

St. Brigid's New York Connection

April 2018

President-Jacqueline Clute

As I sit here to write this report, I choke on the term "Spring Board meeting" since it is the late part of April and it is 35 degrees! I know that patience is a virtue but.... jeeez. Hopefully we will get to East Durham and it will be warm and sunny.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

There will be some proposals at the by-laws meeting which may not be in the best interest of the membership. We also have two sisters running for National office, Karen Keane for Vice President and Cathy Turck for Catholic Action. It will be very important to send a full delegation to the Convention- NY has the opportunity to send 172 delegates and I am optimistic that we will have close to that number of delegates in attendance.

ACTIVITIES

I was fortunate enough to be asked to install the Divisions in Schenectady, Watervliet, Albany, Broome and Auburn. Truly enjoyed being able to do that for my sisters!

On April 24th we have the chance to make history! New York State Senator Boyle and Assemblyman Cusick have confirmed that during the afternoon session, there will be a special discussion on the floor of both the Assembly and then Senate on Legislative Resolutions honoring the 100th Anniversary of Ireland's Freedom Mandate Vote and commending the AOH and LAOH for Irish-American contributions to America and Ireland.

Our FFAI chair and the NYS AOH FFAI have invited Senators and Assembly members to join us for a special event at the Albany AOH Hall, 375 Ontario Street immediately following the Assembly and Senate sessions around 5pm. I have asked that State, County

and Division members to attend the Senate and Assembly sessions and AOH-LAOH event afterwards.

Irish Historian-Ferry Meyer

Dear Sisters,

Happy Spring!

I hope you all had a wonderful St. Patrick's Day.

I was so pleased to receive over 42 entries for our Irish writing contest and congratulations to the following winners on our State level.

Level 1

1. Daniel Robert Hooker from Rockland County \$200
2. Aviva DiPaolo from Westchester \$100
3. Katherine Wagamam from Broome County \$50

Honorable mention:

Erin Hooker from Rockland County

Eavan Coffey from Westchester County

Level 2

1. Katie Collins from Westchester County \$300
2. Kian McGeever from Rockland County \$200
3. McKenzie Gaghan from Nassau County \$100

Honorable mention:

Shea Gormley from Orange County

Tied: Kelly McHugh from Suffolk County and Amara Barlow-Valerio from Westchester County

Congratulations to all!! Certificates and checks are being mailed to respective counties to present to students.

Congratulations to 2 of our students who have won on the National Levels

Level 1

3rd place: Katherine Wagamam from Broome County
\$125

Level 2:

1. McKenzie Gaghan from Nassau County \$250
Congratulatory letters along with a history certificate and their checks are being mailed out by Dee Wallace our National Historian. Job well done and so proud of all of the students who participated in this year's writing contest.

On another note Irish history reports were due on 2/1 unfortunately I am still waiting on many reports despite notices being sent numerous times-. I am not going to list names of counties/divisions here as it would be an embarrassment but I strongly suggest you double check that you have done your reports and submitted them to me as I cannot complete report that is due to National at this time which does not reflect well on us.

Have a Blessed Easter and look forward to seeing you at our state meeting in May

NYS Fundraiser-Rose Coulson

NYS Fundraiser

I am very excited about our upcoming Spring Pilgrimage in East Durham NY May 2018

We will be holding our **1st** raffle drawing during the NY State Spring meeting.

Divisions and Counties have received the order forms for our NY State Shirt.

Looking forward to seeing all!

Albany County

Starting our day at Blessed Sacrament



Broome County

The Ladies of Division 1 and Division 2 have had a very busy start to the year.

On Sunday, January 7th, LAOH Divisions 1 and 2 held their Installation of Officers. Congratulations to our elected officers and presidents, Maureen Kadlecik and Deborah Burke, respectively.

