3. With one hand at his side and one entrenched in his pocket, the cousin took a fourth place and couldn't quite figure out why.

Graceful and lithe, the girls dance a slip jig. The dancers know not to dance with a comrade from the same dancing school as the steps are alike. During this particular event, my daughter and her favorite cousin couldn't be bothered with protocol. Costumed in matching kelly green school dresses, the two were delighted to step out in time together.

In the stand of the Cleveland Convocation Center, two sisters, the grandmothers of the girls, sat back and watched as their young granddaughters bolstered one another and performed a perfectly beautiful dance. Ironically, out of about twenty dancers, the girls tied for a third place, but scored a first in the hearts of their proud grandmothers.

So, my darling girl, I remind my daughter, the dance is filled with treasured memories, and your chance to soar on the championship stage will come. In the meanwhile, keep in time and always mind your pennies.

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

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Owens Sports
By Mark Owens



Throughout the 1950's there were several different Gaelic Football and hurling teams in Cleveland. The Cleveland St. Pat's team that

Cleveland & the Midwest GAA

This month, as the 2010 GAA season is upon us, we take a look at some of the history behind the Midwest GAA and a brief insight into some of the clubs within the division. Throughout the summer the *OhIAN* will bring you regular updates on all the football and hurling action in the Midwest, culminating with a report on how the Midwest clubs fare at the North American Championships in September (to be held at Gaelic Park, Chicago).

Cleveland itself has an amazing GAA history, going back to c1918, with the Cleveland Young Ireland's Football team. There are stories of how the team would take the night boat to Detroit for games. After the game they would attend a dance then the night boat back to Cleveland. It is believed there were also active clubs in Pittsburgh and Buffalo.

Henry Cavanaugh was President of the Cleveland GAA in the 1930's. Games were played at local venues such as Gordon Park, Edgewater Park, Puritas Springs Park and Shamrock Field. It is thought that none or very little Gaelic football was played in the city from the late 1930's to mid 1940's.

In 1949, Pat Lynch, Henry Cavanaugh and Pat Duffy, in conjunction with contacts in Chicago, Detroit, Pittsburgh and Buffalo, formed the *Midwest Gaelic Football League*. Games were played at Brookside, League Park, Shaw Stadium and West Tech. A new practice field was eventually located at East 110th & St. Clair. At the same time a Midwest select team travelled to Boston to play a New England select team. The Midwest team was coached by Pat Duffy and had two Clevelanders on the team; Mickey Prendergast and Gene O'Donnell. The Midwest won by a single point.

would go on to dominate the North American GAA scene during the 1960's, winning three national titles in a row.

Over the next few decades members of the Cleveland GAA would become greatly involved with the National GAA—John O'Brien, Sean Gannon, Henry Cavanaugh, John Herlighy and Al O'Leary, to name but a few. St. Pat's GFC would continue alone through the 1970's. It was not until 1980 that another club, St. Jarlath's, spearheaded by

Tommy Weir, would come onto the scene. They became a powerhouse within the Midwest during the 80's and again in recent years, winning two National titles.

The current make up of the **Midwest Division** is as follows:

Men's Junior B: *Cleveland St. Pat's, Cleveland St. Jarlath's, Pittsburgh Celtics and Detroit Wolfetones.*

Men's Junior C: *Buffalo Fenians, Rochester Erin Isles and Syracuse GAA.*

Ladies Junior B: *Cleveland St. Pat's, Pittsburgh Banshee's and Detroit St. Anne's.*

Men's Junior Hurling: *Akron Celtic Guards and Pittsburgh Hurling*

Cleveland St Pat's

It is believed that St. Pat's GFC was formed in 1948, which would make it one of the oldest active clubs in North America.

The club currently calls the West Side Irish American Club, Olmsted Falls, their home. They also regularly use Impett Park, Cleveland, for practices. The club currently consists of both men's and a ladies team, and in 2008, to mark their 60th anniversary, they formed St. Pat's Youth, which has since combined with the West Side IA to form Tír na nÓg.

Club colors for St Pat's are the 'green and red' of County Mayo. Current chairman for St. Pat's is this author, Mark Owens, also Midwest Chairman. For more info on the club please visit <http://stpats.cleveland.gaa.ie/>

Cleveland St Jarlath's

Formed in 1980, the Cleveland team will be celebrating their 30th anniversary this year –
Cont'd on page 6

Midwest GAA League Play - 2010				
Date	Day	Home Team	Visiting Team	Location
16-May	Sunday	Buffalo Fenians	Rochester Erin Isles	Buffalo
23-May	Sunday			
29-May	Saturday	Midwest 7-a-side Tournament		Cleveland
6-Jun	Sunday	Pitts Men & Ladies	Cle St Pat's Men & Ladies	Pittsburgh
12-Jun	Saturday	Cleveland St Pat's Men	Cleveland St Jarlath's	WSIA, noon
13-Jun	Sunday			
20-Jun	Sunday			
27-Jun	Sunday	Detroit Men & Ladies	Cle St Pat's Men & Ladies	Detroit
27-Jun	Sunday	Cleveland St Jarlath's	Pittsburgh Celtics	Avon Lake
4-Jul	Sunday	No Games		
11-Jul	Sunday	Detroit Men & Ladies	Pitts Men & Ladies	Detroit
17-Jul	Saturday	Cleveland St Jarlath's	Cleveland St Pat's Men	Avon Lake
17-Jul	Saturday	Rochester Erin Isles	Buffalo Fenians	Rochester
18-Jul	Sunday	Pitts Men & Ladies	Detroit Men & Ladies	Pittsburgh
24-Jul	Saturday	Cle St Pat's Men & Ladies	Pitts Men & Ladies	WSIA
24-Jul	Saturday	Cleveland St Jarlath's	Detroit Wolfetones	WSIA
31-Jul	Saturday	Buffalo Fenians	Syracuse	Buffalo
8-Aug	Sunday	Cle St Pat's Men & Ladies	Detroit Men & Ladies	WSIA
14-Aug	Saturday	Syracuse	Buffalo Fenians	Syracuse
15-Aug	Sunday	Pittsburgh Celtics	Cleveland St Jarlath's	Pittsburgh
22-Aug	Sunday	Midwest Final		TBD
29-Aug	Sunday	No Games		
Labor Day	Weekend	NACB Finals		Chicago

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Owens Sports

Cont'd from page 5

and they have had some great successes in this brief time, including two national titles and multiple Midwest titles. Current chairman is Jim Coyne. The Jarlath's call Troy Middle School, Avon Lake, their home field. Club colors are that of County Antrim, yellow and white. More info the club can be found at <http://clevelandst-jarlaths.com>.

