

# buffalo **IRISH** times

www.buffaloirishcenter.com

MARCH 2023

BUFFALO IRISH TIMES IS MADE POSSIBLE IN PART BY A GRANT FROM THE IRISH CONSULATE.

## UIAA GRAND MARSHAL 2023

**James T. Wannemacher**

*Buffalo, NY • Born: 08-29-1963*

**Parents:** Margaret & Barney Wannemacher

**Married:** Lynn (Schwab) Wannemacher

**3 Children:** Timothy (Tim), Patrick (Pat), and Charles (Charlie)

**Work:** New Era Cap, LLC - Historian/Archivist

A Western New York native, Jim grew up in Orchard Park, NY, went to school locally. Jim is married with three sons and lives in the Southtowns. He enjoys motorsports, restoring antique cars and working with his hands. Inspired by his mother, father and grandfather, he is always designing, making and or fixing something to keep busy and hone his creative skills.

Jim loves the outdoors and takes full advantage of each season. Whether it is cycling, kayaking, skiing or cruising in my Model A.

Jim has been lucky to have a few great jobs locally over the years. Starting at Tops Markets as a designer for 18 years, then making the move to New Era Cap. There he has worked as a designer, marketing manager, and currently is honored

to be the Historian and Archivist for the over 100 year old company. In this role Jim collects and manages New Era's historical Archive. He also spends a fair amount of time telling the stories of the brand's rich history in sport and culture since 1920.

Jim has been blessed to have grown up in Western New York, with a great family and friend group. All who have shown him the value of community, and sharing in all of the great cultural richness our region has to offer.

**GRAND MARSHALS  
PEG OVERDORF AND  
MIKE MULQUEEN  
WILL LEAD THE 28<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
OLD NEIGHBORHOOD  
ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE  
TO CELEBRATE THE IRISH HERITAGE  
OF THE OLD FIRST WARD & VALLEY**



Peg Overdorf

*By Hanna O'Neill*

The Valley Community Association (VCA) is excited to announce that Margaret "Peg" Overdorf and Michael Mulqueen will lead the 28th Annual Old Neighborhood St. Patrick's Day Parade through the historic Valley and Old First Ward neighborhoods as Grand Marshals on March 18, 2023.

Overdorf and Mulqueen met thirty years ago where Overdorf shared her dream of celebrating her Irish heritage and bringing together the community through a St. Patrick's Day parade. Mulqueen's experience in the Police Emerald Society made him the perfect connection as he was able to shepherd Overdorf through the steps to get the parade off the ground. From here, a lifelong friendship was formed that will be formally celebrated as they lead the marchers in this year's parade festivities.



**Grand Marshall Jim Wannemacher Family**  
Patrick, Tom, James, Lynn, Melanie Ford,  
Charlie Wannemacher





Overdorf served as the Executive Director of the VCA for the past 46 years, retiring in September 2022. She still has an active role in overseeing operations at Buffalo River Fest Park, Mutual Riverfront Park and the Tewksbury Lodge. During her time as Executive Director, she was instrumental in forging relationships, securing grants, and developing robust programs so serve infants through senior citizens.

Through her acts as a true community leader, Overdorf has become a familiar name and face throughout Buffalo and Western New York. She was born and raised in the Old First Ward and continues her efforts to build up this community. She has founded and organized many events in addition to the Old Neighborhood Parade, including Buffalo River Fest, Rally in the Valley, Wednesday Night Concert Series, community Easter egg hunts, Santa Stroll, and more. She places a strong emphasis on neighborhood beautification and strives to increase green spaces for neighbors to enjoy. Overdorf attributes her success to her resourcefulness, drive, and strong connections that she has made with politicians and community members including her co-Grand Marshal, Mike Mulqueen.



Mike Mulqueen

Mulqueen has served as an enthusiastic member of the Board of Directors at the VCA for more than 8 years. He can often be seen volunteering in the VCA food pantry, at Buffalo River Fest Park and at countless fundraisers and events. During his professional career, he served as a Buffalo Police Officer for more than 35 years. He joined the Department in March 1971 as a police cadet.



## July 28-30 Buffalo's Outer Harbor Lakeside Lawn



Following his graduation from the Academy in 1973, he served in various precincts in South Buffalo and the East Side of Buffalo for the next 18 years. After a short stint in the property clerk's office in police headquarters, Mulqueen returned to his patrolling duties in the new "South District". Mulqueen remembers being asked to reach out to the Directors of both the Valley Center and the Old First Ward Center due to another officer's illness who was assigned to that area. It was at that community meeting that he first met Overdorf and the Old Neighborhood Parade was born in 1994.

"It is such an honor to be able to commemorate the dedication and passion that Peg and Mike have for their community," said Board President, Carolyn Lopez. "These two have grown the parade into one of Buffalo's largest celebrations, which is a true testament of the love they have for their history and their neighbors. I am so excited for them to receive this well-deserved recognition."

The VCA officially announced the Grand Marshals at the pre-parade fundraiser party during a brief ceremony on February 25, 2023. The ceremony also honored nine individuals who passed away recently and were very involved in the Old Neighborhood. The memorial dedications for this year's parade recognize the following: Henry "Corky" Connors, the longtime resident of the Old First Ward (OFW), a gracious volunteer, the 2016 Grand Marshal for the Old Neighborhood parade, and the driver of the VCA float during parades; Richie Golden, a star athlete in baseball and basketball from the Old Neighborhood and a proud supporter of the community; George "Ortsy" Gould, a former Buffalo Firefighter, a beloved OFW sports coach, and the legendary Director

of "the Aud"; Charlie McMahon, who was born and raised in South Buffalo, a longtime Old Neighborhood Parade volunteer, and respected businessman in the community; Maryann-Rigby Hrynczak, a loyal and generous friend of the Valley who supported the Center and celebrated her Irish heritage faithfully; Al Rohloff, longtime owner of DiTondo's Restaurant and a devoted supporter of Valley families, programs, and River Fest Park events; John "Scanoots" Scanlon, who was born and raised in the OFW, a proud Grand Marshal in the Old Neighborhood parade in 2009, a driving force in the First Ward and South Buffalo Democratic Association, and longtime City of Buffalo employee; George Simonick, former VCA employee, lifelong Valley resident and supporter of community events; and Jerry Sullivan, the proud son of the late Ray and Peg Sullivan who loved his deep Irish roots and was a former Buffalo Firefighter and owner of Doc Sullivan's.

The 28th Annual Old Neighborhood St. Patrick's Day Parade will kick off at 12 PM on March 18, 2023. Immediately following the parade will be the traditional grand Irish "Hooley" featuring live music by "The Bob's" as well as plenty of food and drink. The "Hooley" runs from 1pm-5pm at the Valley Community Center. Guests can purchase food and drink tickets or purchase a \$50 wristband for an "open bar" of beer, wine, and seltzers. All proceeds from this event support the VCA programs and services for infants through senior citizens.