On Sunday, February 11th, St. Brigid's Mass was held at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Chapel, thank you to Division 1 for the lovely mass and wonderful luncheon afterwards at the AOH Hall. On Saturday, February 17th, the Irish Heritage Dinner Dance was held at Traditions at the Glen where the parade officials were introduced; Maid of Erin **Marlaina Bartolillo, Official Starter from the Binghamton Police Department **Alex Legos-Williams**, and Grand Marshal **Marie Davenport**. The Broome County Celtic Pipes and Drum Band performed and later we danced the night away to the music of the "Old Friends Band". The following **Saturday, February 24th**, the community came out and supported the Celtic Celebration at St. Thomas Aquinas School Gym. It was nice to see all the Ladies at their tables with all the handmade crafts and homemade baked goods. There were also Irish vendors, dancers, pipers and The Shambles entertained in the afternoon. **LAOH Divisions 1 and 2** did a great job at the food table**

with ham and corned beef sandwiches, homemade vegetable and potato leek soups and the aroma of scones throughout the gym.

On **Saturday, March 3rd**, our St. Patrick's Day Mass was held to honor our patron saint and to pray for our deceased members. Candles were lit in their memory and family members were invited to attend the ceremony at St. Mary of the Assumption Church. Also in attendance was Past NYS AOH President Michael McNabb. The theme of this year's parade was "Irish Contributions to Broome County", the crowd came out to cheer us on as we marched, it was a little chilly and with the snowstorm we had, the City of Binghamton did a great job of clearing the streets and sidewalks! Following the parade, the fun continued at Seton Catholic Central High School. The band Old Friends got the afternoon started followed by the pipe bands, dancers and the Avalon String Band. At night, the AOH Hall was filled to capacity, dancing and singing to Pat Kane and West O'Clare. **On Sunday, March 11th, a Pancake Breakfast was held to help support the cost of the mass. The breakfast is sponsored by the AOH with the men cooking and the help of the ladies serving and bussing tables. On Friday, March 16th, members attended two flag raisings (Johnson City and Binghamton), and at night enjoyed Old Friends Band at the AOH Hall and division ladies cooked tomato soup and cheese toasties. On Saturday, March 17th, continuing our Irish Music Weekend at the AOH, we danced and sang to The Shambles Band at night.**

On Sunday, April 8th Div. 2 is having an Irish Painting Afternoon with members painting a "Tree of Life", it should be fun to see if we have any painters out there. Saturday, April 21st, both divisions will be cooking for our Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner fundraiser, adult tickets are \$12, serving between 3 and 7pm. Contact either president for advance tickets, or purchase at the hall. Ending the month, on Friday, April 28th, free admission to Karaoke Night with JustJack from 5:30-11pm, bring your family and friends. Make your reservation for Div. 2 Mother's Day Brunch on Sunday, May 13th. On Sunday, May 20th Div. 1 will be going to the Veterans' Home in Oxford for their annual Song and Dance Revue.

Wishing everyone a Blessed Easter Season...

We look forward to seeing all of our sisters and brothers at the State Board Meeting in East Durham this May.

ONE PHOTO ATTACHED TO BE INSERTED AFTER THE PARAGRAPH STARTING SAT. MARCH 3RD – **I'VE ALSO ATTACHED IT TO THE EMAIL. THANK YOU**



King's County

LAOH Div 6, Kings County Chaplain Sr. Miriam Daniels, CSJ received the LAOH Kings County's prestigious St. Brigid Award at Brooklyn's 99th Annual St. Brigid Celebration. Sister has served as Greenpoint's Division Six Chaplain for many years. She is well known in the Greenpoint Community, she served as the Principal for St. Cecelia's School and currently is the Guardian of the Sisters of St. Joseph Retirement Residence in Queens as well as mentor to new teachers at St. Joseph's College.



Two of our Hibernian sisters from Kings County were honored at this year's Brooklyn St. Patrick's Parade. Joan Healy represented the LAOH Kings County and Tracy Sullivan represented Irish Business, both as Aides to the Grand Marshal. The Parade history theme honored 'Our Patriot Dead', their final resting places, Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn, and Glasnevin

Cemetery in Dublin. The Brooklyn St. Patrick's Parade takes place in Park Slope and is the oldest St. Patrick's Parade in Brooklyn.

Joan Healy is from a Hibernian Family; she has been a member of Div. 19 in Gerritsen Beach for many years, she has volunteered at their fundraising Card Party to raise funds for charity as well as working at the Great Irish Fair.

Tracy Sullivan is a member of Div. 6 in and is the owner a Connie O's Pub in Greenpoint. Tracy currently serves as Division Mission & Charities Officer; she has volunteer on many of her division fundraisers and is well known throughout the neighborhood for her heart of gold for all the charitable deeds that she does for those in need.

