

Erin's Echo

Maryland State Board
Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.

President's Message

Recalling Days of Old

The dog days of summer are upon us, and like so many, I find myself reminiscing on the days of my youth. Running along sandy beaches, playing "IT" in the streets and alley ways, heading down the local stream to catch crayfish or making dams in street gutters during a summer shower. We did as much as humanly possible before the sound of Dad's whistle echoes down the street calling us for dinner. Dinner finished in record speed, table cleared and dishes put away. You can hear the screen doors slamming as we dash out to play one last game of tag, catching fireflies as we hide among the bushes. At the end of the day our heads hit the pillows in exhaustion; with a smile across our face we close our eyes knowing more adventures await us in the morning.

As we grow older, the innocence of our youth is replaced with the excitement of first love, dances, concerts, hootenanny masses and when we turned 13, CYO. To most growing up Catholic, the Church, school and CYO was the center of our everything and for many, we made friends for life.

Then just as fast as a summer shower, you turn around, you are married, children on the way, graduations, children's marriages, and grandchildren. Where did the time go Mom would always say.

When you feel the weight of the world on your shoulders, take a moment, close your eyes, take a deep breath and jump into your past.

-Kathy Norris-

Uachtarán (Maryland LAOH State President)

-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>



Volume 58 No. 3 July, Aug., Sept. 2023

Calendar

August

Aug. 10-13: Maryland AOH-LAOH State Convention, Eisenhower Hotel, Gettysburg Hotel, PA,

Aug. 20: Our Lady of Knock Mass; St. Ignatius Church, 1:30 PM, flyer

September

Sept. 9: Maryland State Board Meeting, Cecil County, 10 AM, Tentative

October

Oct. 15: 2022-2023 AOH-LAOH Memorial; details to come

Oct. 18: Card Party and lunch, 10:30 AM, St. Andrew's Catholic Church, Worcester County 1, flyer

November

Nov. 18 Genealogy Event, Anne Arundel 1; details coming

Cultural Corner

THE PAPER MAN by Billy O'Callaghan

THE HALF MOON by Mary Beth Keane

THE LOCKUP by John Banville

Book club selection for August 22

Contact Susan Legg at susan.legg@icloud.com



CONCERT

Billy McComiskey and Friends
September 30 8:00 PM, St. Ignatius Church
740 N. Calvert St, Baltimore

-Joanna Cox

Gatherings

*(Writer needed for this column; please contact
Kathy MDlaohstatepresident@gmail.com
or Jane janedear1@verizon.net)*



Prayer for Immigrants

Merciful God, we pray for families and individuals who have left or fled their homes, seeking safer and better lives. We lift up to you their hopes, fears, and needs, so that they can be protected on their journeys. We pray that their dignity and rights may be honored and upheld, and they may be welcomed with open arms into generous, hospitable and compassionate communities. Amen

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Howard County, Division 1

Our Division is currently in a quiet period while we are on summer hiatus. We ended our second quarter with a very successful Mother's Day baby shower for the Columbia Pregnancy Center held at St. John the Evangelist in Columbia. We were able to donate \$1000 in addition to a significant amount of new and used boys' and girls' infants and toddlers clothing, shoes, diapers, toys, stroller and infant care items. We are very grateful for the generosity of the parish and our ability to celebrate life by meeting the needs of our community



in Howard County.

We are in the planning stages for a flea market to be held at St. John's on September 23. For \$25, spaces can be reserved for your table and the proceeds will go to the sellers. The reservation fees will benefit Howard County Division 1 and St. John's Conference of St. Vincent de Paul. If you have items you don't need and want to donate to a good cause, our Division would be glad to assist. Consider reserving a space, bringing a table and downsizing!

We are looking forward to the upcoming Convention, gathering again as a Division in September and installing two new members!

-Sharon Strobel, President-

Baltimore City, Division 1

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

We support Marian House, a holistic, healing community for women and their children who are in need of housing and support services.

We meet the 4th Thursday of each month at 7PM in 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

Harford County, Division 2

On June 19 we had our last division meeting before summer. We hope to have a pool party at Thelma's during the summer and pick up with a business meeting in September. The feedback on our Sight and Sound Fundraiser trip on June 13 to see Moses was favorable.