Detroit Wolfetones

The 'Wolfetones' are based

in southeastern Michigan, and their mission is the promotion, development and continuation of one of the oldest most exciting sports in the world. Since forming in 1982, the Tones have represented the USA in Ireland, captured three North American Men's Football Championships and one Youth Championship. The Wolfetones play their home games at Flodin Park, Canton, MI. The team colors are black & white, similar to County Sligo. The chairman is Tom Murray. More info can be found at www.detroit-wolfetones.com.

Detroit

St. Anne's Ladies Football

The ladies from Detroit are quite clearly the most successful ladies football team playing in the Ladies Midwest Division. The Michigan ladies have won the majority of Midwest titles since 1991. Like the Wolfetones, St. Anne's play their home games at Flodin Park; Canton, MI. Team colors are also that of County Sligo, black & white. The chairman is Mary Murray.

Rochester Erin Isles

The New York team was formed in 2004, with founding members Mary O'Connor, Tom Callahan, Jason Kajon Barrett and Greg Fogarty. Home games are played at Perinton Community Park, Fairport, NY. The Erin Isles have set lofty goals for 2010, including representing the Midwest Division in the NACB Finals in Chicago this September. They also aim to grow club membership by 20%. Club colors are red & white, similar to County Tyrone. For more info on GAA in Rochester, visit their website: www.rochester.gaa.ie.

Pittsburgh Celtics GFC

The Celtics have been in existence since 1976, but Gaelic football has been played in Pittsburgh since the 1940's. Tom Cloonan, Steve Connelly and Mark O'Toole were the founding fathers. After twenty-five years of competing in

the Mid-West division against the likes of Detroit, Cleveland and Buffalo, the Celtics finally captured their first Midwest Championship in 2002. The Celtics again won the Midwest Championship in 2006. Home games are at Founders Field in Indianola, PA. Chairman is Dubliner Rob Tierney. Club colors are maroon & white, similar to County Galway. For more info on the club visit www.thepittsburghceltics.com.

Pittsburgh

Banshee's Ladies Football

You don't have to have a long history to have a proud history. The first-ever Pittsburgh Banshees Ladies Gaelic Football Club was founded in September 2002. Two years later, the Banshees earned the title of Midwest Champions, and won again in 2005. Club colors are that of County Pittsburgh Steelers – yellow & black. Visit www.pittsburghbanshees.com for more info.

Buffalo Fenians

GAA in Buffalo has been around about just as long as it has in Cleveland, with early photo's showing a team line up from the 1920's. The last few years has seen a total transformation of the club in both structure and involvement. The team now enters a men's team in both the Midwest Junior C competition, as well as travelling to play in the Toronto league. This has certainly helped promote the game more in the city and will hopefully in the next year or so allow for the creation of both a ladies and a youth program. Chairman of The Fenians is Dave Slevin, who is also a former Midwest GAA Board member. The club plays at Volunteer Firemen's Park on East & West Road in West Seneca, NY. Visit <http://buffalofenians.gaa.ie> for more info on the club.

Akron Celtic Guards

The Akron Celtic Guards was founded out of the marriage between local musicians Pat and Nikki Custy. At their reception, Pat Custy had brought some hurling sticks and Pat Taylor Senior took interest. Although he had not played before, he wanted to learn. He took home some of the sticks and Pat Taylor Sr. and Seamus White, native of Chicago, worked cohesively to create the Akron Celtic Guards. Coached by Noel Morton; they have bloomed with the help of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Mark Agner took the leadership of training with the help of Pat Taylor. More info on the club can be found at www.akronhurling.com.

Trivia

First last month's question: *In Rugby's Six or Five Nations Championships, if a team won the Triple Crown what did they do? In rugby union, the Triple Crown is an honor contested annually by the national teams of England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales as part of the Six Nations Championship. If any one team manages to win all their games against the other three then they win the Triple Crown.*

This month's question: *Which Irish sport is sometimes confused with the Scottish game 'shinty'?*

**Mark Owens is originally from Derry City, Ireland and has resided in the Cleveland area since 2001, having previously spent time studying at John Carroll University. Send questions, comments or suggestions for future articles to Mark at: markowens@ireland.com.*

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By Terry Reilly

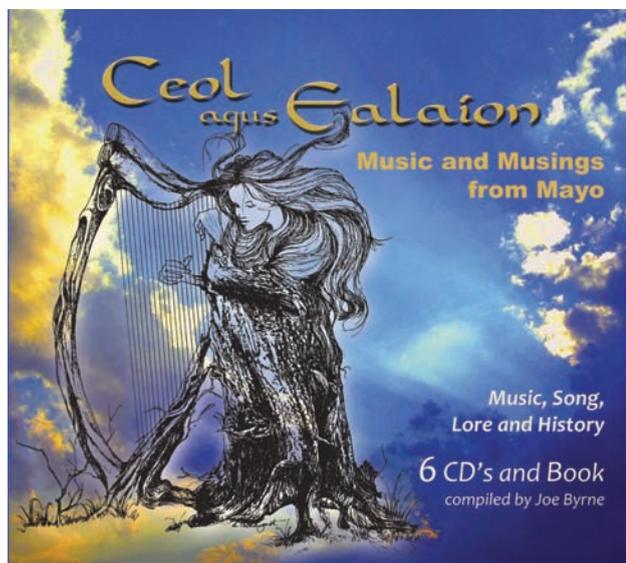


Mayo Music and Musings CD Collection

A good friend, Joe Byrne from East Mayo, who has a very healthy following for his popular programme on local radio here, has done great work over the years to preserve our music, song, lore and poems.

His latest undertaking, a mammoth one, is the magnificent compilation *Mayo Music and Musings Collection*, a set of 6 CDs to mark twenty years on Mid West Radio.

This project is the 12th production in the Dreoilín Community Arts Series and was once again compiled by Joe Byrne who is a musician and singer and presents and produces the weekly arts programme “Ceol agus Ealaíon” on Tuesday nights from 10pm until 1am on Mid West Radio. It is also intended of course, as part of the Mid West Radio Twentieth Celebrations and many of the tracks represent a cross-section of some of the material recorded and broadcast by Joe since the station started in 1989. The sound bytes are taken from the four



programmes that Joe has been involved in over the past 20 years. (See www.midwestradio.ie for details of Joe's programme which comes to you via the internet.)

The beautiful artwork on the sleeves and booklet is by the artist Bernie Prendergast of Tooreen, while David Dwane Studios, Ballina, refined and mastered the sound. Since many of the recordings were ‘one man’ efforts out in the field and were done on a variety of low-tech recording machines, the overall sound he achieved through mastery is exceptionally good.

The Collection comes complete with a companion booklet in a gift wrapped set. It contains music, songs, poetry, lore, history and readings from contributors and performers from Erris to Shrule and from Ballyhaunis to Ballina.