There was a record turnout for the parade and after party this year; it is a fitting tribute to this year's honorees. Brooklyn is proud of both of you.

LAOH Kings County President - NYC Aide to Grand Marshall



LAOH Kings County marches in NYC Parade (Picture 2) and Brooklyn Irish American Parade in Park Slope Brooklyn-Picture 3



NYC Parade Committee honors NYC Aides at Rory Dolans - Picture 4



Nassau County

Greetings from Nassau County. It was a joy to celebrate Marianne Fleischer, President of Division 17, St. Ita, on November 19th, as our Nassau County Woman of the Year. We were entertained with a wonderful program of step dancing. In January, Division 17 collected gifts for the Retired Dominican Sisters in Amityville.

Many Ladies from Nassau participated in the March for Life in Washington, DC on January 19th. Division 8, St. Dymphna, in Glen Cove hosted Nassau County LAOH Annual St. Brigid Feast. The Mass, Food and good Company were a great way to honor St. Brigid. The Very Reverend Dom Gabriel Rach, Canons Regular of St. Augustine, Division 8 Chaplain, was the Presider. February 17th, the Glen Cove Hibernians had their annual Hooley and Sash Ceremony for their St. Patrick's Day Parade. 'Twas a grand and entertaining evening.

Division 15 are making go-bags for female homeless veterans for Boots on the Ground.

Nassau County Ladies Marched in the Mineola St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 4th, and in the New York City Parade on March 17th, and the Glen Cove St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 18th.

Nassau County's Hempstead Town's Irish Celebration on Wednesday, March 28th, will have Regina McGannon Begley, Nassau County, Past President and New York State Treasurer as one of their honorees.



Div. 17 Oneida County

Our Lady of Knock

Our Lady of Knock, Div, 17 Oneida County has had a busy fall and Winter. On November we joined with John C. Devereux, Div # 1 AOH to honor the deceased members of the LAOH and AOH at the Annual Irish Mass of Remembrance celebrated at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes on November 12, followed by a luncheon. At the luncheon the 2017 Mother Theresa Award was presented to Ann Kearney for her dedication and devotion to the LAOH and our Motto of Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity for 40 years

January 21, 2018 found the members at the newly refurbished Hilton Inn at Hotel Utica for the Installation of Officers.

Front Row: Rose A Butler, President

Back Row from Left, Amollia Grossman, Historian, Mary Ellen Blair, Catholic Action, Donna Brady, Missions and Charities, Kathleen Quigley, Treasurer, Mary Ann Zinger, Secretary, Peggy O'Toole, Vice President, Janet Blaney, Financial Secretary and Mary Manfredo Sentinel. At the Installation the 2018 Mother Theresa Award was presented the Patricia Taylor. Pat is the driving force behind Div. 17 participation in the Great American Irish Festival since the inception.

March 16th was the Annual Irish Mass for St. Patrick's Day celebration and was attended by members of the LAOH and AOH. After the Mass Nick Durr, Vice President

of John C. Devereux, Div. # 1 AOH presented the 2018 James Agen / Raymond Durr Spirit of Irish Award to Rose Butler, LAOH President for her commitment to promoting the Irish Heritage, Cultural and History of the Mohawk Valley as well as her community involvement.

March 17th the LAOH members participated in the 2018 Utica St. Patrick's Day Parade, the 2nd largest in NY State.

After the Parade we gathered for lunch at Packy's Pub for corned beef meal with all the trimmings.

Oneida County



Onondaga County

Greetings from Syracuse. All is well in spite of what seems to be the longest winter **ever**. In November we distributed \$600 to local and national charities. In December we celebrated the Holidays with a beautiful dinner and gift exchange at Coleman's Irish Pub. In March we participated in the 2018 Annual Syracuse St Patrick's Day Parade on 3/17. The picture attached is of this years parade participant's keeping warm before the lineup. We look forward to this years charitable endeavors and festivities. Prayers and good wishes to our members struggling with health issues.



Orange County

Orange County LAOH celebrated St. Patrick's Day by marching in the NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 17, 2018.



