

# Erin's Echo

Maryland State Board  
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.

## President's Message

Writing this years ago for the Gathering Article, I thought since this was the theme of our State Fundraiser, you would forgive me for revisiting.

Samhain

Remembering Halloween as a child brings happy memories to the surface. Like many of my generation I lived on a street of what seemed endless houses and children. Hurrying out the door with pillowcase in hand, dressed as a hobo, witch or, if lucky, a costume from McCrory's "Be careful" mom yells as we race into the cool autumn's night air. Excitement and mischief written on our faces, will it be a night of tricks or treats?

Dating back over 2,000 years in Ireland's ancient Celtic world, the Festival of Samhain, brought the end of summer and beginning of winter, cold nights, and long wintery days. It was when these two periods crossed that the dead visited the living. Bon fires, costumes and masks were worn to ward off the evil spirits. Specialty foods were prepared for the living and to honor the dead.

It was not until Christianity set November the 1<sup>st</sup> as All Saints Day in the 8<sup>th</sup> century that the Celts gave up Samhain for All Hallows Eve and later became known as Halloween.

As the Irish immigrated to America, so did Halloween. Sadly, over the years gone are the songs, foods and games that once made this celebration so unique. This year help bring back those traditions. Most importantly, grab a pillowcase and head out into the autumn night.

**-Kathy Norris-**  
**Maryland LAOH State President**



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## Calendar

### **November**

Nov. 11-13: Maryland Irish Festival, MD State Fairgrounds/Cow Palace Building

Nov. 19: 1-4 PM, "Winter Wonderland" Tea, AA Cty, Div. 1, St. John Neumann Church, Annapolis, \$40, Flyer

### **December**

Dec. 3: State Board Meeting. 10 AM, TBD

### **January**

Jan. 1-Mar. 15: Sarah E. Murphy Educational Assistance Program, Applications available <https://marylandlaoh.org> . Due by Mar. 15, 2023.

## Cultural Corner

THE QUEEN OF DIRT ISLAND by  
Donal Ryan

FOSTER by Claire Keegan

FOREVER HOME by Graham

Norton

Film

THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN

**-Joanna Cox**

## -LAOH Website



Go to [www.marylandlaoh.org](http://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

In Memory of Elizabeth "Betty" Eger

"Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all."  
Proverbs 31:29



Betty was my first friend when I moved to Annapolis. I remember the exact moment we met – it was on a Saturday after 4:30 Mass – she was wearing green, a Celtic pin on her coat, and one of the most beautiful Irish smiles I ever saw. How she was able to pick me out of the congregation, I'll never know. *Funny how a Blessing can literally walk right up to you.*

As President of the Anne Arundel Division at the time, Betty "encouraged" me to join. For those of you who knew her, you know what I'm talking about. It was then that our adventures began, both inside and outside of the LAOH. For example, we could *never* navigate Baltimore for *any* LAOH function without getting *very lost*, but we could tell you exactly where each item in the Dollar Store was located. We struggled to remember which shoulder our sashes went on, but we could breeze through the Capriotti's menu going straight for "The Bobbie" every time. We comforted each other in difficult times, and rejoiced when Sam's Club had fresh blueberry bagels in stock. We visited our sick Sisters together, unaware that a day would come when we would visit each other under similar circumstances.

Betty *lived* our motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity. Until we meet again, Betty, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

**-Sharon Sullivan-**

## Harford County, Division 2

Our division met in June. We also had two committee meetings in August to discuss upcoming events in preparation for our division meeting in September. Events discussed were as follows:

Our division will support the state fundraiser on October 16, 2022. At least two members have additionally volunteered to "work the wheels". Our division has purchased five bottles of wine valued at \$20.00 or more as a donation to this fundraiser.

Our division decided to have a special mass and rosary event for our Rosary Night at the chapel of St. Mark's Church, Fallston on October 18. This evening will be dedicated to two recently departed friends, St. Ita division member Bobbi Tilley and Harford County Division 1 member Cyrile Sincock.

In conjunction with the Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary, members of our division will take a bus to the Seton Shrine in Emmitsburg, MD to attend the Navy Mass, a strikingly beautiful event.

Division members were informed of the need to support the LAOH in maintaining the craft area at the Irish Festival in November. It is hoped that book "trees" will be folded, and craft supplies will be donated.

The division decided we will attend the Old St. John's 10th Ward Christmas Bull and Oyster Dinner and Party on December 11 as our Christmas Party.

Lastly, on January 8, for our St. Ita Mass, we plan to celebrate with an Irish touch for our Irish patron saint.

**-Gleela Kolakowski-Reporter**

## Cecil County, Division 1

It was wonderful seeing many of you at the Lady of Knock Mass! Our division celebrated a Mass together in September to present our St. Brigid icon to Good Shepherd Parish. Afterwards we shared a meal at the Old South Smokehouse in Port Deposit.