There is a very wide inclusive variety of material—Traditional Melodeon Music from Alan Morrisroe and Tommy Gallagher of Kilturley, Swinford; Classical Piano with Maria McGarry, Ballyhaunis; a Christmas Story of 1964 by Colmán O’Raghallaigh of Claremorris; Poems from Iarla Mongey and Peter Jordan of Castlebar; Readings from their Books by Terry Reilly,

Ballina, and Tony Jordan of Ballyhaunis; Pipe Bands from Achill and The Carracastle Fife and Drum Band; The Mayo Concert Orchestra and the Kilmovee and Bofield Céili Bands; Italian musicians at Moyne Abbey, near Ballina, and a Japanese musician in Achadh Mór.

Also featured are Sean Nós songs from Erris and Ballads about Knock Airport and David

Trimble’s Pimple; Grace Notes Choir from Ballyhaunis and Cór Cheathrú Thaidgh in Erris; History and Lore from Westport and Kiltane, Foxford and Killala, Louisburgh and Loughlynn.

Old and new pieces are aligned side by side, for example, “The Sanctus of a New Millennium Mass” by Noel Henry follows “Marthain Phádraig,” the ancient prayer of Saint Patrick spoken by the late Riocárd Bruadair of The Mullet Peninsula. “Christina” is the title of a newly composed piece of music by Spanish-style guitarist Adrian Leonard of Achadh Mór that is preceded by a poem by Geraldine Mitchell of Louisburgh, and a Bulgarian busker recorded on the streets in Ballyhaunis is featured with some Gypsy Waltzes. Terry Maughan, one of the last practising tinsmiths of the travelling community, talks of his trade and travels and Tony Donoghue of Crossmolina tells of the Loch Conn Music Manuscripts that he managed to rescue from mice in a barn loft. Laoise Kelly, the world-renowned harper, plays one of the unusual tunes from those precious manuscripts.

At the launch, Joe Byrne thanked all the 500

or so artists and performers who are featured on the CD’s. He said he doubted if there was any group or body of people in Ireland that were more generous than musicians, singers, dancers, local historians, writers and artists.

Proceeds from the collection go to the Mayo-Roscommon Hospice Foundation. The price for the full package set is €25 (approx \$34) with €2 extra for postage and packaging (within Ireland), and €4 (approx. \$7) extra to overseas destinations. The collection gift pack is available in outlets all across Mayo, or from The Mayo Roscommon Website, www.hospice.ie or directly from Joe Byrne, Achadh Mór, Ballyhaunis, Co Mayo (00353 94- 93- 67189) or by email at trishmb@eircom.net.

Free Rail Travel in Ireland

I got a huge email response to last month’s article about inducements to spend a vacation in Ireland this year.

Readers will recall that I wrote about a free internal travel offer, and also about an idea by philanthropist Chuck Feeney to give every tourist entering the county from the US a 100 dollar voucher. All to boost tourism to this country in the face of a recession that has, naturally, hit the numbers.

The 100-dollar voucher idea appears to be sidelined, for the present at least, but I’m delighted to relate that a free rail scheme, developed by Fáilte Ireland in conjunction with Iarnród Éireann (Irish Rail), has been finalised and is now available for over 66s visiting Ireland. The scheme, announced by the Government as part of Budget 2010 last December, is designed to increase overseas visitor numbers to Ireland.

Which means that overseas visitors aged 66 or over can now reserve free rail travel by accessing www.discoverireland.com to arrange for a Golden Trekker Reservation, which can be used to book their free Golden Trekker Tickets when in Ireland.

Welcoming the initiative, Redmond O’Donoghue, Chairman of Fáilte Ireland, told me: “Extending Ireland’s free rail travel arrangements to our international visitors is a very encouraging and constructive development. It will help strengthen the appeal of Ireland amongst some visitors and Fáilte Ireland believes it will pay dividends to Irish tourism longer-term.”

“Our experience of working with Iarnród Éireann on putting this scheme in place has been a very positive one and we would like to acknowledge their help and active support in helping to finalise arrangements in time for this year’s tourist season.”

The Golden Trekker Tickets will take the form of a four-day Trekker ticket, or a sequence of four-day tracker tickets depending on the length of stay, providing visitors with unrestricted rail travel for a set period. Each four-day Trekker ticket is worth €100.

The design of the scheme mimics the terms of the free travel scheme available to Irish senior citizens aged 66 and over. Accordingly, the

scheme provides for free travel to all tourists to Ireland aged 66 and over and there is no restriction on nationality or country of residence.

Look out for: next month’s column with exclusive news of the new Monsignor James Horan musical. Email: terryreilly@eircom.net. Web: www.terry-reilly.com

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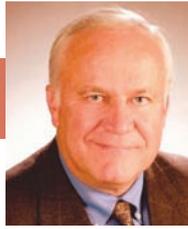
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Off the Shelf

by Terry Kenneally

A TOP Shelf Selection



Ship Of Fools By Fintan O'Toole

Faber & Faber Ltd. ISBN 978-1-58648-881-9; 2010; 230 pp

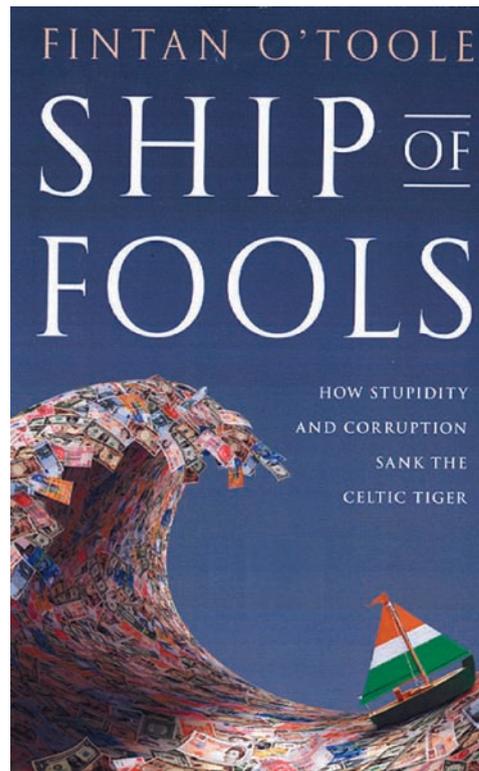
Several months ago the noted *New York Times* Op-Ed columnist, Paul Krugman, wrote a column comparing the current (and still) economic problems in the U.S. with similar problems plaguing Ireland. The article was titled "Erin Go Broke."

As many people recall, Ireland's economy between the mid 1990's and 2001 was known somewhat affectionately as the "Celtic Tiger." However, beginning in 2002 and continuing to the present, stupidity and corruption have sunk the "Celtic Tiger." How it happened is the subject of a 'coruscating polemic' by Fintan O'Toole, a columnist and critic for the *Irish Times*.

O'Toole's account of the last twenty years of Irish history with regards to politics and business is mind boggling. He painstakingly points out that what happened to Ireland was no accident, but rather the tragic aftermath of corruption and cronyism.