For more information about any of the Valley's St. Patrick's Day festivities, call Hanna at 716-823-4707 ext.117 or check out the Valley Community Center on Facebook or Instagram.



buffalo fenians  
BUFFALO'S GAELIC ATHLETIC CLUB





# A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR...

## *beannachtaí!*

It has been a very busy year for the Buffalo Irish Center. We have lost our leader, Mary Heneghan and the members of the Irish community have come together to honor and carry on her legacy. The Buffalo Irish Times is back and plans to have 5 issues/yr. It will be sent to all GAAA members and posted on the Buffalo Irish Center website. The Buffalo Irish Festival was a mighty success and the plans for 2023 started the day after the 2022 festival ended.

Here we are with the High Holy Days fast approaching. The Shamrock Run is usually the kick off for the St Patrick's Season.

The next big event is the Civic Luncheon at the Irish Center on Friday before Buffalo's two St Patrick's Day parades on Saturday and Sunday. This takes training and endurance to get through three days of celebration. Monday and Tuesday will be rest days for me.

Don't forget to stop at the Irish Center on St Patrick's Weekend; there will be entertainment on Friday, Saturday and especially Sunday after the parade!

*lá sona naomh Pádraig,*

Kevin J. O'Brien, Editor

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY MASS

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL • SUNDAY, JANUARY 19TH 10:30 AM



Bishop Mike Fisher at the beautiful St Joseph's Cathedral, With former Grand Marshals Michael D. O'Sullivan 2006, John Morrison 2007, Bishop Mike and Grand Marshal Jim Wannemacher 2023 and John P. Courtney 2007,

## Buffalo Irish: Words and Music WITH TYLER BAGWELL

# 03.15.23

6pm-8pm | At The Museum

**\$5 ADMISSION**  
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THE  
BUFFALO  
HISTORY  
MUSEUM

HAPPY  
HOUR  
HISTORY

## Daughters of Erin

Court 5

The Daughters of Erin is a philanthropic organization who promote Irish heritage and culture by contributing to local charities and outreach programs through financial donations and service hours.

Monthly meetings and a variety of socials are held throughout the year. New members are always welcome.

Contact: Kathleen McDonald Shanahan - President at 716 341 4931  
Kathleen Leone - Financial Secretary at 702 327 4535

## Buffalo Comhaltas Events

**22 April 2023**

Ceili to benefit the Irish Center 7-10  
at the Buffalo Irish Center  
245 Abbott Rd.  
Tickets \$10 at Eventbrite

**2 June 2023**

Fiddle Legend Frankie Gavin Concert at 7pm  
O'Connell and Company Theater- 4110 Bailey Ave, Buffalo 14226  
Tickets \$20 at Eventbrite  
Dancing, Language and Music. Join us!



Buffalo Comhaltas  
on Facebook



# STACIE SOMMER AWARDED 2023 TARA AWARD

*By Erica Switzer*

The Daughters of Erin awarded the Tara Award to Stacie Sommer this year. The Tara Award is a prestigious award given to a Daughter who showcases the organization's vision. Stacie perpetuates the Irish culture, works diligently with local charities, and devotes her time and talent to holding raffles, charity sales, and participating in local events that educate and showcase the Irish community. This year's Tara Award could not go to a more deserving individual. Stacie Sommer has been a Daughter of Erin for over 20 years. Originally hailing from Illinois and Missouri, she grew up with a foot in the city and one in the country. Her mother, Brenda, and stepfather, Bob, taught her the importance of being helpful to others and tolerant of all people. Her father, David, taught Stacie the value of thinking outside the box. Stacie spent many hours learning her way around a farm and a woodworking shop. She took these lessons and the skills they taught her and has utilized them throughout her life. She calls herself a "jack of all trades, master of none." Stacie started her life of service after she graduated high school in 1987 from Palmyra Senior High in Missouri, she joined the Navy in September of that year. After joining, Stacie completed Engineman "A" school and served three commands on the USS Emory S. Land, Assault Craft Unit 2 and SIMA Portsmouth before being medically discharged in 1998. While in the Navy, she met and married Skip Sommer

and they have been married for over 30 years. They have three adult children and three grandchildren. They enjoy an active outdoor lifestyle of camping in the summer and snowmobiling in the winter, and checking things off their bucket lists. After her military service she found a new way to be a help to her community serving as a Bus Driver for the Grand Island Central School District for almost 20 years and has no plans to stop. She serves not only her culture and community, but also her spirit by attending St. Stephen's Catholic Parish on Grand Island. Stacie and Skip have supported the Irish-American community in Buffalo for over two decades. Stacie has served on the local board for the Daughters of Erin for the past 11 years, experiencing every position from trusted President to Chairwoman of Committees. Stacie perpetuates her belief that every hand is worth something in her service to her community. Stacie not only supports the Daughters of Erin, but also the Knights of Equity, supporting her husband, current Sir Knight, and past Worthy Supreme Sir Knight. Together they support the Buffalo Irish Center volunteering countless hours to committees, and events, as well as remodeling and repairing the Irish Center's historic South Buffalo building. Her support does not end there; she also is a member of the Ladies of Kincora, serving as a trustee; a member of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, serving as Membership Secretary; a member of the Grand Island Snowmobile Club, were



she served as the Membership Secretary for the 17 years. Stacie and her husband Skip are very committed not only to the Daughters of Erin, Knights of Equity, and the Buffalo Irish Center but also the to Irish culture as a whole. Stacie will be honored as this year's Daughters of Erin Tara Award Recipient at the Annual Friendly Sons of St. Patrick Dinner on March 4, 2023.

## IRISHMAN OF THE YEAR



The Knights of Equity will honor John Patrick Oakley as their Irishman of the Year at the 174th Friendly Sons Dinner on Saturday, March 4, 2023, at the Buffalo Irish Center.

Born and raised in South Buffalo, John is one of six children of Edward and Elizabeth Oakley. He attended St. Ambrose Catholic Grammar School and is a 1980 graduate of Bishop Timon High School. After graduation, following in his father's footsteps, John began a career at the Buffalo News. He was the City Circulation Manager for the Buffalo News until 2005 at which time he left the News and was the founder and creator of a new monthly publication, "The Western New York Advertiser" which was distributed and mailed to over 60,000 homes in Western New York. In 2009, The Metro Group (the weekly Penny Saver) purchased "The Advertiser" and John began working with them as an Advertising Manager, which gave him the opportunity to increase the circulation of this publication to over 218,000 homes covering 6 geographic areas in Western New York. In 2016, John returned to The Buffalo News as Advertising Manager of the Weekly Publications. John remained with The Buffalo News until the paper was sold in 2020. John returned to real estate

as a full-time agent with Hunt Real Estate in 2021. John has been awarded Sales Agent of the Year for The West Seneca Hunt Office for 2022.

John and his wife, Nancy, have made South Buffalo their home where they raised their 2 children. Joshua Nathan a graduate of Nichols High School and Northeastern University is an architect in New York City. Dr. Emily Rose Oakley is a graduate of Nichols High School, George Washington University, and earned her PHD in Bio-Physics Engineering from Roswell Park and the University at Buffalo and is currently working in Research at Roswell Park. John and Nancy are also happy to welcome to their family, daughter-in-law, Michaela Terrell Oakley, and their soon to be son-in-law, Gregory Gawrys.

