

Erin's Echo

Maryland State Board
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.



President's Message

THE GREATEST GIFT OF EASTER IS HOPE

Spring has arrived. Flowers have begun to pop in colors of forsythia yellow, blushing hyacinth and crimson tulip. Rejoice and be glad.

Just as the soil below our feet brings new life to a dormant plant, so do our fellow LAOH divisions, as they prepare for their annual fundraisers and outreach plans. Baby showers, Bake Sales, and Raffles "Oh My," allow our divisions to support non-profits and not only enrich our LAOH, but afford new opportunities for our members.

Congratulations to our Carroll County Division ladies who raised over \$1,400 at their March Bake Sale. They certainly have the recipe for success when it comes to putting on a bake sale.

Our LAOH Sisters on the Eastern Shore, in Worcester County, delivered beautiful Easter Baskets to the Memory Care Unit at Woodlands Assisted Living. I am sure there was lots of love put into those baskets. These are just a few examples of what is happening in our divisions.

Financially the COVID years have placed a strain on our organization, but somehow despite all, divisions are able to continue their outreach work to the homebound and raise funds even donating over \$900.00 to the Ukrainian Project. Well done, sisters.

Maryland LAOH is made of strong, compassionate women who are making a difference in the lives they touch. Continue that path of discovering how you can make a difference in the world.

-Kathy Norris-Maryland LAOH State President



Volume 57 No. 2 May, June, July 2022

Calendar

June

June 4: State Board Meeting, 10 AM

June 12: Harford County, Division 1, Raffle Drawing "Spirits of Ireland", Flier and Retirement Celebration for Rev. Joseph Simonds, Enotria Restaurant & Grill, Flier

July

July 12-17: LAOH-AOH National Convention, Pittsburgh, PA, Wyndham Grand Hotel

Cultural Corner

Irish Book Club Selections

DEATH AT ASHFORD CASTLE by Martha Geaney
THE BEST CATHOLICS IN THE WORLD by Derek Scally
STILL LISTENING by Anne Griffin (April discussion)
A KEEPER by Graham Norton (May discussion)

Next meeting April 26, 1 PM, Johnny's, 4800 Roland Ave,
½ Burger Day- Contact Susan Legg if you plan to attend,
susan.legg@icloud.com

-Joanna Cox



-LAOH Website

Go to www.marylandlaoh.org for events, flyers and forms. There are links to items of interest in the local Irish Community as well as information on the national scene. You can also find us on <http://www.facebook.com/marylandlaoh>



Gatherings

Easter Week in Ireland: Past & Present Traditions, Beliefs, and Superstitions

Palm Sunday & Holy Thursday

- Attend Mass.

Good Friday

- Attend Mass.
- Devout Catholics don't eat until midday. A piece of bread and three sips of water (in honor of the Holy Trinity) are taken.
- A baby born on Good Friday and baptized on Easter Sunday has the gift of healing.
- Whoever dies on Good Friday goes straight to heaven.
- Since medieval times, bread baked on Good Friday was marked with a cross. The custom survives in today's Hot Cross Buns.

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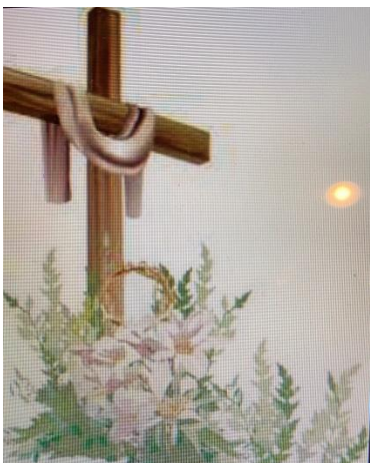
Easter Saturday

- Attend the Easter Vigil.
- Because many Catholics ate fish in lieu of red meat during Lent, a tradition developed of having a mock funeral for a herring called, "Whipping the Herring." This procession involved hanging a dead fish from a pike and carrying it through the streets. Everyone was invited to whip it as it made its journey to the nearest river where it was discarded. On the way back from the river, the procession would carry a dead spring lamb, dressed in ribbons and flowers.