O'Toole lists five forces which combined to create the conditions in which the "Celtic Tiger" flourished: "A primitive pre-modern land hunger created a new feudalism in which the elite puffed up the price of land and inflated a fatal property boom; a political system (Fianna Fail), embodied most thoroughly in the Tammany Hall politics of nineteenth century Irish-American Democratic Party machines; a reckless banking system which used its unchecked freedom to finance a monstrous housing bubble; a lack of interest in the technologies that had created the boom; and a political and public mentality which utterly failed to grasp what was happening to them." The constellation of these factors contributed to the disaster which struck Ireland in 2009 and has straightjacketed its economy to this day.

The list of the "characters" who had a hand, at various times in the country's gross indebtedness in-



clude former Taoiseach's, Charles Haughey and Bertie Ahern; politicians Charlie McGreevy and Mary Harney; and businessmen Sean Dunne and Sean 'Seanie' Fitzpatrick.

O'Toole offers insight into what it will take to "re-found the Republic." There has to be recognition that the crisis is moral as well as economic; a sweeping reform of the institutions of government; and the articulation of a social vision.

in *Irish Studies* at John Carroll University. He may be reached at terry@tjkenneally.com.

As O'Toole points out it will not be easy nor will it be a quick fix. Dramatic steps must be taken if Ireland is to become a truly modern democracy.

I rate this a **TOP SHELF** read.

*Terrence J. Kenneally is an attorney and president of Terrence J. Kenneally and Associates Co. His practice involves exclusively representing insureds and insurance companies in personal injury litigation in Ohio. He was named a Super Lawyer for 2008-2010 by the Law and Politics Magazine and is presently working toward a Master's Degree

Rating Legend:

Top Shelf

Get it. A good story or recording, entertaining, an authentic setting and/or good educational content.

Middle Shelf

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



The Hooley on Kamm's Corners!

The Hooley on Kamm's Corners family fun event is scheduled for Saturday, May 15th; from noon to 8pm. Lorain Avenue will be closed to traffic from West 168th Street to Rocky River Drive for the day long street festival. Bring your strollers, bring your friends, and join us for the ribbon-cutting with Mayor Jackson at Noon as the new Streetscape is officially opened. The new Kamm's Lager will also be unveiled.

There is something for everyone: "Walk + Roll" runs from 12-4pm. Walk+Roll works to encourage and remind people to walk and bicycle in their daily lives by organizing human-powered neighborhood events that combine fun with active living, learning and participating. It is only a part of the fun for all ages at The Hooley, with great food, live music and entertainment, children's shows & activities, horse-drawn wagon rides and most of all, a celebration of the Kamm's Corner community for the whole family are only some of the highlights.

For more information and schedule of events, visit www.kammscorners.com. See you at The Hooley!

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Ohio Irish American News and Cleveland Public Theatre to Present *An Evening of Yeats*

Open Mind Firmament: An Evening of W. B. Yeats

Developed by Raymond Bobgan
Original Adaptation Based on the writings of William Butler Yeats and Dr. Barton R. Friedman

Cleveland Public Theatre is proud to present *Open Mind Firmament: An Evening of W. B. Yeats*, developed by Raymond Bobgan, onstage in the Gordon Square Theatre from May 13-June 5. Best known for his poetry, Yeats, a pillar of both Irish and British literature, wrote plays that combine dance, poetry, song, folklore and imagistic and highly emotional poetry. Yeats was a founder of Ireland's national theater movement and helped banish the idea that English culture was superior to the Irish culture.

Although Yeats wrote twenty-six plays, they were rarely performed in his lifetime and are even more rarely performed today. In this the 70th year since Yeats' death, Cleveland Public Theatre has decided to remedy the situation.

Unlike earlier poets, whose main goal was political, Yeats aim was to inspire new generations of Irish people by reclaiming some of the ancient Celtic myths and legends. In staging this work, CPT executive Artistic Director Raymond Bobgan will draw from Yeats' poetry and five one-act plays: *On Baile's Strand*, *The Green Helmet*, *At the Hawk's Well*, *The Only Jealousy of Emer*, and *The Death of Cuchulain*, and the interpretive writings of the late Dr. Barton R. Friedman, noted Yeats scholar and Professor Emeritus at Cleveland State University.

Bobgan is now in his fourth year as Executive Artistic Director. During his tenure, CPT has eliminated over \$200k in debt, produced seven world premiers, expanded its programs to support new work and has achieved unprecedented national coverage. Bobgan was recently recognized by *American Theatre Magazine* as one of twenty five national theatre artists that will shape the next twenty-five years of American theatre.

Said Bobgan, "American Theatre is experiencing an incredible resurgence. With an unprecedented wave of new and innovative works, an expanding aesthetic and ethnic diversification of performance, and the rise of many small and mid-size theatres creating their own plays, this is a time of evolution and rebirth. At CPT, a bold new season with world and regional premiers, adventurous re-interpretations, original creations, developmental series, and presented dance places us right at the center of this resurgence.

"There's a reason for this upsurge—theatre brings people together. It's a living experience that can't be recorded on Tivo, text-messaged or ordered through Netflix. Theatre is here and now—human to human, with no filter and no intermediary. And, theatre is always in high def.

"When you come to CPT, you anticipate challenge and reward. You know you will be inspired and moved and surprised. You expect to travel to new worlds and see your own life in a new light. You may even walk out the door a changed person. That's what

theatre is all about. It's what we strive for. Theatre is mind-changing. Theatre is rocket science."

In its twenty-five years in the Detroit-Shoreway neighborhood on Cleveland's near west side, Cleveland Public Theatre (CPT) has been a catalyst for economic activity, job creation, private sector investment in the community and has led to the area's designation as an arts district. CPT offers performing arts experiences to a diverse audience to create a better society through education, life enrichment and creative engagement. This well-respected local arts organization receives funding from an array of major regional and national foundations, government entities and corporate supporters. Support for *Open Mind Firmament* also includes the *Ohio Irish American News* and the Irish American Charitable Foundation.

Join us on Friday, May 14th for a special benefit performance. All tickets are \$75 each and include delicious food, complimentary wine and beer, a ticket to the final preview performance and a reception with the cast and crew following the show. The pre-show



reception begins at 6pm and curtain is 7pm.

Open Mind Firmament: An Evening of W. B. Yeats, presented at **Gordon Square Theatre**, Cleveland's oldest standing theatre, built in 1912. May 13-June 05, 2010. Tickets are \$10-\$21 (\$19 advance online purchase). Showtimes: Thursday-Saturday at 7pm, Sunday, May 23 @ 3pm, Monday May 24 @ 7pm (Paid Previews May 13 and 14; Opening Night, Saturday, May 15). Tickets may be purchased on-

line, by calling (216) 631-2727 x501, or in person at the box office—6415 Detroit Avenue Cleveland, Ohio 44102 info@cptonline.org, www.cptonline.org.