When not hustling real estate, you can find John behind the bar or in the kitchen at the Buffalo Irish Center or helping at Sieck, Mast & Leslie Funeral Home.

John is very humbled to be receiving this honor. He would like to dedicate this award to the memory of Mary Heneghan and Charlie McMahon who we lost unexpectedly last year. The Irish community is a better place because of Mary and Charlie.





# OLD FIRST WARD SHAMROCK RUN



## 45TH ANNUAL SHAMROCK RUN

The Old First Ward Community Association is hosting the 45th Shamrock Run on Saturday, March 11th.

Half-way through its 5th decade, Shamrock Run looks much different from its first race in 1979 where just over a hundred runners participated. This year, the number of registered runners is expected to climb close to 5,000 with a combination of competitive runners, walking enthusiasts, and jovial Western New Yorkers who often find the beer tent before the finish line. All proceeds from the race and festivities benefit the Old First Ward Community Center's programming.



The 8k race is continuing with its certified USA Track & Field course that showcases the First Ward neighborhood and Larkinville with the route leading runners along South Park Avenue, Michigan Street, Seneca Street, Hamburg Street, and Ohio Street, to name a few. National anthems for both Ireland and The United States will be performed by Kate Horan Schroeder prior to the race, followed by the firing of the starting gun by WGRZ's Chief Meteorologist Patrick Hammer at 11:00am.

Registration for the Shamrock Run is open right until the start of the race and will be followed with a post-race party at the Old First Ward Community Center.

aoh

DIVISION 1 at the 2023 Great Guinness  
Toast at the Buffalo Irish Center



Cead Mile Fáilte



Fenian Fish Fry Friday



245 Abbott Road

Dine in or Take Out

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[www.buffaloirishcenter.com](http://www.buffaloirishcenter.com)



# BUFFALO IRISH FESTIVAL RAFFLE WINNERS AND EARLY BIRD TICKET SALE

The Buffalo Irish Festival held its annual Raffle Party on February 25 at the Buffalo Irish Center. Attendees enjoyed live music by The Irish Tweeds, refreshments donated by Griffin's, a basket raffle, and a chance at one of ten cash prizes. The lucky winners included:

- \$10,000 prize winner: Jared Forcucci
- \$5,000 prize winner: Kellie Lalley
- \$1,000 prize winner: Lynn Lueck
- \$500 prize winner: Renee Luch
- \$100 prize winners: Siobhan McMahon, Rose Ballard, Maureen Colern, Margaret McGrath, Maggie McPhee, and Nora Horan

This year's festival will take place Friday, July 28 through Sunday, July 30 at the Lakeside Lawn on Buffalo's Outer Harbor. Festival hours are Friday 5 to 10 p.m., Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Parade of Flags will return to kick off the festivities on Friday and a traditional Irish mass will take place at 10 a.m. on Sunday morning. Admission for mass is free, and admission for children ages 16 and under is free all weekend.

The weekend will also include live Irish music from international, national and local bands, an expanded Tír na nÓg kids' tent with family-friendly activities, cultural activities including Irish literature, language, dance, and traditional music, demonstrations with the Buffalo Fenians Gaelic Athletic Association, and artisans selling Irish merchandise.

## DISCOUNTED WEEKEND PASSES AND VIP TICKETS

A special St. Patrick's Week Early Bird Ticket Sale will take place from March 13-20. During the sale, weekend passes will be available for \$25 (a savings of \$5). This includes admission for one person on all three days of the festival.



The Irish Tweeds entertained the crowd with live music.



Many local businesses and individuals donated items for the basket raffle



Griffin's, located at 81 Abbott Road in South Buffalo, donated a delicious charcuterie spread for the Buffalo Irish Festival Raffle Party.



Party-goers filled the Buffalo Irish Center to support the Buffalo Irish Festival.

VIP tickets are also part of the Early Bird Sale, available for \$45 (a savings of \$5). This year's enhanced VIP experience includes admission for one person on one day of the festival, two free drinks, a Buffalo Irish Festival koozie and 16 oz stainless steel pint mug, access to an all-new exclusive VIP bar, premium bathrooms, and a preferred viewing section at the Main Stage.

Tickets and more information will be available at [www.buffaloirishfestival.com](http://www.buffaloirishfestival.com). For the latest updates, follow the festival on Facebook at @buffaloirishfestival and Instagram and @festivalbuffaloirish.



The 2023 Buffalo Irish Festival will take place July 28-30 at Buffalo's Outer Harbor.

[www.buffaloirishfestival.com](http://www.buffaloirishfestival.com)



*Scoil Cultúir agus Teanga na hÉireann*  
(School of Irish Culture and Language)

Buffalo Irish Center: Weds. 6:30 pm

UB Newman Center: Tues. 1 pm

**Margaret McGrath: 716-674-8569 / 716-310-0840**

**Kevin Conroy: (585) 492-5622**



# RINCE NA TIARNA



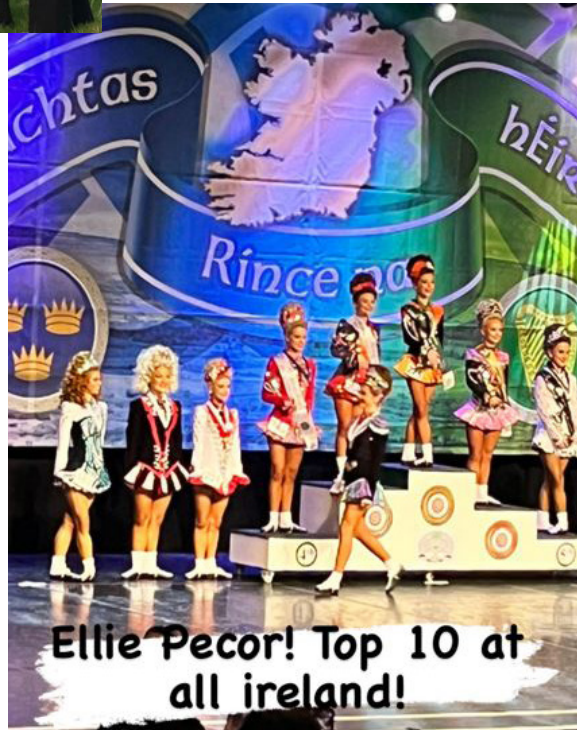
as performances at libraries, senior centers, schools and more. Of course, our favorite place to perform is the Buffalo Irish Center, where culture, food and fun are always to be found! Follow our instagram and face book for details on performances that are open to the public.

Our March introduction to Irish dance mini-session is just about full. Anyone interested in this session or future lessons can check out our website at [irishdancewny.com](http://irishdancewny.com). We look forward to an amazing "March Madness" and wish everyone a very Happy St. Patrick's Day!

The dancers have had a very busy 2023 already! After a very successful oireachtas season, nine dancers headed off to Killarney to dance at the All Ireland Dance Championships. Dancers and their families had a great time touring Ireland and competing. The Over 16 ceili placed 4th in a world class competition, with soloists coming home with solo medals and some great overall placements. Ellie Pecor placed 10th in her age group, Maddie Pennington 35th and Emerie Pecor 34th. Those dancers, plus 3 others will be headed to the World Championships at Easter.