Maureen Morse, Grand Marshal 2018 of the Mid Hudson St. Patrick's Day Parade in Goshen, NY on

Sunday, March 11, 2018 along with members of LAOH Division 5 Mary of the Gael and LAOH Division 5 Juniors.



Rockland County

LAOH Div. 3, Pearl River held it's annual St. Patrick's Dinner at The Saloon.

Everyone had a great craic!



Suffolk County

At the invitation of State Assemblyman Michael Fitzpatrick (Suffolk County Div 3), Carol Clancy (Div 3 Financial Secretary) and her husband Brian Clancy (NYS Chairman Buy Irish) and were invited to accompany him to mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral on St. Patrick's Day, to march in the parade with the NYS American-Irish Legislators Society, and to have breakfast and lunch with Cardinal Dolan as guests in his residence. Also with them was Tom McLoughlin, Development Director of St. Catherine of Siena Hospital in Smithtown NY.



Schenectady County

The ladies of Schenectady, JFK Division 1 have been very busy since November. We hosted over 100 children from the city of Schenectady at our annual "Breakfast with Santa". Once again we partnered with the Toys for Tots program and City Council President Ed Kosiur to make this a great morning for the children, culminating with a visit from Santa himself.

This year the Spirit of St. Brigid award went to Kim DePeaux for her dedication to her community, her church, her family, friends and most of all her fellow Hibernian Sisters. Very well deserved. Congratulations Kim!!



Pictured above, L to R: Kim DePeaux- Spirit of St. Brigid Award winner, Brenda Adams- Committee member, Marti Juhren- Committee member, and Linda Wolfe- Committee member

On March 17th, the ladies began the day with 11:00 a.m. mass at St John the Evangelist to celebrate the feast of St. Patrick. Immediately following mass, the ladies returned to the Hibernian Hall in Schenectady to set up their raffle tables.

Schenectady Mayor, Gary McCarthy, and NY State Assemblyman, Angelo Santa Barbara, paid a visit to our Hall and each delivered Proclamations to the Schenectady Hibernians. See picture below



Pictured above, left to right, Schenectady AOH President Tom Lawrence, LAOH President Cathy Turck, receiving Proclamations from Assemblyman Santa Barbara, and Schenectady Mayor Gary McCarthy on St. Patrick's Day.

The ladies of Schenectady are so excited that one of our very own will be running for National Catholic Action Officer at the National Convention in Louisville in July. At the NYS Board meeting in November, our division President, Cathy Turck, was enthusiastically endorsed by the delegation in attendance, to seek the Office of National Catholic Action. Save the date! We will be holding a fundraiser for Cathy on June 2nd. Music, food, raffles! More details to come.

Westchester County

In Memory of Kitty Geissler, LAOH National Life Member

Katherine M. 'Kitty' Geissler, a longtime resident of Tarrytown died February 18, 2018 at the age of 105. Kitty was born in County Limerick, Ireland on Nov 4, 1912. She was the daughter of James and Hannah Ring Bagnell. She immigrated to the United State in 1930 and married George R. Geissler on Oct. 7, 1942. Kitty is survived by her daughters Alice Koraca and Mary Brady. She is also survived by her 8 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband George, her son George, her son-in-law Ralph Brady, her daughter-in-law Mary Geissler, and her brother William Bagnell.

In 1938, Kitty joined the LAOH, Division 9 in Port Chester. The family moved to Tarrytown in 1951 and she joined the Division 11 which has since been named in her honor. Forty-Six years later in 1984 a LAOH National Life Membership was awarded to Kitty. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Transfiguration Church; LAOH Honor Guard lined the aisle, Kitty Kelly sang Limerick You're a Lady and everyone sang 'My Wild Irish Rose' a fitting sendoff. Her Grandson, Steven Brady gave the following eulogy:

Mom, Aunt Alice my deepest sympathies.

To Kitty's friends, church, and our community, thank you for coming and honoring our grandmother!

A lifetime devoted to faith, family, friends, and community has become her legacy. A trailblazing pioneer who set the standard for how life should be lived. Her gentle touch and witty spirit is what captivated us. Her kindness and her wisdom is what kept us. A truly remarkable woman with relentless energy and positivity that commanded a room. She was an absolute blessing and an icon for all of us. She showed us all how to live life to fullest through the many friendships and social events that she was a part of.