We are proud to partner with Cleveland Public Theatre in this three week presentation. We hope you will join us in supporting the Irish arts in Cleveland; it is only through that active support that organizations like CPT can continue to stage innovative works and the treasures of our rich Irish heritage.

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Akron**Akron Hurling**

The Akron Celtic Guards GAA Hurling indoor training for the 2010 season-call Mark Agner, 330-571-7884. Celebrating our 10th year with Ireland's national sport, come out enjoy the fastest field sport on earth, played by Kings and peasants for 3,000 years!

Avon Lake**Irish Heritage Ctr Now Ahern Banquet Center**

The Ahern Banquet Center is now open. Owned and operated by trusted caterer and Cleveland Irish area fixture Tony Ahern, the former Irish Heritage Center is booking weddings and special events at the newly remodeled and gorgeous center located at 726 Avon Belden Rd, Avon Lake 44012. Call Tony Ahern or Lucy Balsler at 440-933-9500. The Irish Heritage Club is now located inside Ahern Banquet Center.

Cleveland**Beck Center for the Arts**

May... 1st-Super Saturday (free art activity for children 10 and under); 6th-Kids Club at Westfield Great Northern; 13th-Hear & Touch the Music; 14th-22nd-Youth Theater production of *Seussical!*; 15th-Music Student Recital-15th-Spring Flings/Summer Socials fundraising party; 16th-Beck Center Open House; 27th-Early Childhood ABC. www.beckcenter.org.

Flat Iron Café

May... 7th-Jimmy O; 21st-Donal O'Shaughnessy. Flat Iron will be running our free shuttle to and from all Indians home and Cavs Playoff games. Extended happy hour, shot specials and food specials every Friday night, check it out! 1114 Center Street, Cleveland, 44113. 216-696-6968. www.flatironcafe.com.

The Harp

May... 1st-The Porter Sharks, 9:30pm; 5th-Lonesome Stars, 9:30pm; 12th-100.00 Trio, 9:30pm; 14th-Kristine Jackson, 9:30pm; 15th-Pitch the Peat, 9:30pm; 19th-Lonesome Star, 9:30pm; 21st-Brent Kirby, 9:30pm; 22nd-Walking Cane, 9:30pm; 26th-\$100.00 Trio, 9:30pm; 28th-Chris Allen, 9:30pm; 29th-Cats on Holiday, 9:30pm. 4408 Detroit

**Cleveland (cont'd)**

Ave. 216-939-0200. www.the-harp.com.

Irish American Club East Side

May... 7th-Kevin McCarthy; 14th-The Craic Brothers; 21st-Wally Franz. Music in Pub is 7:30-10:30pm. 22770 Lake Shore Blvd., Euclid, 44123. 216-731-4003. www.irishamericanclubeastside.org.

PJ McIntyre's

May... 1st-Punch the Clown, 5th-Monthly Pub Quiz hosted by Mike D., 7pm; 7th-Homeland Celtic Rock; 8th-Mr. Steel (Kiss Cover Band); 14th-The Kreellers; 15th-HOOLEY AT KAMMS, Street festival from 12-8 on Lorain Rd, Marys Lane 6-8, Time Warp 9-1; 21st-Cats on

Cleveland (cont'd)

childrensfestival. (216) 241-6000.

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West Park Station

May... 1st-Kentucky Derby Party All Day & Drunk Betty 10pm; 5th-Cinco De Mayo Party All Day; 6th-Happy Hour-Jim & Eroc; 7th-Happy Hour-Austin Walkin' Kane; 8th-Happy Hour-Bluesmatics & Pop Rocks 10pm; 15th-Happy Hour-Etiquette & 10pm Porcelain Bus Drivers;



Holiday; 22nd-Cruisin; 28th-Reality Tour Band; 29th-Carlos Jones. Traditional Irish music sessions every Thursday. Adult Irish Dance Step Dancing, email jcrawford77@msn.com. PJ's is a Local 10 Union establishment. Book all your parties/events here! 17119 Lorain Avenue, 44111. www.pjmcintyres.com.

Playhouse Square

May... 1st-International Children's Festival, featuring Burke School of Dance; 3rd thru 8th-"Celebrating the World We Share" a fun and interactive experience featuring performances, workshops, exhibits and a Global Village. Playhouse Square www.playhousesquare.org/

Columbus**Shamrock Club Events**

May... 6th-Bardic Circle Sessions; 7th-Officer's Installation Dinner; 9th-General Meeting; 11th-Euchre; 18th-E-Board Meeting; 20th-Bardic Circle Sessions; 21st-Kirby Sessions; 22nd-Mid Ohio Food Bank Fundraiser; 29th-Quiz Night; 31st-Worthington Memo-

Columbus (cont'd)

rial Day Parade. 60 W. Castle Rd., Columbus, 43207. 614-491-4449. www.shamrockclubofcolumbus.com.

Dayton**AOH & LAOH Events**

May... 4th-Celtic Crush, 4:30pm; 8th-An Irish Music Hall Session, 8-11pm, AOH Hall, Kevin Graham 937-864-2641; 14th-16th-Dayton International Festival, Dayton Convention Center, Charley Bolton 937-836-7615; 17th-United Irish of Dayton Meeting, 7:30pm, AOH Hall, Michael Leo 937-890-1488; 21st-AOH Social Hour, 8pm, AOH Hall, Art Gannon 937-294-0703/artgannon@aol.com. JFK Division #1/Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Mary of the Gael, Division #1 & Member Organizations. www.aoh-dayton.org.

Euclid**Paddy's Pour House**

May... 1st-DJ Glory Days; 8th-Dan McCoy. 922 E. 222nd Euclid, 44123.

Medina**Sully's**

May... 8th-Homeland; 14th-The New Barleycorn; 15th-The Kreellers; 21st-Morrison and McCarthy; 22nd-Mossy Moran; 28th-Midnight Blue; 29th-Music Men. 117 West Liberty Medina, 44256. www.sullysmedina.com.

Olmsted Township**West Side Irish American Club**

May... 1st-Kentucky Derby Party; 7th-Loch Erie; 9th-Mother's Day Mass & Breakfast 10am; 14th-Wally Franz; 21st-Michael Crawley; 28th-Annual Reverse Raffle 6:30pm; 29th-pub Quiz 7:30pm, Music by Lisa Spicer 8:30pm. WSIA Club, 8559 Jennings Rd., 44138. www.wsia-club.org. 440-235-5868.

Willoughby**Mick's Pub**

May... 10th-Irish Session; 13th-Mossy Moran, 20th-Joe LaPaglia. 36200 Euclid Avenue, 44094. 440-946-2400. www.mickspub.com.