Mary Asaki and Jean Martin gave a report on their trip to El Paso, Texas and Juarez, Mexico. They emphasized how dangerous this area is and saw firsthand the plight of the refugees. They also worked at two soup kitchens helping to feed these people. Our meeting discussed many parallels to our Irish ancestors who came to America for a new start and a better life away from poverty and starvation.

Mary gave out all the information on the upcoming State Convention in August at Gettysburg. She hopes everyone will consider attending and learn the political workings of the LAOH. Members were given calendars and updated on future events.

Our Rosary Night is planned for the third Tuesday in October at 6 PM. A Sight and Sound bus trip is planned for December 6 to attend the 3 PM "Miracle of Christmas" show. Dinner will

follow at Shady Maple. The cost will be \$140. The St. Ita Mass will be in January 2024. More information is to follow.



After the division meeting closed, the ladies re-convened for a LAOH State Convention resolution meeting to discuss recommendations and changes to submit to the Maryland State LAOH.

-Gleela Kolakowski-Reporter

Cecil County, Division 1

We held our 4th "Fill the Trunk" food drive for St. Vincent de Paul on January 14th collecting 7 trunks of food and cash. During Lent we had our 2nd diaper drive collecting 6000 diapers for local pregnancy centers.

What an honor we had hosting parishioners as well as some of our Maryland and Delaware LAOH sisters at our St. Patrick's Celebration on March 4th with breakfast, music, dancing, face painting, raffles and a visit from St. Patrick. Thelma Graziano went home with the "Snowflake Quilt". We appreciated all the support for the various raffle items.

On March 11 we attended Mass at St. Patrick's Chapel in Conowingo. The chapel was built 200 years ago to serve the Irish immigrant community that came to western Cecil County to build the canals along that portion of the Susquehanna River. Check out this video. [\(86\) Tour St. Patrick's Chapel in Pilottown \(Conowingo\), Maryland - YouTube](#)

In May we had our baby shower for the Cecil Pregnancy Center. Our Irish Book Club met at a restaurant to discuss "The Teapots are Out and Other Eccentric Tales from Ireland" by John B. Keane.

On June 17th, we participated in a flea market to sell our used items and raised a little money for the division. We bid farewell

to our Chaplain. Our division will gather later this summer for a Lady of Knock Mass and cookout on August 26 at 5 PM, Immaculate Conception Church, Elkton. We have begun collecting donations for our Boscov's fundraiser.

-Christine Hild, President-



Baltimore County, Division 14

The upcoming AOH/LAOH Convention in Gettysburg has been a topic of conversation at our meetings. We're gathering items for the Basket from our division that will be awarded at the meeting. The theme for our basket is Beverages of Maryland. There are many selections.

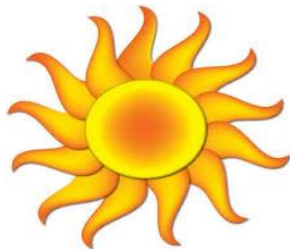
We continue to support our charities including Viva House in downtown Baltimore. We also supported Denny Mullin when she walked in the Pregnancy Center North Walk for Life in May. Our annual baby shower was held at our May meeting to benefit the NICU at Mercy Medical Center in Baltimore. The staff at the NICU unit is always very grateful for our contributions of clothing and monetary help for pre-mature babies and their families.

We are looking forward to the Our Lady of Knock Mass on August 20th at St. Ignatius Church. Father Brian, our Division and State Chaplain will celebrate the Mass followed by a luncheon. This has always been a favorite of our division.

-Eileen Edwards, President-

Carroll County, Division 1

Happy summer to all! We hope the heat isn't keeping our Sister Hibernians from enjoying the warm weather. In May some of our members attended Fr. Collin's 20 year anniversary of Priesthood at the BBQ held on the church grounds. We also presented him with a donation in honor of his 20 years in the Priesthood. St Bartholomew's and our Carroll County LAOH Colleens Division are very lucky to have him as our Pastor and Chaplain. Our Division made a \$500 donation to Irish Charities of MD to help raise monies to have the Festival this year.



In early June we sponsored a Patriotic Wagon/Cooler/Picnic Basket Raffle. We want to thank all our sister Hibernians who purchased tickets from us. And we would also like to congratulate Beth Lund on winning the raffle! It was a success. We had our annual retreat at Aisling House. It was very spiritual. We also made \$300 in donations to the following charities – Aisling House, Oblate Sisters, Project St. Patrick, SOAR, NESAP, Pregnancy Support Center Westminster, MD and Sisters Academy for a total of \$2100.00.