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Easter Sunday

- Attend Mass.
- Have a feast. Traditionally, leek soup and roast lamb are served.
- Celebrate with a Cake Dance. The focus of this tradition is a cake, usually a Barmbrack. After the cake is placed on a piece of linen, in a prominent position, the music and dancing begins. The best dancer(s) wins the cake. Perhaps the term "take the cake" originated here



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-Sharon Sullivan-

Baltimore City, Division 1

Happy Spring from the ladies of the Venerable Catherine McAuley Division of Baltimore City!

We meet the 4th Thursday of each month, 7pm, at Squire's restaurant and we invite you to join us in helping women in need in the City of Baltimore and celebrating our Irish history and culture.

-Dorothy Reed, Reporter

Baltimore County, Division 4

Greetings Sisters

Just as we thought things were finally turning around, we have heard that there is yet another variant of the infamous virus. Unfortunately, this one seems to be more contagious than the last variant. It's endless.

Our planning for our baby shower is on hold. We are planning to hold a baby shower for the Center for Pregnancy Concerns but are waiting to see what happens with the new variant of the virus.

We plan to have a commemorative to Saint Joseph in cooperation with St. John the Evangelist in Hydes, Maryland on June 12th. Since St. Joseph was the earthly father of Jesus it is planned for close to Father's Day. The cost is \$10.00 per person. More information will be coming out shortly about this event.

Chances for our 2022 gift card fund raiser are currently available. They are \$2 a piece or 3 for \$5. You can reach Pat by email (vangoghatphoenix@aol.com) or 14100 Blenheim Rd, N. Phoenix, MD 21131.

Please remember our sisters in need of prayers. Please consider on getting the next booster of the vaccine. Be safe and may God bless you. Please remember to get a flu shot. May God bless us all.

-Mary Helene Miller, Reporter-

Harford County, Division 2

In February Mary Asaki, Maria Kirchner, Barbara Pitt, and Jean Martin were delighted to see Thelma Graziano, our sister, receive her Deputy Parade Marshall sash and blessings at the Installation Mass. Afterwards, friends and family went to Mick O'Shea's to continue the celebration.

On Parade Day, Thelma rode in an antique truck provided by her family equipped with a Deputy Marshall banner for the

truck. The Graziano family will donate the banner for future Deputy Parade Marshall vehicles.

The Graziano family and several of our division members attended the St. John's 10th Ward After Parade Party and fundraiser for the St. Elizabeth School where Thelma's grandson and Maria Graziano Kirchner's son is a student. Our division always tries to support the school's fundraising events. A list of Irish March events was compiled and distributed so members could coordinate attendance to the events.

Our division sold \$300 in blue and yellow ribbons to show support for Ukraine. Sister Irene of Our Lady of Hope, Dundalk coordinated the ribbon fundraiser.



The next event for us will be the May Crowning. After plans are finalized, the state and divisions will be informed of the details. Keep the Ukrainian people and those countries accepting refugees from Ukraine in your prayers.

Peace,

-Gleela Kolakowski-Reporter

Cecil County, Division 1

In January we distributed our \$2000 Boscov funds as follows: \$350 each:

1. Good Shepherd-St. Vincent DePaul-Perryville
 2. Ray of Hope-Port Deposit
 3. Immaculate Conception Outreach-Elkton
 4. Amazing Grace-Newark
- \$200 for 5-7
5. S.O.A.R. (Retired Sisters) Washington DC
 6. Cecil Pregnancy Center- Elkton
 7. Heritage Pregnancy and Family Health Center, Inc.-Elkton

Vice President Anne Fazio reported that our 2nd Annual Good Shepherd "Fill the Trunk" food drive January raised \$335 and 9 car trunks of food were donated, which fully stocked the St. Vincent de Paul Pantry.

Our Book Club met to discuss *The Cottingly Secret* and *When We Were Young and Brave*, by Hazel Gaynor, *Angels in my Hair*,



2022 Cecil Division Officers

by Lorna Byrne, and is currently reading *Death on Clare Island*, Martha Geaney.

Mary Anne Loftus-Smith and I attended the spiritual retreat in Annapolis in December. It was an enlightening experience. We were delighted by the Annapolis Junior's Irish dancing.