Mullarkey's

May... 1st-Kevin McCarthy; 8th-One More Pint; 15th-Dan McCoy; 22nd-Donal O'Shaughnessy; 29th-The Terriers. 4110 Erie Streetwww.mullarkeys.com.

Trad Irish Sessions

Bring your instruments along!
Akron Hibernian's Ceili Band Sessions, Wed. 7:30pm. Akron AOH Mark Heffernan Div 2 Hall, 2000 Brown St, Akron. 330-724-2083. Beginner to intermediate.
Croagh Patrick's-2nd Tue. ea. mo. 8-10pm.

PJ McIntyre's-Every Thursday, 8pm, hosted by Brian Holleran & Dominic Kilroy.

Bardic Circle at The Shamrock Club of Columbus. Beginner-friendly, intermediate-level Irish session mtg.every other Thurs., 8-11pm.

Claddagh Irish Pub, Legacy Village, Lyndhurst-every 2nd Sun., 6-9pm.

Bowling Green Common Space*-437 South Main, Bowling Green. SLOW SESSION -so folks can learn tunes. 2nd & 4th Mon., 7-8pm.

Blarney Pub*-Toledo, 1st Sat. ea. mo., 5-8pm.

*Mary Dennis or Bob Midden 419-352-8050 or mjedennis@woh.rr.com.

Invitation to Nominate Leaders for Walks of Life Awards

The Walks of Life Award was instituted in order to honor community members of Irish descent who have made an extraordinary contribution in their chosen "Walk of Life"—whether their true calling in life is fulfilled through a profession or as a volunteer. First started in 1996, the first Walks of Life Award dinner was held in 1997. The 2011 Walks of Life dinner, which will be held February 24, 2011, will be the 15th Annual dinner.

The first Walks of Life Honourees in 1997 were Pastor and Historian Fr. Nelson Callahan, Urban Community School Principal Sister Maureen Doyle, CWRU Dean of Nursing Joyce Fitzpatrick, Firefighter John Gannon, and retired Probate Judge Francis J. Talty. The 2010 honourees were: John Baker of the International Longshoremen's Association; Dr. Kenneth Callahan, oral surgeon and founding trustee of the Irish American Archives Society; Mary Jordan, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist; Dennis Roche, President of Positively Cleveland; and Sr. Carol Anne Smith, H.M., president of Magnificat High School. Past distinguished recipients of the award have included the Honorable John J. Donnelly, Thomas C. Sullivan, Jr., J. Packy Hyland, Denise Dufala, James C. Boland, Kevin O'Donnell, Murlan J. & Margaret Murphy, the Honorable John V. Corrigan, Hunter Morrison, and Drs. Ruth and Alan Gurd.

Through its Walks of Life awards, IAAS focuses attention on the accomplishments of those still among us so that they may not be lost entirely to the passage of time. Our work is to preserve and make available to all the life's work and the contributions of so many of Irish descent who made so impacted our community. Please take the time to nominate exceptional Clevelanders of Irish descent for the 2011 Walks of Life award.

Margaret Lynch,
Executive Director, Irish American Archives Society

Irish American Archives Society
'Walks of Life' Awards Nomination Form

Name of Nominee: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: Day _____ Evening _____
 Name and phone of contact person other than nominee (such as spouse or secretary): _____
 In what "Walk of Life" has nominee shown distinction?

 Summarize nominee's distinctive achievements: _____

 List nominee's current and past organizational/institutional affiliations so that these can be notified of the honor: _____

 Name and phone of NOMINATOR: _____
 Date: _____

Deadline For Nominations: May 20, 2010
Mail To: Irish American Archives Society, PO Box 91756, Cleveland, OH 44101-3756
 or Email laasadmin@gmail.com

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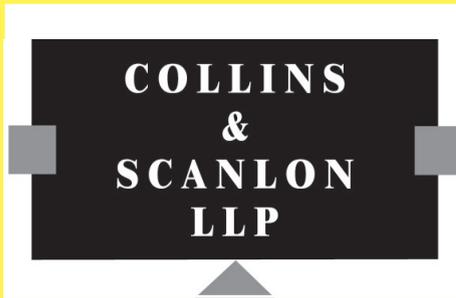
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Ulster Project Seeks Host Families

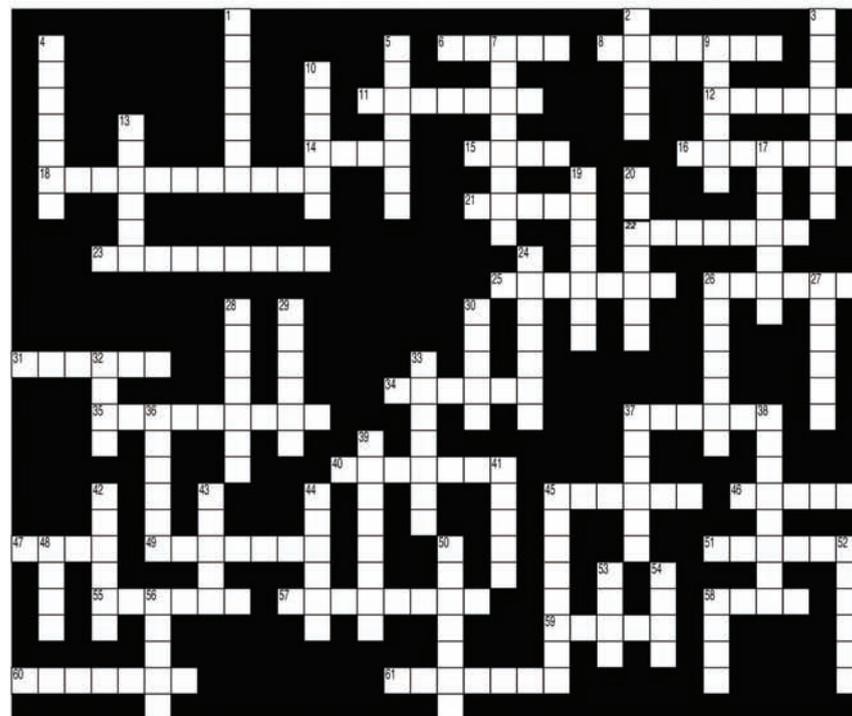


The Cincinnati Ulster Project is currently seeking area families with teenagers interested in hosting a teen from Northern Ireland this July, 2010. The Ulster Project is a peace initiative aimed at bringing Irish Catholic and Protestant teens together for a month of social and service activities in a safe environment where they become fast friends in spite of political differences. It aims at fostering tolerance, understanding and friendship among future leaders.

As a teen host, you will spend four fabulous weeks with twenty-three other teens (twelve Irish and twelve American hosts in all), in a variety of activities, all of which are free. A sampling of your month includes Kings Island, and a Reds' game, as well as service projects and leadership activities. For participation information, contact Anna Trachsel at annatrachsel@msn.com or apply on-line at: www.ulsterprojectcincinnati.org Don't delay; we'll be selecting host families very soon! Students also receive over 30 hours of community service toward your school's requirements.