Other RNT dancers participated in Ellen Walh's "Target Training." We were thrilled to have her come to Buffalo and share her tricks and techniques to improve Irish dance basics. We look forward to continuing to work with her and her team.

St Patrick's Day festivities started back in February with a great night at the Guinness Toast. Dancers will be participating in three parades as well as 40+ performances all over WNY. We are looking forward to special performance with the Rochester Amerks, an interactive performance at Explore & More as well



**75 YEARS AGO  
ST. PATRICK'S  
DAY PARADE,  
BUFFALO, NEW YORK  
THE BUFFALO NEWS  
17 MARCH 1948  
WEDNESDAY PAGE 16**

## O'DONNELL TO HEAD ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE ON SUNDAY

John J. O'Donnell will be grand marshal of the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, which will begin at 2 o'clock Sunday, under auspices of the United Irish American Association of Erie County. Mayor Dowd and Council President Peter J. Crotty are honorary grand marshals and Martin A. Gavin and John J. Griffin are deputy grand marshals.

The third-division of the parade, composed principally of veterans, will form as follows: Spanish-American War Veterans, Disabled War Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Jewish War Veterans, Upper Terrace at Main; American Legion and Auxiliaries of Erie County, Lower Terrace at Main; Amvets, World War II Veterans, SPARS, WACS, WAVES and Marine Corps Reserves (Women), north side of Exchange at Main; Catholic War Veterans from Erie and Niagara Counties, south side of Exchange at Main, Brig. Gen. Ronald C. Brock is division marshal and James T. Driscoll, director.

## UNITED IRISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION



**Follow our parade on**



**@bflostpatricks**

**[www.buffalostpatricksdaysparade.com](http://www.buffalostpatricksdaysparade.com)**

*Honoring Saint Patrick and the Irish contributions to Buffalo and building our country since 1940!*





## FORMER GRAND MARSHALS OF THE BUFFALO SAINT PARTICK'S DAY PARADE

*"I'm kind of a big guy in Buffalo"*



2023 James Wannermacher, 2022 Patrick McGuinness, 2018 Madonna Bugman Verrastro,  
2015 Denice L. Morrison, 2016 Jen Letina, 2019 Ryan Johnson and 2017 Jeff Wilson

# Proud of Being IRISH & CATHOLIC

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Located In The Buffalo Irish Center

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## THE YOUNG DUBLINERS

Live at the Buffalo Irish Center!

March 23, 2023  
7:00 pm

Tickets at  
Eventbrite.com



Buffalo Irish Center  
245 Abbott Rd, Buffalo, NY  
youngdubliners.com





# MEET BUFFALO DISTILLING COMPANY

In the rural hills of Wyoming County, where the pavement turns to dirt and the corn fields line the road, we set up shop in a small barn to distill craft spirits. This humble endeavor began by chance with the arrival of a homemade pot-still via family friend and southern moonshiner “Cowboy Bob”. It was here that Bob taught us the basics of distilling.

In 2012, we filed for our DSP and NYS Class D Farm permit. This newly created license required at least 75% New York State grown produce to be used for

production of Spirits (we use 100%). This law allows for the direct sale to consumers, liquor stores, bars and restaurants without having to sell through a distributor. Thus making it possible to compete with large producers and promote local agriculture.

By 2016 we decided to bring the Buffalo Distilling Company back to where its’ original name sake was founded in 1883 “The City Of Good Neighbors”, Buffalo.

As luck would have it we were able to work with a group of



developers revitalizing the historical Larkin district within the city. The Larkin Development group leased and eventually sold us the old Duchmann and Son’s carriage factory built in 1890. Located at 860 Seneca street

we were able to participate in the slow rebuilding of a once thriving area.

Staying true to Buffalo’s tradition of hard-working, roll-up your sleeves ingenuity, we designed,

engineered and installed our custom pot stills, mash tank and steam system. We take pride in continuously growing and building our distillery, now complete with a cocktail bar and tasting room.



**ScreamingOrphans.com**



**Appearing at the  
Buffalo Irish Center  
245 Abbott Rd, Buffalo NY  
Sunday March 12, 2023  
3:00 PM  
\$25 Presale**



We’ve expanded our brands to include “Bottled in Bond” One Foot Cock Bourbon and Empire Rye Whiskey, Mafia Sauce and Mafia Vodka, Original and Barreled OFC Krupnik, OFC Gin, Apple Brandy and our newly released OFC Irish Whiskey. Ask for us at your favorite liquor store.

More info on BDC at: [www.buffalodistillingcompany.com](http://www.buffalodistillingcompany.com)

[www.facebook.com/Buffalo-DistillingCo/](https://www.facebook.com/Buffalo-DistillingCo/)

[https://www.instagram.com/buffalo\\_distilling/](https://www.instagram.com/buffalo_distilling/)





[www.TaraGiftShope.com](http://www.TaraGiftShope.com) 250 Abbott Rd Buffalo, NY 14220

## THE DAUGHTERS OF ERIN IN ACTION SUPPORTING A LOCAL OUTREACH PROGRAM

*Kathleen McDonald  
Shanahan*

The South Buffalo Community Table, located on Southside Pkwy. in Buffalo, is one of the many charities the DOE supports financially. In January 2022 the DOE decided to provide service hours to this outreach program as they are also in need of physical volunteer assistance.

While in conversation with the program director to setup volunteer dates, it was learned that the South Buffalo Community Table's pantry needed canned fruit for the upcoming season. This message was communicated to our members who responded in kindness and generously donated more than 25 bags and boxes of canned fruit. Monday,

April 25th a group of DOE spent the morning organizing and writing the expiration dates on the canned fruit donations as well as cleaning their food preparation area, the cooking area, and the food storage areas. As we cleaned, we realized they were also in need of more cleaning supplies. Once again, we sent out a message to our membership and as usual the DOE responded by continuing to donate canned fruit while adding cleaning supplies to their donation bags.

On Monday, May 23rd another group of DOE rolled up their sleeves and went to work at the South Buffalo Community Table preparing, packing, and delivering meals to approximately 75 individuals who depend



Kathleen Shanahan, Carol Jones, Jo Ann Goraj, Claudia Smolinski and June Brennan

on this outreach program for their meals.

This volunteer experience provided us with a wonderful sense of community and confirmed the value of our annual financial donation to this important community service. The program director and her

core group of volunteers work tirelessly to keep this service open for those individuals who depend on the program for their meals. The importance of our support to them was evident by their sincere appreciation for our food donations and volunteer time.



Kathleen Shanahan, Eileen Slisz, Mary Klier, Meme Riedy and Bonnie O' Hara.

Due to the gratification we received from this volunteer service, several of our members will continue to volunteer at this Community Table on a regular basis.

I am always overwhelmed, but not surprised by the kindness and generosity of this group of women. We not only enjoy our time together at monthly meetings, but we also enjoy organizing, fundraising, and working together for the greater good of our faith, community, and heritage.





# SQUATTERS ON THE BEACH

## Buffalo Beachers

A Story of the Early Irish Immigrants

Joseph Xavier Martin



of a prosperous modern Buffalo.