Joan Dinsmore and Mary Anne Loftus Smith kept us busy reading and discussing "Galway Bay" by Mary Pat Kelly. We are currently reading "The Long Gaze Back" by, Sinead Gleeson

We held a membership drive at several Masses and a parish picnic. We are currently fundraising by offering raffle tickets for a beautiful snowflake pattern quilt and collecting \$5 for Boscov's 25% discount shopping passes to be used on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

At our September meeting, Beth Greiner continued our support of veterans by collecting body wash.

Our historian, Joan Dinsmore, has sent every school of 6-12 graders in Cecil County, the information for the essay contest on Bram Stoker, Irish author of "Dracula". We are praying for some entries!

I recently sent an email to several people/groups outside of LAOH to share our division's activities, garnish community support and increase our name recognition. In return, I offered mutual support of their activities. I got a few positive responses and even an offer to donate wine for the Samhain event!

We are in the process of partnering with the Knights of Columbus to plan a St. Patrick Breakfast in early March.

In Our Motto,

**-Christine Hild, President-**

#### **Harford County, Division 1**

What fun to gather again after summer break! Our September meeting was hosted by President Kathy Lay at her home. At this meeting, we initiated new member, Emily Jester. Emily is jumping into the division with both feet as she has asked to be appointed as our FFAI representative! Welcome, Emily!

In October we set up the 2023 budget. Our 2022 fundraising efforts enabled us to make donations this year to The Empty Stocking Club of Harford County, St. Mark's Church, St. Joan of Arc School in Aberdeen, St. Patrick's Church, Havre de Grace for the renovation project, Villa St. Vincent, and the Humane Society of Harford County.

We are working on a Christmas Catholic Action Project, and are planning to have membership drive at nearby parishes.

Plans are also under way for our Spring fundraiser. Save the date, Saturday, April 29, 2023



**- Kathy Lay, President-**

#### **Howard County, Division 1**

It's amazing how quickly the year is flying by but we are happy to resume our monthly meetings. We are pleased to welcome a

new member who will be installed in November. Increasing our membership remains a focus and we will be again reaching out to parishes throughout the County. To increase our visibility and involvement at St. John's, we have been staffing the Heavenly Café with members of the Tanzanian Children's Project after Sunday Masses once a month.

In support of the Tanzanian Children's Project and St. Vincent de Paul, our Division donated 3 themed baskets for auction at



the Knights of Columbus St. John's Council 7559 wine tasting. The bidding was spirited and our efforts were very fruitful.

One of our members was privileged to attend the Celebration of Life for past President, Mary Fran Swan. She was an inspiration for all in the Irish community. The remainder of the year will be busy as we seek submissions for the Irish History contest, support and sell tickets for the Maryland LAOH fundraiser, volunteer at and attend the Maryland Irish Festival, attend the annual Memorial Mass, support the fundraising activities of our sister Divisions, prepare for the Christmas gathering and election of officers.

We will also be learning some Irish at each of our meetings including some prayers. As we begin the journey toward the holidays, we look forward to again gathering with our Sisters.

**-Sharon Strobel, President-**

#### **Baltimore County, Division 14**

Rev. James Casciotti, S.J., who was our division chaplain, has been transferred to the Jesuit headquarters in New York. Rev. Brian Frain, S.J. is succeeding Father Casciotti as Pastor at St. Ignatius Church in Baltimore. Father Frain is a native of Pennsylvania and has been in Kansas for the last several years. When Father Casciotti met Father Frain and discovered that he is of Irish ancestry, he told him about the LAOH and introduced him to Joanna Cox, a member of our division and a parishioner of St Ignatius. I met him at Father Casciotti's farewell reception and was immediately won over by his charming personality and love for our Irish culture. During our September meeting we

were pleased to welcome Rev. Brian Frain, S.J. as our new division chaplain.

The Sally E. Murphy Educational Assistance Program awards \$1500.00 to the winner/winners of the essay **medical issues**. Colin wrote his essay about his grandmother. He was presented with writing contest each year. An award of \$750.00



was awarded to Colin Clevenger. He is the grandson of Ann O'Donnell who has been a member of MD LAOH Baltimore County Division 14 for more than 20 years. In recent years she has been unable to actively participate because of the award prior at our September meeting and has begun his studies at Loyola High School Blakefield. Also in attendance were his mother Brigid Clevenger and his grandfather, Carbra O'Donnell. Colin was glad to have received recognition for his essay.

***-Eileen Edwards, President-***

### **Worcester County, Division 1**

Our division has just had our main fund raiser of the year, our Card Party. We had a great turn out and everyone in the division worked very hard to make it a success. We were very happy to have quite a few members from other divisions join us and we appreciate their support.

At our November meeting we will have a special Memorial prayer service for those sisters we have lost during 2023. We will also be preparing for our Christmas donations to our local parishes and charities. We will also be having a trunk show from The Irish Rose, the Irish store in Milford, DE. We will be able to do some Christmas shopping.