What's His Name?

Created by Linda Fulton Burke



Across

- 6 Annraoi 40 Riamann
8 Uinsean 45 Gearalt
11 Pdraig 46 Alaais
12 Gearoid 47 Pol
14 Eiric 49 Damhnaic
15 Sean 51 Tomas
16 Antoin 55 Earnan
18 Criostoir 57 Ionatan
21 Radhulbh 58 Nollaig
22 Colm 59 Ruairi
23 Feardorcha 60 Stiofan
25 Liam 61 Greagoir
26 Mairtin
31 Eadbhard
34 Seosamh
35 Alastar
37 Roibeard

Down

- 1 Pilib 32 Ailin
2 Siomon 33 Solamh
3 Labhras 36 Eamonn
4 Muiris 37 Rodhlann
5 Proinsias 38 Teodoir
7 Coilin 39 Brian
9 Eoghan 41 Daibhi
10 Aibhe 42 Ualtar
13 Oilibhear 43 Seamus
17 Hoirebard 44 Buadhach
19 Searlas 45 Seafraid
20 Ristead 48 Adhamh
24 Tadhg 50 Cathal
26 Maitiu 52 Somhairle
27 Eireamhon 53 Aodh
28 Micheal 54 Marcas
29 Andreas 56 Niall
30 Peadar 58 Noe

Answers next month...

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**Out of the Mailbag ...
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By John O'Brien, Jr.



sarily conquered in every case, but definitely learned to adapt to, learned to accept the new fork in the road, and especially, to laugh at the absurdity often found in hindsight:

"It took me 40 years to find and hold on to happiness. I always felt that at the moment I was born, God must have blinked. He missed the occasion and never knew I had arrived... I ended up confused by the nuns at age 6, an unwed mother at 21, a college graduate at 30, a single mother for 18 years, and finally, a wife at 40, married to a man who treated me like a queen. Then I got cancer at 41. It took a year to fight it, then a year to recover from the fight.

"When I turned 45, I lay in bed reflecting on all life had taught me. My soul sprang a leak and ideas flowed out. My pen simply caught them and set the words on paper. I typed them up and turned them into a newspaper column of the 45 lessons life taught me." —Regina Brett, from the Introduction.

Brett's first book is as much a companion reader, a prayer companion, as a novel. *God Never Blinks* quietly offers lessons and insights, directions, affirmations and then a few time-stopping moments where the author, or maybe it is God giving you the needed insight to see that He, is speaking directly to you.

"When Brett turned 50, she added five more lessons, reflecting on all she had learned through becoming a single parent, looking for love in all the wrong places, working on her relationship with God, battling cancer, and making peace with a difficult childhood. She wrote them in her column in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*. It became one of the most popular ever

published there, and since then the 50 lessons have been emailed to hundreds of thousands of people around the world, and used at weddings, graduations, Sunday schools, Bar Mitzvahs, anniversaries and more." —From *God Never Blinks* Jacket Cover.

A few favorites from the book:

"I don't always understand how God works, but I still pray. It's like that old saying, I don't understand how electricity works, either, but I don't let that keep me in the dark. I don't have to

understand God to believe in God. What gives me hope are those words some anonymous soul wrote: "I believe in the sun, even when it is not shining. I believe in love, even when I feel it not. I believe in God even when He is silent."

"Somewhere inside us, we are all the ages we have ever been."

"The secret isn't to master your boss, your bank account, or your kids. It's to master your mind."

There were many others, personal connections to Brett's words. Those words are not platitudes; the explanation and background Brett so eloquently adds to each story is a trademark of her writing—she personalizes and relates, mending while illuminating.

Brett has been a reporter since 1986, a columnist since 1994. The last eight years her column appears three times a week in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*. She won the National Headliner Award in 1999 and 2009 for her columns on breast cancer and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Commentary in 2008 and 2009. Brett also hosts a weekly call in show on WCPN 90.3 FM, the Cleveland NPR affiliate. Her website is www.reginabrett.com.

God Never Blinks, 50 Lessons for Life's Little Detours is a seed planted, personal development and progress nurtured and little nudges, inspirations, that break the isolation we often feel in the Theatre of the Absurd. *God Never Blinks* is a **Top Shelf Selection**.

**God Never Blinks,
50 Lessons for Life's Little Detours**

By Regina Brett

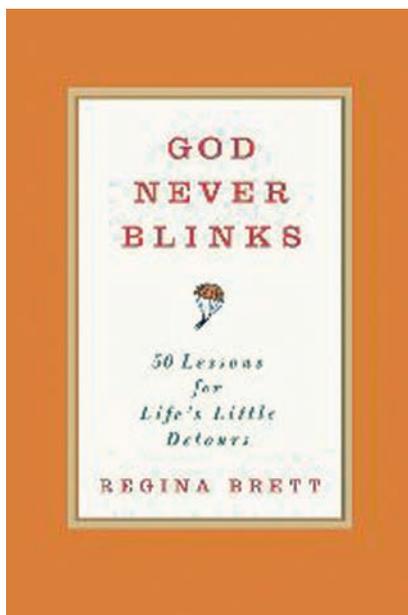
ISBN: 978-0-446-55652-1

You know that feeling when a book arrives unexpectedly and you see what lies between the covers? You just know that this book is something different, a cut above, and a little more relevant to the life in the big city that we all embrace each day. Regina Brett's *God Never Blinks* struck that kind of cord with me. Maybe it is the timing, but I think it is the quality of the writing and the relevance of the lessons and experience offered that make this book worth reading, and returning to throughout the joys and the trials of a life well lived.

I have always been a fan of Regina Brett; I don't always agree with her opinions, but she always treats people and subjects with respect. She is a rare writer, with a style all the more to emulate for its ethical balance. Drama-seeking, for-effect only blog entries and the "Don't let the truth get in the way of a good story" storyteller may have their place, but it is never in her column; they may have their popularity, but popularity is never a good judge of quality, character or that elusive class.

Like Brett, I always felt life is a little harder than it needs to be to insure that we live for love, not for self. In more than twenty-five years of Rheumatoid Arthritis and nearly ten with a broken back, many dreams have given way to realities of having to earn a paycheck. That feeling that there really should be something more often leaves me feeling the same way—God musta blinked. The best laid plans were simply laid to rest.

Through separate stories that can stand alone or add to the layers, Brett talks about the challenges she has faced—not neces-



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still al dente. The dish was then topped with fresh mashed potatoes and lightly broiled to a golden color. It was rustic, hearty and savory. I continued with the fish and chips. The batter coating was light and the

traditional standby.