Just before the inner break wall's construction, the first wave of Buffalo's Irish immigrants had arrived, digging the Erie Canal to its completion. They now populated the city's west side and near south side. But, it was the next wave that were to settle near the original inner break wall, the area where I now stood, so peacefully gazing upon the avian life along the shore.

During the 1840's, the famine Irish hit these shores like a beggared tsunami. They left a million of their own behind them who had fallen in the fields, victims of starvation and disease. Many had green stains around their mouths from eating grass, the last signs of a beggar's attempts to stay alive. These famine Irish flocked across the ocean in rickety coffin ships, which lay waste large numbers of them from starvation, scurvy and rickets. And yet, still they came on. They crowded atop the narrow canal boats, of

the newly dug Erie Canal, in great hordes, yearning to settle in this place on the eastern end of Lake Erie. It is here in Buffalo, where they hoped to make a new life for themselves, a place where they could work and practice their religion and raise their families without persecution. It wasn't streets of gold they were looking for, but a place to earn their daily bread and live their lives in peace.

Many arrived here with the shirts on their backs, their shoes and pants held together with bits of rope or twine. They were dirty and poor and hungry. They had no one and nothing to sustain them. The good offices of the kindly Sisters of Mercy and the sainted Bishop John Timon helped ameliorate their misery. They had not even the wherewithal to settle in the slums and tenements, for those abodes

cost money, which they did not have. In desperation many chose bits of barren land, plots of stones, sand and scrub grass in the lee of Buffalo's new earth and mortar inner seawall, as a place to lay their heads until something better could be arranged. They gathered bits of wood and stone and grass to create miserable shanties behind the earth and masonry seawall, to keep the elements from themselves.

*By Joseph Xavier Martin*

One day, I walked into the quiet precincts of the "Times Beach Nature Preserve," on Buffalo's outer harbor. It is a bucolic and restful place with two wooden blinds to observe the flocks of geese and birds that settle in the reeds or make their nests here. On the deck of one viewing area there is a series of metal plaques that spell out the history of the area for all newly arrived visitors. I was enjoying the verbiage until I came upon the few sentences that drew blood to my neck and face. It said that in 1917, the City of Buffalo had evicted a 'bunch of squatters' from the site for industrial development.

'A Bunch of Squatters?' I thought to myself. Was this anonymous functionary referring to 'The Bleachers, this grand origin of Buffalo's

Clan Na Gael? It must have been an inadvertent slur. The writer had probably been raised in a middle-class home with clean sheets, hot and cold running water, central heating, free education and three meals a day. All wonderful benefits of the grand Republic of America that we enjoy today.

But, it wasn't always that way. Buffalo Mayor Samuel Wilkeson had coordinated the erection of the earth and mortar inner break wall, just off the mouth of Buffalo Creek, to form the Buffalo harbor area. Later, a more solid outer break wall had solidified the harbor entrance. The ten-ton, limestone cap rock barriers, on the outer barrier, kept the November storms and winter ice from crushing the fragile wooden ships in the harbor area. It was the beginnings



## KNIGHTS OF EQUITY Court 5

"Buffalo's Oldest Irish Club"

Worthy Sir Knight ..... Kenneth "Skip" Sommer  
Worthy Vice Sir Knight..... .. Gary Holzerland  
Worthy Recording Secretary..... Lee Hartung

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## CONTINUED: SQUATTERS ON THE BEACH

One can only imagine lying there, freezing, struggling to survive, during the harsh months of Buffalo's winter. But they did 'squat' there and they survived.

The first waves of cholera during the 1830's and then in the 1850's mowed the immigrants down like newly grown summer wheat in a farmer's field. The Seiche of 1844 claimed many of the original settlers with a brief and deadly wall of water. And yet, they still they survived and persevered. They wanted to be part of the grand new Republic of America. My own great, great grandfather, who lived there on the beach, earned his citizenship in 1857, wanting to be part of the new republic. Many others earned their citizenship with the barrel of a gun, in the Irish American regiments, during the American Civil War. It was the sweat of the Irish that helped build the rising cities of Eastern America.

Slowly, these ragged peasants made their way in a new America. Through the auspices of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Elementary School, and other generous Catholic institutions, the immigrants learned to read and write and enter the work force. The miasma of politics also proved to be an avenue for these many new voters to climb out of their misery.

The Erie Canal, the railroads and Lake Erie freightage poured industry and commerce into the area during the 1800's. The new immigrants worked on the ships and new grain elevators as 'scoopers,' unloaders of grain from the many boats from the vast

interior of America. My own grandfather, Emmanuel, was one of them. The Union Steel Company, the railroads and many local industries enabled the newly arrived immigrants to build their stake in America.

Along Times Beach and the land south of it, the main huts had been replaced with grand shacks that the residents were proud of. By today's standards they would not be much, but then they were symbols of ownership and property, a concept foreign to most of them. Some even prospered enough to add a bit of paint to the trim of their house. The Irish, ever mindful of those trying to act above their station, sardonically referred to these huts with paint on them as 'Mansions.'

The Celtic American Rowing Club, the Lighthouse Rowing club, the communal bath house, Myer's Fish House, M. Burn's Junk Shop and Donovan's Tavern all served as central community centers for the settled in Irish. To be sure, there were rascals and crooks among them, including the crew of the fabled 'Annie.' But most of the Beachers were now becoming immersed in their new society, paying taxes and earning a living.

The fourth generation of these immigrants was being born during the period just before the First World War. The City of Buffalo, in its wisdom, decided that they needed this land along Times Beach for transportation and industrial improvements. They allowed railroad crews to send in gangs of workers to tear down the grand shacks of the 4th generation Irish settlers and evict them from their homes. It was a sad commentary on the fate of an American Irish community that had no real political influence. That would change in the decades to come.

The City of Buffalo, perhaps fearing suits of adverse possession, awarded each of the home owners up to a level of \$2,000, for displacing them from the land. The city records indicate that my great great grandmother Catherine Tevington, her son Thomas and his daughter and my grandmother, Mary (Tevington) Martin were awarded this amount for being displaced from their homes. They settled in on Louisiana St. and other avenues of the First Ward, alongside of Irish immigrants who had come before them.

The Beachers, as they were then called, didn't like it, but they moved into houses along Louisiana and Fulton Streets, to join the other members of Buffalo's Clan Na Gael, who already settled there. It is from this point on that the Beachers and their colorful history slipped into the mists of fading memories of the 'old ones' among us. They were mentioned not often, usually after a few beers at a tavern or family picnic. But it is here on Times Beach that many of Buffalo's Clan Na Gael got our start in America. Four lines of my own family, the Carneys, Martins, Greens and the Tevingtons hail from these humble beginnings.

It is with fierce pride that I remember and commemorate these early immigrant settlers who risked everything to come to these far shores of Lake Erie and found our families in America. Thus, it is with mild umbrage that I reacted to the term 'Bunch of Squatters' on the plaque at Times Beach Nature Preserve. A 'Bunch of Squatters' indeed!

Our newest book, "Buffalo Beachers," is now available for sale at Amazon.com. You can reach the site through our web site <http://www.jxmartin.com> We hope you enjoy the tale.