My family and I are extremely grateful for endless memories that will resonate with us for our lifetime. The many trips up to the Catskills where we would just marvel at her energy and personality as she would stay up all hours of the night talking to everyone and dancing away to the Rutherford's and Kitty Kelly at the O'Neill house. For me, that's when it started to dawn on me that she was amazing. From that point on, Grandma was my celebrity. No matter what event we went to, people would flock to her. She knew everyone by name and would always introduce her grandkids. As I got older, I felt grandma got more royal and her social status skyrocketed. We always looked forward to the

parades. Grandma would love to march, and she did it with such pride. I would watch from the sidewalk and admire her. She reminded me of a Queen as she waved to just about everyone. I would feel so honored and proud when I would see other people clapping and cheering for her.

Lucky for us, the way grandma was at social events was the same way she was at home. At every holiday she was always so glad to see us and would talk with us at length about how we are doing. She would fawn over her great grandchildren. She would cuddle with the kids and would rock them when they were infants. As they would get older, grandma would sit with them during our Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. We used to have two tables, a kid table, and an adult table. The kids always wanted to move up to the adult table, but Grandma always sat at the kid table. She would sit at the head, while a blessing was read, almost as if she was monitoring everyone. She would sit with her hands folded in front of her and she would be looking around and soaking it all in as she enjoyed being in the company of her family, including me!

Born in County Limerick Ireland, at 17 she would board the Baltic and emigrate to the US. One of the first organizations she joined was the LAOH. She had been a member for over 80 years. She was a President for 10 terms in Division 11 which is named in her honor. Grandma was part of many clubs and organizations and has received numerous awards. She paved the way for the development of new divisions for the LAOH. She was awarded the 1st Mother Teresa award by LAOH. An aide to the Grand Marshal of NYC and Yonkers St. Patrick's Parades. 1st Grand Marshal of St Patrick's Parade in Sleepy Hollow, NY. Named first woman of the year by the Irish American Association for her charitable work for the sick and elderly. She was an active member with Eagles, Catholic Daughters, Transfiguration's Women's group, and the Tarrytown Seniors. This is one of the reasons she lived to 105, she had to find the time to be part of all these clubs.

But of all honors, recognitions, parades, conventions, dinner dances... her proudest ones were being a Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother. Having raised 3 kids of her own blossomed into 8 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren, who she simply adored right up until her passing. She was always genuinely concerned for us and always reminded us to take care of ourselves and to watch our kids. Her handwritten cards to us for a birthday or wedding or birth of child were reminders of her love, care, and compassion for us. It was just a few days ago where she held my hand on St. Valentine's Day

and gave me a kiss and agreed to be my Valentine, especially in her time of need, is the epitome of how she lived out her life. With Genuine love. She can now have her everlasting dances with her true love, her husband George, and their son George.



Katherine M. 'Kitty' Geissler
Nov 4, 1912 -- Feb 18, 2018
LAOH National Life Member &
Mother Theresa Award Recipient



A Ghinger a chara,

THE OUR FATHER

Ar nAthair, atáa ar neamh, go naofar d'áinm,
Er NAW-her, ahTAW er nav, Guh neefer DAH-nim
(Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name)

GO dtaga do ríocht, Go néadfar do thoil,
Guh dawgah duh REE-uchkt, Guh NANE-ter duh hull
(Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done)

Ar an talamh, Mar a dhéantar ar neamh.
ER un tah-luv, Mahr a YANE-ter er nav.
(On Earth as it is in heaven)

Ár n-arán leathúil tabhair dúinn inniu,
Ahr nah-rahnn LAY-hool tour doo-in in-you,
(Give us this day our daily bread)

Agus maith dúinn ár bhfiacha,
Ah-gus maw doo-in ahr VEE-ach-ha
(and forgive us our trespasses)

Mar a mhaithimidine dár bhféichiúna féin,
Mahr a WHAW-hih-MWID-nuh dahr VAYCK-hoona fane,
(As we forgive those who trespass against us)

Agus ná lig sinn i gcathú,
Ah-gus nah ligg shinn ih GAW-hoo
(And lead us not into tempataion)

Ach saor sinn ó olc. Amen.
Ach sear shinn oh olk, Ah-men
(But deliver us from evil. Amen)