Karen approached me with the next course, desserts, with The Harp's Irish coffee to appreciate them properly. Lightly whipped cream capped the subtly sweetened coffee and a

excellent. Very creamy with vanilla beans dotting the custard. The sugar top crust was a perfect depth and delicately crunchy. The finishing touch, the sundae, was a hefty dessert with Guinness ice cream and a

have a special menu for Sunday brunch, which includes a crab cake Benedict, Belgian waffles, corned beef hash skillet, and a few lunch sandwich and salad items. All of the menus can be found on www.

The Harp's Bread Pudding

Serves 12-15

- 1 qt. heavy cream
- 2 T. vanilla bean paste (or extract)
- 1 large French baguette
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1/4 c. flour
- 3 c. sugar
- 2 oz. butter, unsalted
- 6 large eggs
- 1 c. raisins
- 1 1/2 T. cinnamon
- 1 T. nutmeg

Preheat oven to 350°F. Use 9 x 11 sprayed pan.

Cut baguette into pieces. In large bowl, combine all ingredients EXCEPT butter. Mix well. Add bread to mixture and combine. Cut butter into pieces and add to bread mixture. Pour into pan and bake 45 min. to 1 hour.

The Harp's Bread Pudding Cream Sauce

- 4 oz. sugar
- 1/2 pt. heavy cream
- 4 oz. unsalted butter
- Bourbon, to taste

Heat heavy cream to simmer. Add sugar, stir to dissolve. Cut butter into pieces and whisk until blended. Remove from heat and add bourbon.

The Harp's recipes were taken from their own cookbooks. Though many bribes were offered, Karen would not give up her grandmother's raisin tea bread recipe, so visit The Harp and try it!



fish was perfectly done, flaky and tender. The fries were hot and well seasoned. A taste of the boxty and I again appreciated the richness of corned beef. St. Pat's Day can wear down anyone's affection of the classic corned beef. When it is presented in a new way, tucked into a potato and onion pancake with the kraut and real, tangy and melted Swiss cheese, it is a novel reintroduction to the

touch of 'Irish cheer'. She presented me with the house bread pudding with a cream bourbon sauce, a dish of the crème brûlée, and a chocolate brownie and Guinness ice cream sundae, which was reviewed in the *Wall Street Journal*.

The bread pudding with bourbon sauce was warm, spicy and comforting. The sauce added a touch of caramel cream. The crème brûlée was

very, very chocolaty brownie. The ice cream had all the loving components of the pint, but no bitter finish. It was nutty, sweet, with the slight Guinness yeast, and exceptionally creamy. Caramelized almonds and hot fudge and caramel sauces finished the dish.

Karen came over for a final check on my progress. I asked about any other menu offerings on the weekends. They

the-harp.com.

Though I had been to The Harp before, I now recognized the reasons for Gayot.com's third place ranking in The States for the top Irish restaurants. From the wonderful staff and the skilled chef, to the décor and well executed menu, Karen O'Malley serves up Irish that definitely makes both the native and immigrant proud.

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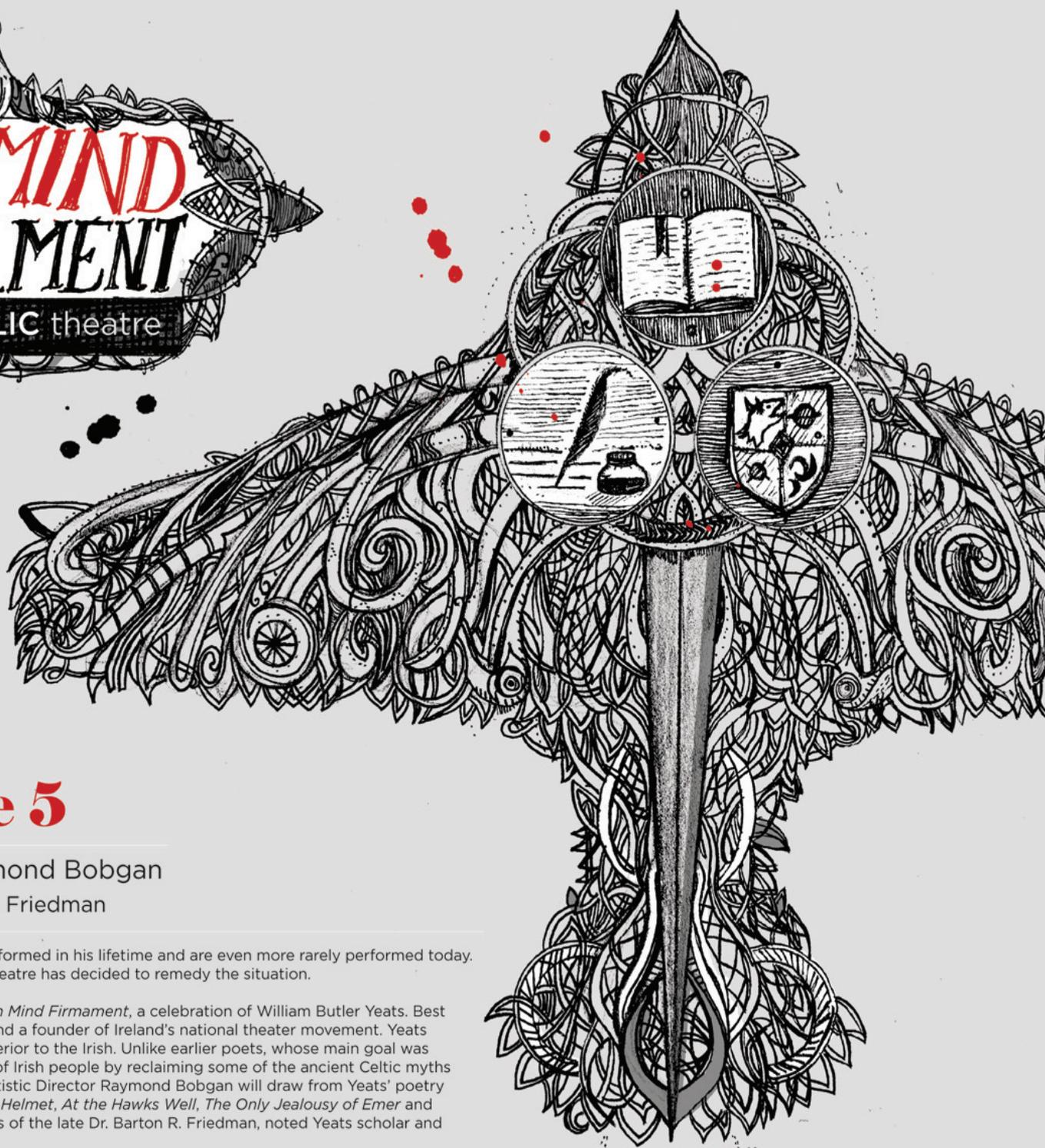
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