### IRISH CEILI DANCE

**SATURDAY**

**APRIL 22<sup>nd</sup>**

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**at the**

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(see Buffalo Comhaltas on Facebook)



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# SAINTS, SCHOLARS & SINNERS

"Celebrate this St Patrick's day immersing yourself in Irish-American culture and history! Inspired by the Irish saying and co-presented by Sobremesa Buffalo and No Illusions Tours, Saints, Scholars & Sinners opens with a fascinating, interactive talk on Irish Buffalo history! Then Sobremesa will serve a 5-course menu of small plates inspired by The Motherland.

The dishes served will focus on Ireland's traditional cuisine & culinary heritage- as well as play with traditional Irish ingredients and flavors in more unusual ways. (Note: This means no corned beef, which is a

dish immigrants invented \*in America\* as a cheap, accessible substitution for their much-loved traditional salt pork.) Menu details TBA- follow the developments via Sobremesa's Instagram or Facebook page. An additional beer pairing will be available for preorder by Certified Cicerone® Craig Altobello of Magic Beer Cellar. Link for purchase will be provided with menu release. Otherwise the dinner is BYOB.

We'll begin the evening with a No Illusions Tours presentation on the history of Buffalo's Irish immigrants & their families. We'll tell the

story of the Old First Ward and the expansion of the Irish into other neighborhoods, including South Buffalo. This includes tales of work and life on the waterfront, strikes that affected the entire nation's supply of grains, the early days of the Catholic Church in WNY, and the Fenian Brotherhood in Buffalo. Also will comment on the Buffalo Irish in the Civil War & the Pan Am Expo, and famous Buffalonians of Irish descent. This intimate pop-up only has 20 seats and ticket sales will close March 11th. Tickets here: [www.noillusionstoursbuffalo.com](http://www.noillusionstoursbuffalo.com).



## FRANKIE GAVIN AND CATHERINE McHUGH

Following a bout of illness, virtuoso Irish fiddler Frankie Gavin is now out and about again and playing as well as ever. In recent times he's played and recorded with the Roaring 20s Irish Orchestra and The Monte Carlo Philharmonic in Monaco. He is also putting together an exciting new Frankie Gavin and De Dannan line-up.

Frankie is now working

with Catherine McHugh, who is widely regarded as Ireland's foremost piano accompanist and is featured on Frankie's new album Port Eireann. As a duo, they are currently touring to promote this excellent 18-track recording of traditional music. Wherever they have appeared, they have been greeted with rapturous applause and standing

ovations. Catherine has also recently toured the USA with Cherish the Ladies.

The concert will be held in the intimate O'Connell & Company theater at 4110 Bailey Avenue, Amherst, NY 14226 - 2 June 2023

Tickets available at EVENTBRITE

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**24th ANNUAL**  
**St. Patrick - St. Joseph - Dyngus Day**  
**Tri-Ethnic Celebration**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023**

**THE BUFFALO IRISH CENTER**  
 245 Abbott Road • Buffalo, New York 14220

Featuring Musical Entertainment by



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"Emerald Isle"  
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Co-Sponsored by: Federation of Italian-American Societies, The Buffalo Irish Center, and the Polka Boosters WNY

Pre-Sale Tickets: \$10.00 • Tickets at Door: \$12.00 • No Will Calls • Time: 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

**FOR TICKETS CALL:** Dan & Carol McCue 716-834-7664  
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# MARY HENEGHAN, 76, MADE HER IRISH CULTURE HER STOCK, TRADE AND PASSION



Mary C. Heneghan  
March 1, 1946 - July 31, 2022

Doctors told Mary C. Heneghan on July 15 that the longtime leader of the Buffalo Irish Center had only a couple of days to live.

Mrs. Heneghan had other plans.

The center was asked months earlier to reimagine and operate this year's Buffalo Irish Festival, and she was determined to help see that effort through to the festivities last weekend at the Outer Harbor.

She did so during the two weeks beforehand from a hospital bed.

"She never started something she didn't finish," her daughter, Mary Kay said Wednesday morning when eulogizing her mother at St. Teresa's Catholic Church on Seneca Street.

Mrs. Heneghan, who owned Tara Gift Shoppe in South Buffalo, died at Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center on July 31, the day the festival closed. She was 76.

Her final hours symbolized a decade's long determination to assure that those with roots on the Emerald Isle honor their history.

"Those who knew her, knew that she had a secret power; she could convince anyone to volunteer and join the mission to preserve traditional Irish Culture," the Irish Center Board wrote on a nonprofit organization's Face book page. "A tireless worker on behalf the Irish-American community she was the singer, the poet, the writer, the story teller, the dreamer. Because she inspired others to do so."

Mrs. Heneghan became Irish Center board chair more than two decades ago and was its longest-tenured leader at the time of her death. She was president of the Gaelic American Athletic Association.

"She as the charismatic leader (of the center), its heart and soul, the mistress off discipline, "U.S. Rep Brian Higgins said when eulogizing her. "She's the boss."

"Nothing got by her. She paid attention to the retail and the detail," Higgins told the mourners who included Irish dancers in costume and members of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians and Daughters of Erin in sashes and full regalia.

Mrs. Heneghan helped forge or improve the Irish Center's Emerald Room, pub, library, Gaelic language and cultural classes and annual Irish Luncheon.

"Every event, committee, feis and festival, she was in charge, "Mary Kay Heneghan said. "She was a force to be reckoned with."

Mrs. Heneghan was born in Mercy Hospital and grew up in South Buffalo, Her father, John Breen who moved in 1922 from Kilmihil, County Clare, and mother, Katherine Scanlon, instilled their cultural heritage at an early age, both at home and on frequent trips to Ireland.

Love for her father's homeland and the family's roots in her own South Buffalo community intensified after she met Thomas Heneghan, who had moved to the neighborhood in 1955 from Kilmaine, County Mayo. They married at St. Teresa's in 1965 and moved to West Seneca a couple of years later. The couple moved to East Aurora in the mid-1970's. Thomas Heneghan died in 2019.

Mrs. Heneghan was a teacher at Winchester Elementary School when she decided to leave the profession in 1980 and open a gift shop across Abbott Road from the Irish Center. She named it after the Hill of Tara in County Meath – seat of the High Kings of Ireland in the early Christian era – and offered Irish crystal and other collectibles, knitwear, jewelry and more.

"I believed that it was going to fulfill my dream, and it did,"She told WNED-TV for a "Making Buffalo Home" segment two years ago.

The gift shop because a regional touchstone for all things Irish, from Celtic concert information to hiring a bagpiper. It also quickly became a daytime way station and call center for the Irish Center, which wasn't staffed every day.

As a result, Mrs. Heneghan was soon enlisted to take a more active role on the Irish Center Board.

Along the way, she and her husband also instilled the love for all things Irish in their four children, Mary Kay, Buffalo City Court Judge Shannon Heneghan, and sons Thomas P. and Barry. All survive their parents, as well as two grandchildren and many cousins, nieces and nephews.