Our February meeting was exciting as we welcomed new member, Patty Carpenter and initiated all our officers and installed our first new member for 2022! Recent activities included: the St. Brigid Mass at Good Shepherd and dinner, our Angel Raffle Basket fundraiser which brought in about \$350, with the winning ticket being sold by our newest division member, Patty Carpenter and the "Diaper Drive" during the forty days of Lent in both Cecil County parishes to benefit the local pregnancy centers.

I thoroughly enjoyed the Saint Patrick's Day parade fundraiser and marching with the LAOH in the parade.

In Our Motto,

-Christine Hild, President-

Carroll County, Division 1

What a wonderful time it has been so far this year. Restrictions have eased and we were able to celebrate St Patrick's Day with our Hibernian Family. Members attended the Parade Fundraisers, Installation Mass and the Baltimore St. Patrick's Day Parade. The weather was cold but the sun shone brightly. You could see the happiness and excitement on everyone's face after missing two years of the Parade.

We have added one new member-Megan McGaugheny and a returning member-Pat Gauthie to our Division since the start of the New Year. We are very happy to have them as part of our Division.

We had our Annual St. Patrick's Day Bake Sale at St. Bartholomew's the weekend of the Parade. Many of our ladies baked their hearts out. We sold out and are so very grateful to the parishioners of St. Bartholomew's for their generosity to our Division.

We are sad to see Fr. Roach retiring at the end of June. He has been our Chaplain since day one. We will miss him and wish him well as he will continue to teach at the Mount. We are looking forward to meeting our new Pastor, Fr Collin Poston. When our Carole, our Division President, spoke to him, she asked if he was Irish, he said he was but not as Irish as Fr. Roach.

We wish all our Sister Hibernians a Blessed Easter!

-Mary Beth Connolly, Secretary

Howard County, Division 1

It's with gratitude that our Division has begun to inch our way towards a semblance of post-pandemic "normalcy." We are still challenged to find a day and time that works with personal schedules, but we are hopeful it will happen as life opens up in 2022!

In February, we delighted in the music and camaraderie at the MD LAOH Parade Fundraiser at Mick O'Sheas's and enjoyed the *Embracing Our Heritage* program on *Irish Music and the Feis Musician*. March was busy as we resumed in-person meetings at St. John the Evangelist on the 3rd Sunday of the month, 1 pm. We were represented at the St. Patrick's Parade and broadened our perspectives with the National's PEC webinar on Race and the *Baltimore Irish and Building of America's First Railroad*.

We assisted the Knights of Columbus at their St. Patrick's Dinner by collecting tickets, helping serve dinner, contributing and serving dessert. In addition, the four themed baskets we donated for auction raised \$640 for the Tanzanian Children's Project. In April, we are donating \$200 to the World Central Kitchen to help feed the hungry in war-torn Ukraine and are planning a baby shower to benefit the Columbia Pregnancy Center later in the spring.

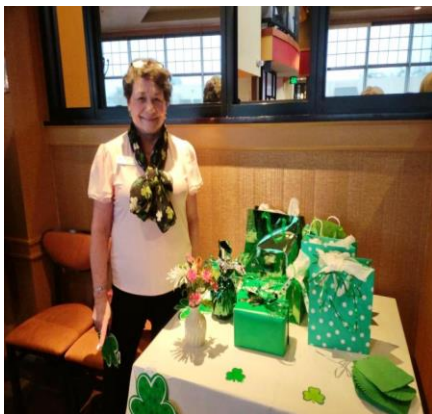
We continue to make sashes as a fundraiser and thank members from Carroll, Worcester and Cecil Counties for their recent orders.

May Christ's glory and the promise of Easter bring peace and happiness to you and all you hold dear.

-Sharon Strobel, President-

Harford County, Division 1

On a blustery Sunday in March ten of our members happily participated in the Baltimore St. Patrick's Day Parade. Although the weather was cold, our hearts were warm and proud as we walked shoulder to shoulder with our LAOH sisters once again.



Our annual St. Patrick's Day Luncheon at the Bluestone was a grand time. Many thanks to Chris Brown for coordinating the event. She was the "hostess with the mostess" as she greeted everyone and presented some

great door prizes. We were also surprised with Irish goodie bags for everyone which were made and donated by Theresa and Patricia Beck.

This year our spring fundraiser is a basket of Irish Cheer and includes a **\$100 Amazon gift card!** Something for everyone! Please consider taking chances as proceeds will go to our local charities. A flyer is attached.