Our December meeting will be our Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

***-Mary Rosenhagen, President-***

### **Carroll County, Division 1**

Happy Fall Everyone! In August many of members attended the Our Lady of Knock Mass at St. Isaac Jogues and went to the Iron Horse for some fellowship with our sister Hibernians from the around the area. Everyone had a lovely time.

In September our Division met again after our Summer Break, it was nice to see everyone again. We are excited to start planning things for our Division to do in the next few months.

At our October meeting we choose the following Charities to make donations to; NESAP, Pregnancy Center, Oblate Sisters, SOAR, Sisters Academy, St. Bartholomew's and Aisling House. Many of our members are looking forward to attending the State Board Fundraiser on October 16<sup>th</sup>. We love to be with our sister Hibernians and raise money for our State Board. Our New Chaplain Fr. Collin Poston stopped by our meeting to introduce himself and give us a blessing. We have also asked Fr. Roach to remain as our Chaplain Emeritus.

Some of our members will be volunteering at the Maryland Irish Festival again this year. We always look forward to helping out at the Festival. We are also hoping in the spring to do a tour of the Irish Railroad Museum on Lemmon Street and then hopefully go to the Guinness Brewery for Lunch. We are planning again this year to sponsor a family for Christmas through St. Bartholomew's.

***-Mary Beth Connolly, Secretary***

### **Baltimore City, Division 1**

Happy Autumn from the ladies of the Venerable Catherine McAuley Division of Baltimore City! Before our summer break, we sent gift cards to Marian House to be used as program incentives on behalf of women recovering from trauma and addiction.

We meet the 4th Thursday of each month, 7 PM, at Squire's restaurant. 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***

### **Anne Arundel County, Division 1**

We have resumed meeting in-person. The major discussion item at our meetings is our fundraiser. Our Basket of Cheer returns this year, as do we, with our Tea!!! It's our intention to continue to donate to charities such as The Bernie House (TBH), St. Mary's Parish and school, and many others, as well as, this



year, Ian Hurricane victims in Florida. See our flier with details and QR code giving the option to pay electronically! We appreciate your support!

Congratulations to:

Veronica McCarthy, our division's Irish Historian who secured a fabulous new position continuing her career and passion advocating for human rights and religious freedom!

And to Sarah Portner, our division's Catholic Action Officer and her husband Greg, just moved into a new home in Bowie, Maryland!

Also, must see---member Nancy Krebs appearing as *Maria* in "Twelfth Night" at the Classic Theater of Maryland in Annapolis though October 30 easily accessible from route 97.

We plan to advertise for membership in our church bulletin stating: The motto of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians (LAOH) is: "FRIENDSHIP, UNITY AND CHRISTIAN CHARITY." Our Patron Saint is Saint Brigid. Today, our work is to keep before our country and the world the fact that the Irish and their descendants are foremost among the people of the world in Faith, in patriotism, in a sense of justice, in the spirit of self-sacrifice in their love of true liberty and peace. We donate funds, annually, to many local, state, and national charities.

**-Jane Bannon, President-**



**\*Reprinted from the Lady Hibernian Herald\***

### **Maryland**

Supporting Joseph House for the Homeless, LAOH Worcester County division held an event at the Knights of Columbus Hall for Joseph House for homeless men in the Salisbury area. Our division collected new clothing, underwear, belts. *Less worn shoes and items that the nuns had requested.* This will become an annual event. *Serving our community through God, his love and kindness.*

### **Thank you from the Bernie House**

I am incredibly thankful to be a recipient of the National 2022 Appeals for Aid Award. The \$4,838.62 will be used to purchase exterior cameras, including the installation of cameras, the annual security service fee, and the annual wireless fee (required for camera use) for both properties. The support from the National LAOH makes a huge difference so that our residents will not live in fear and can feel safe. One of the many goals of The Bernie House program is to provide a safe genuine family environment for up to two years which allows the families the necessary time to heal and build confidence as they start their transition to independence. Another is to provide ongoing services for survivors and prepare them for the next step - stability and success in permanent housing. It is a key steppingstone for our residents to secure a job, go to school, become economically stable and achieve a safe and healthy return to their community. Your generosity helps us to provide all of this and will unlock the door to unlimited possibilities for our families for generations to come. Victims come into our program survivors, while in our program they become thrivers, and when they leave, they are conquerors equipped with the education and skills to be economically stable. Families are living a safe and healthy life filled with hope because of you and the National LAOH.

One of my favorite songs is, a quote; "And they'll know we are Christians by our Love." We will work with each other, we will work side by side. We will guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride. And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love. The LAOH is living proof, that others will know the love of God through your actions and I am very proud \*to be a member of the LAOH.\*

### **Baltimore County, Division 1**

**NO REPORT**

**-Maureen Shettle, President-**

### **Baltimore County, Division 4**

**NO REPORT**

**-Mary Helene Miller- Reporter**

### ***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.*



### ***In Memoriam***

Betty Eger, Anne Arundel County, Division 1