Mary Heneghan, chair of the Buffalo Irish Center, with the statue of St. Patrick saved and restored by Joe Kelley.  
Sean Krist/Buffalo News file photo



A mural painted at the Irish Center after a burglary in 2018 caused more than \$12,000 in damage. Supporters donated enough money for the mural to offset the cleanup costs. From left are Mary Conway Reiser, Mary Meneghan, chair of the Irish Center; Mary Casey Lynch and her brother Brendan Casey, all part of the core families that helped build Irish heritage in Buffalo.  
By Sharon Cantillon/Buffalo News file photo

Mary Kay, Shannon and Thomas took Irish dance when they were young and Barry spent a semester studying in Ireland. Dancing didn't stick with Thomas, who in recent years has taken over the helm of the Tara Gift Shoppe, but it led to a career for Mary Kay, an international Irish dance judge and owner of Rince Na Tiarna School of Irish Dance, which has turned out champion dancers and Broadway and London west End dance performers.

"I could never have imagined it" she said, "but I got an opportunity to carry on this tradition with my mother by my side, She was my unwavering support."

Mrs. Heneghan will be entombed at Holy Cross Cemetery in Lackawanna. The family asks that donations be made in her memory to the Buffalo Irish Center, 245 Abbott Road, Buffalo, NY 14220 or online under "Preserve the Buffalo Irish Center" at [gofundme.com](https://gofundme.com)

Email: [sscanlon@buffnes.com](mailto:sscanlon@buffnes.com)

Twitter: @BNrefresh, @ScottBScanlon

By Scott Scanlon

NY Refresh Editor







# LAOH HIBERNIAN OF THE YEAR

*Submitted by Joyce Burke*

Greeting from the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians LAOH! We are a National Irish Catholic Fraternal organization practicing our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity for over 125 years. Our national organization currently spans 28 states with several divisions in each. We have nearby sister chapters in Niagara Falls, Lockport and Rochester, and our local chapter has been a part of the Buffalo community for almost 50 years. There is strength in numbers, and we have seen our local Buffalo membership count slowly decrease over the last decade. Many of our founding members have transitioned to inactive, reaching a time in their lives when they need to slow down, and fewer new members are joining to carry on for them. This year's LAOH Hibernian of the year award honors one of our younger and steadfast members Melissa Held, who has worked tirelessly to reverse this trend. In 2022, our membership increased by 10%, thanks largely to Melissa's recruiting.

Understanding the importance of what LAOH stands for, the good we do, and the need for comradery in an increasingly fractured society, Melissa took it upon herself to seek out new members and encourage them to join. Already we are reaping the benefits of her efforts. Our annual fall luncheon long-time leadership (God Bless Rita Nolan!) was successfully shadowed this year by several new members eager to contribute their time and expertise to our biggest event and fundraiser. The event was a wonderful experience for all who participated and we were able to once again raise the funds we need to continue our charitable work.

Melissa has also contributed significantly to LAOH on an individual level with her time and talents. She has been our club treasurer for many years, and can always be counted on to help the group's

efforts and support our members. LAOH is just one of the many ways she keeps Irish culture thriving in Buffalo. A lifelong Western NY resident, she grew up Irish dancing and now has passed on her love of Irish culture to her daughter, who is still finding time to enjoy dance in her busy high school years, with Mom supporting the troupe. Thank you, Melissa, for sharing yourself with us, and for all your contributions to our club and our community.

We look forward to the 2020's as a decade of continued rejuvenation and encourage you all to consider joining us as well. If you'd like to know more about the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians and explore becoming a member, please contact our president Kathleen McLuckie at [kmkmsanborn@aol.com](mailto:kmkmsanborn@aol.com) / 716-228-3363. Wishing you all a Happy and Blessed Saint Patrick's Day, and hope to see you all out enjoying the celebrations!



LAOH Hibernian of the Year Melissa Held

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**THURSDAY NIGHT 7:30**







# EDWARD P. "NED" O'BRIEN

## 1941 – 2023



Ned's last night at the Buffalo Irish Center

Ned attended the Buffalo Irish Festival fund raiser on Feb 25th with his son, Brian and brother, Kevin and his wife, Joyce. He enjoyed the Guinness and the Irish music in the Emerald Room along with all his friends he had made over the years at the Buffalo Irish Center. That evening after a full night of drink and music Ned went home to his wife, Debbie of 26 years, had his nightly Southern Comfort manhattan before going to bed. He passed away the next morning in bed at his home. I think he would say this was the luck of the Irish. Ned celebrated 82 years on Feb 12th.

Passed away February 26, 2023, Beloved husband of Deborah (Letki) and the late Sheila (Byrns). Dear father of Dr. Edward P. III "Ned" O'Brien, Hon. Erin (Joey) DeLabio, Shannon O'Brien, Brighid (Thomas) Rosputni, Dr. Brendan (Dr. Marlene) O'Brien, Brian O'Brien, Sheila (Patrick) McManus, Siobhan (Sean-Paul) Maguire and the late Sean O'Brien and late Tara (James) Hill-Hayes. Loving grandfather of many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Brother of Gregory (Patricia) O'Brien, Kevin (Joyce) O'Brien, Molly (late David) Colin and the late Debbie (late James) Dole.

In lieu of flowers donations may be sent to the Buffalo Irish Center and/or the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Restoration Fund. Mr. O'Brien was very active at the Buffalo Irish Center, St. Bonaventure Church and a member of American Legion Post 735.



**IRISH AMERICAN  
ARTS AND CULTURE AWARDS**

28 April 2023  
Statler, Buffalo, NY  
5:30-9pm



#BuffaloIrishArts

**NOMINATE  
NOW**

## Irish Echo Arts Awards

Irish arts fans across America are being urged to get their nominations in now for the Irish Echo Arts Awards which will take place in The Statler, Buffalo, NY on 28 April.

Among Honorary Chairs throwing their weight behind the national event are dancer Darrah Carr, Celtic punk playwright Larry Kirwan, screen star Geraldine Hughes and Oscar-nominated actor-poet Michael O'Keefe.

A host of Buffalo Irish community activists are also serving as Honorary Chairs, led by Senator Tim Kennedy and Banshee Pub proprietor Conor Hawkins.

Awards will be presented across a range of artistic and cultural fields including dance, theatre, literature, stage & screen and music. There will also be special recognition for the Irish festivals which are the highlights of the Irish calendar across the U.S. and for the pioneering Irish centers which are the hub of all things cultural.

**To see more detail or to nominate, go to:**  
<https://www.irishecho.com/events/2022-arts-culture-awards>



## WELCOME PATRICK HAMMER

The Shamrock Run is excited to welcome WGRZ's Chief Meteorologist Patrick Hammer to fire this year's starting gun.

Despite growing up in San Francisco and attending The University of Southern California in Los Angeles, Patrick has become an iconic Western New Yorker, a consummate Bills fan, and a staple for game day weather reports and our morning commutes.

He is a member of the American Meteorological Society and has their Television Seal Of Approval. Patrick's career began in Chico, CA working for the NBC affiliate. From there Patrick was a meteorologist for KRQE in Albuquerque, NM, KIRO-TV in Seattle, WA, KTVU in San Francisco, CA and KSTP-TV and KARE 11 in Minneapolis, MN.