Happy Spring!

"Love is a fruit in season at all times and within reach of every hand". Mother Teresa

- Kathy Lay, President-

Baltimore County, Division 1

Happy Easter! May the risen Lord be with us in our thoughts and prayers and grant us peace in our cities, our country and throughout the world.

We are happy to welcome two new members Bonnie Lomonaco and Nancy Hollenback to our division.

We loved participating in the St Patrick's Day Parade and seeing everyone sharing the Irish spirit after two long years. We collected donations for Ukraine and pray the war will end soon.

"Like the warmth of the sun, and the light of the day, may the luck of the Irish shine bright on your way."

-Maureen Shettle, President-

Baltimore County, Division 14

A season brings some new faces to Division 14! From our January election, we welcome Eileen Edwards as our President, Heather Breidigam as the Vice-President, Cathy Dolan as our Mistress at Arms, and Margaret Sherwood as our Sentinel!

Some familiar faces have also decided to stick around. Margie Hayes has stayed on as Secretary, Denny Mullins as Financial Secretary, Lauren Breidigam as Irish Historian, Patrice Bell as Missions & Charity, and Rita Hundley as Catholic Action. The new additions didn't stop in January! In February, we welcomed our newest member, Lisa Hackett. It is so great to have another sister in the Division.

This year we will be hosting our Baby Shower during our May meeting. As is tradition, we will be collecting clothing, blankets, and monetary donations for the NICU at Mercy Hospital. We have found in previous years that clothing with buttons/snaps in the front seems to work best for the babies. Please reach out to anyone in the Division if you have any questions!

-Ashley Knapik, President-

Worcester County, Division 1

After having to cancel our January meeting, due to Covid, we were lucky to have Kathy Norris join us for our February meeting. It was nice to hear how the state and division need to depend on each other.

We were all prepared for the St. Patrick's Day Parade only to have it cancelled due to some very nasty weather. In March we finished our cereal drive for the Seton Center in Princess Anne. Four of our members took the 70 boxes of cereal along with a check for \$300.00.



A group of our ladies got together and made up Easter baskets for the residents of the Memory Center in Ocean Pines. They were thrilled to receive the baskets. At our March meeting it was decided that we would go back to hosting a Card Party as our main fundraiser next year on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at St. Andrew's Center, Ocean City.

On April 5, we had a Mass in honor of St. Brigid at St. Luke's followed by breakfast. At our May meeting we will install a new member; that will make 4 new members this year.

In April and May, we will be working with the Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary from Joseph House in Salisbury, MD. They will be telling us the extent of their work at the facility and letting us know what their greatest needs are. In May we will have a "Joseph House Shower".

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer!!

-Mary Rosenhagen, President-

Anne Arundel County, Division 1

We are so proud to congratulate Patti Slaughter who has been nominated by the State for the St. Brigid of Ireland Humanitarian Award for 2022.

She is a past Catholic Action Officer in Anne Arundel County, Division #1 Anne Arundel. She demonstrates a powerful understanding and respect for all human beings. She has made a life-changing impact on families, who along with countless others have commended her work publicly.

Building community through compassion is the heart of what the St. Brigid Humanitarian Award represents. In 2020, the Annapolis Chamber of Commerce awarded Patti with the "Hometown Hero Award" because of her creative innovation

with The Bernie House for breaking the cycle of domestic violence.

In court volunteering for the abused persons program, she witnessed a victim being triggered into a state of panic while waiting for the abuser's arraignment (God's voice calling to her to do something). Four years later, The Bernie House opened its doors.

Patti's program assists families fleeing domestic violence by offering long-term transitional housing. Additionally it provides support for the whole person including legal, educational and medical support. Nine families have benefitted from this two-year program, including 19 children. The Bernie House families are prepared for a life of independence reversing the financial, emotional, and physical abuse caused by domestic violence.

Up against the Covid-19 pandemic, Patti did not allow a pause in service. Patti was able to quickly raise the funds necessary to match a grant and open a second house locally. Patti had a vision to provide support to others; this is the foundation of The Bernie House.



-Jane Bannon, President-



Let Us Pray

Let us remember in prayer our Sisters who are sick and suffering, especially those in nursing homes and hospitals, as well as our deceased sisters, that they may rest in God's eternal embrace.