On July 1st our Division did a road trip to The Irish Railroad Museum and then to the Guinness Brewery for lunch. There were 12 who attended. It was a wonderful time. We are looking forward to our State Convention and seeing everyone.

Respectfully Submitted,
-Mary Beth Connolly, Secretary

Baltimore County, Division 1

We hope everyone is having a great summer. We obligated a new member, Carol Miles, at our May meeting and know everyone will welcome her when she attends the events and mass' coming up. The happy hour fundraiser for the Irish Festival at the Lord Baltimore was really enjoyable. Hopefully there will be more events like it to keep the festival going.

We have our "Tailgate Party" raffle underway. We have everything for a fun party, including a portable grill, charcoal, cooking utensils, 2 coolers, plates, a little Guinness and all the



other necessary provisions for a great time before the game. Even if you don't tailgate, it's all there to have a get together with family and friends to enjoy the fall weather.

We sent donations from our last raffle to the Oblate Sisters and Catholic Charities for Ukraine. We're looking forward to Our Lady of Knock Mass and the Convention in August.

May the blessings of each day be the blessings you need the most.

-Maureen Shettle, President-

Baltimore County, Division 4

Some of us were able to enjoy Harford 2's bus trip to Sight and Sound's bus trip to see Moses. The show was wonderful and lunch afterwards was great. We came home happy after having a great day with the Ladies.

Division 4 finds itself in quite a dilemma. We are the oldest division in the State and in need of members. We are planning for three member masses in the fall and gathering ideas you would like to share. Please let Pat know.



We are selling chances for our 2023 gift card fundraiser. The chances are \$1.00 each or \$5.00 for six chances. Please contact Pat Zaccari at 14100 Blenheim Road N, Phoenix, MD 21131 or vangoghatphoenix@aol.com to get in on the fun.

Are you feeling charitable and love babies? We will be hosting our annual baby shower on Sunday, October 22 at St. John in Hydes, MD. All are invited. Bring a baby gift and enjoy the party. The fun begins at 1:30 PM. RSVP to Pat at 410 592 6338.

Please remember our sisters in need of prayers. Better yet, call a sister or send a card. All of you are in our prayers. Have a great summer and fall.

May God bless us all.

-Mary Helene Miller- Reporter

Harford County, Division 1

We recently obligated Kathleen O'Connell into the Order. Welcome, Kathy!

Our meeting year closed on June 11th with a gathering at Sapore de Mare restaurant in Joppatowne. Good food and wonderful fellowship!

We have several ideas for fundraisers and will implement them in the fall. On September 30th we will have a "White Elephant" table at St. Mark's annual Oktoberfest. This offers exposure to the LAOH, and hopefully we will raise some money for our charities.



We have nine ladies planning to attend the state convention and look forward to a productive meeting and enjoyable social time with our LAOH Sisters and AOH brothers.

Wishing all a relaxing and refreshing summer!

- Kathy Lay, President-

Anne Arundel County, Division 1

Light bay breezes have blessed us with three new members interested in our events and Irish Heritage activities.

While we've had great success and fun in having our Tea, we are orchestrating a new fundraiser for this fall. On November 18 we will offer a Genealogy Workshop hosted by



a National Genealogist who is a member of multiple historical societies and organizations furthering research and family

history. She has taught workshops in several Maryland counties and done family history events. We will couple this day with a silent auction, Basket of Cheer Raffle, 50/50, and lite fare in Seelos Hall at St. John Neumann Church in Annapolis.

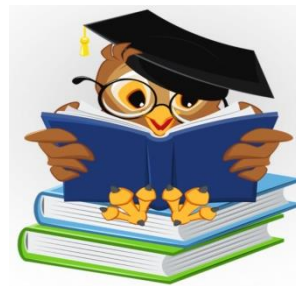
Please save the date, November 18!

-Jane Bannon, President-

Worcester County, Division 1

We have had a wonderful quarter.

In April, we had a tea. In May, one of our charities came and thanked us for our clothing donations to "Clothing for Kids."



June ended our year with our scholarship event at Signatures Restaurant. Two scholarships were given.

August 21 is when we celebrate Our Lady of Knock Mass.

The Card Party is in October. Call Maureen for tickets at 302 988 1498.

Have a blessed summer

- Ann Cottingham, 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.