Patrick also served as a meteorologist for the US Ski Team in the years leading up to the 2010 Winter Games in Vancouver, BC and as a meteorologist for the production of the Cohen Brothers movie A Serious Man.

We cannot wait to welcome Patrick Hammer and all of our Shamrock Run participants on March 11th!



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# TAKING EXILE ON THE ROAD

## MARKETING THE UNBELIEVABLE STORY OF EXILE MCBRIDE!

When it comes to speaking about their heritage, Americans of Irish decent are not always accurate, but have been known to boast, exaggerate and tell myths. This seems especially true around St. Patrick's Day. Some make claims that are simply full of Blarney, such as perhaps seeing leprechauns, pots of gold or somehow being related to St. Patrick. So, what happens when you have a whopper of an Irish story to tell that is totally true, but no one believes you? That is exactly what happened to me.

During the recent Pandemic, I decided to do my DNA, never expecting to find much of anything. However, to my amazement, I discovered a great uncle named John Joseph "Exile" McBride, who I never knew existed. He was an internationally known human rights crusader, with over 1400 newspaper articles on him, found throughout America, Canada, England and Ireland. His credentials were really unbelievable and his life had all the makings of an action-packed adventure movie. Some of his life highlights included:

- Escaping Ireland at only 17 and coming to America, after a failed rebellion against the tyrannical British Government!
- Being captured in the battle of Ridgway, when the Irish actually declared war on Canada!
- Being kidnapped by undercover Canadian detectives, while leaving Joe Schmidt's Saloon in Buffalo!
- Traveling throughout America for over 40 years, gaining support for his oppressed and starving homeland!
- Supported by five different American presidents, in his struggle to achieve Irish independence!
- Met three times with English Prime Minister Gladstone, pleading with him to remove the British from Ireland!
- His missing grave was recently discovered in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Brockport, after searching many cemeteries
- and a new memorial has been installed!

It's Not More Blarney!

I had truly discovered an Ancestral Pot of Gold with "Uncle Exile" around St. Patrick's Day in 2021! However, my family and friends immediately considered it to be nothing but more Blarney and weren't "buying it". My credibility really hit rock bottom when I told others that Exile's grave was in Brockport, N. Y. However, it turned out to be missing



and nobody there had ever heard of him!

I was determined to accurately substantiate all my claims with solid evidence on Exile's amazing life. As Exile's great nephew, I felt very obligated to ensure that his noble cause of fighting for human rights would never be lost in history again. I felt committed in having Exile receive the proper recognition and closure that he deserved. Furthermore, it didn't seem right that Exile, who had dedicated his entire life promoting human dignity, was not afforded the dignity of having his own grave or gravestone.

I also believed that my findings carried important historical significance. According to The Buffalo Times Newspaper (2/12/1899):

"No Irishman, either in America or Ireland, during the last 30 years, has done more for the cause of Irish independence than Exile McBride."

### Presenting The Facts

I believed that the best way to present these seemingly unbelievable facts was to create a well documented PowerPoint Presentation on Exile's amazing life. I have now compiled a one hour presentation with over 200 slides, but continue to discover and add more valuable material. After finishing a presentation; I answer any questions and offer handouts with additional information.

I've now spent almost one year collecting and organizing data from boxes of accumulated Exile newspaper articles. I also have included his baptismal record from Ireland, passport record, death certificate, obituary, burial records, estate documents, immediate family records, maps, records from old Buffalo directories, etc.

### On The Road

So far in Buffalo, I've given 4 presentations and a talk

on the Battle of Ridgeway Anniversary. I had an Exile McBride exhibit for 3 days at the Buffalo Irish Festival and handed out much literature. Peter Gallivan with Buffalo TV Channel 2 also did a story on my Exile discovery.

I presently have two presentations planned at the Brockport Seymour Library. This is the same town where Exile is buried and where his new memorial was installed. During the month of March, the library has allowed me to set up another Exile Exhibit, where many of his important documents and photos will be displayed on numerous easels.

Additional presentations are being planned in Rochester, including one at the main downtown library and eventually in Syracuse and Utica. We have also made contact with the Drogheda, Ireland library. They are interested in finding more material on Exile from his earlier years in Ireland and also hope to open up a section in the library on him, with the material that I send them. Finally, I have been writing a book on Exile's life, which I hope to have completed by the end of the year.

Hopefully, the unbelievable story of Exile McBride - that had been lost in history for over 110 years - is now well researched and documented. With a little Luck of The Irish, may this become a well known inspirational story and an important contribution to our proud Irish heritage, for future generations!

**Mike McBride**

**Exile's great nephew**

**Rocksham1@Yahoo.com**



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# ST. PATRICK JOSEPH DYNGUS DAY PARTY SET FOR

**SUNDAY, MARCH 26<sup>TH</sup> 2023**

Mark your calendar, the Buffalo Irish Center will again host the 24th Annual St. Patrick Joseph Dyngus Day Tri-Ethnic Celebration; our gala event is set for Sunday, March 26th, 2023.

Only in America...and only in Buffalo can you participate in the ethnic celebratory triumvirate that turns the crusty month of March into the sweet promise of spring. Join us, at the Buffalo Irish Center, where you can move from one ethnic celebration to another simply by walking from one room to the next...

You can bid "Arrivederci Roma" and leave the rich Italian and Italian-American sounds of the Formula Band to rock with the Celtic beat of Emerald Isle. You can Polka to the awesome Polka band brought back from last year "Seven" and then change countries again (without aid of passport or Euros.) Food, drink, music, dance and most importantly the company of friends promise to make this year's celebration an event to remember.

The original intent of this spectacular tri-ethnic event was to celebrate and honor the dominant ethnic groups of our city - Irish, Polish & Italian.

Three rooms, three bands and three different ways to have fun.

This is the party where we celebrate the three high holy days of March, St. Patrick's Day, St. Joseph's Day and Dyngus Day.

If you've never been to this event before you will be in for an afternoon and evening's fun filled excitement. Singers, dancers, pipers and great entertainment.

Genuine ethnic food and drink will be made available throughout the day-Corned beef, Italian and Polish sausage, Pierogis, Pasta and Guinness-all at reasonable prices.

This will be the 24th year that this party will be held, and it continues to grow bigger and better each year.

So come join us and learn to do a Polka or a Tarantella or a Jig and have the time of your life.

All COVID protocols will be observed for this event.

**This event is sponsored by:**

- **The Buffalo Irish Center**
- **The Polka Boosters of WNY**
- **The Federation of Italian American Societies of WNY**

**Time:** Sunday, March 26, 2023. 3:00PM. till 7:00 PM.

**Location:** The Buffalo Irish Center  
245 Abbott Rd. Rd.  
Buffalo, NY 14220

**Ticket prices:** \$10.00 in advance \$12.00 at the door.  
Sorry no will calls.

**For ticket information call:**

Dan & Carol McCue 834-7664  
Joyce Czarnecki 741-3001  
Teresa Marcello 668-9451  
The Tara Gift Shoppe 825-6700



Organized 1894

## Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians

**Buffalo Irish Center  
245 Abbott Road, Buffalo**

**Contact  
Kathleen McLuckie  
716 228-3363  
For Information**