



# Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

Pearl River, NY

September, 2018



**Brother Hibernians,** \_\_\_\_\_



I hope you all had a great summer. Our next meeting will be held on September 28th at 8pm. There will be nominations for Hibernian House President and Treasurer. Welcome aboard to new members Brian O'Rourke, Pete Tarsnane, Tom Shea, and Harry Kelly. Thanks to Kevin Haugh who joined us at the national convention and congratulations to Neil Cosgrove on being awarded the prestigious and well deserved Commodore John Barry medal. Unfortunately, we had to deal with horrible weather for our Ceol Mor Bagpipe Festival on August 4th but we still had 13 bands and over 15 solo competitors. Many, many thanks to our committee and volunteers who toiled through the monsoon in the morning and the blazing heat in the afternoon.

Heartfelt appreciation goes out to Ed O'Dea who recently retired after a number of years as chairman of our membership committee and our Communion Mass. We really need members to step up and fill in these positions, and other committee roles, as well as running for office. Some of our officers have been in their positions for over 10 years. New blood and more member participation is desperately needed. Many of the roles take only a small commitment, and the more involvement we get, the easier on all. We will have nominations for Division Officers at our October meeting and strongly encourage members to run.

There are many important events coming up. Please read on in this newsletter and support as many of them as possible.

As always, please remember to say an extra prayer or two for our wounded warriors and their families.

*Yours in Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity,  
Dermot O'Connor Moore, President.*

## GOOD AND WELFARE

Please pray for the repose of the souls of past national president and secretary Tom McNabb, Jim Spink's mom Bonnie, Jack Cunningham's brother Richard, Jack Madigan's brother-in-law Sanford, Tom Lynch's father-in-law Tom, and May Murphy, mother of Brian and grandmother of Kieran and Sean. Please keep your prayers coming for Dan Callanan's continuing improvement, our sincerest appreciation goes out to Dan for his many years of service as our Good and Welfare Chairman. Thanks to Phil Sheridan for stepping up to help out. Best wishes to Dan Barry who is expecting his second grandchild. Conor and Donna Moore presented grandsons Cormac and Charlie to grandparents Dermot and Joan and they were joined two weeks later by granddaughter Rose as presented by Tom and Colleen.

## POT O'GOLD TICKETS ARE IN!

Pot of Gold tickets are now available. First drawing will be Sunday, November 11 and the Grand Prize will be drawn on Sunday, December 23rd. As in years past both parties will be held at the Hibernian House and the purchase of 1 tickets gets you and a guest in to both parties and qualifies you for both drawings. Tickets will be available at the Hibernian House Bar and can be requested from Bill Lee by sending an email to [mr.williamlee@gmail.com](mailto:mr.williamlee@gmail.com).

In prior years demand for tickets has increased in large part this is due to our parties and the fantastic food that is prepared by our chefs. Demand this year will also be high and we expect all tickets will be distributed well in advance of the 1st party. Thank you in advance for your continued support of our Division, it is your support that allows us to help those within the community who are in need.

## ELECTED OFFICERS DIVISION \_\_\_\_\_

*President*  
**DERMOT O'CONNOR MOORE**

*Vice President*  
**CHARLES PARNOW**

*Financial Secretary*  
**WILLIAM YOUNG**

*Treasurer*  
**JOHN KELLY, JR.**

*Recording Secretary*  
**NEIL COSGROVE**

*Marshal*  
**KEVIN DONOHUE**

*Sentinel*  
**WILLIAM LEE**

*Chairman Grievance*  
**JACK O'CONNOR**

*Chaplain*  
**FR. ERIC RAASER**

## HIBERNIAN HOUSE

*President*  
**FRANK McDONAGH**

*Vice President*  
**PETER DUNNE**

*Treasurer*  
**PHIL SHERIDAN**

*Recording Secretary*  
**JOHN GANNON**

## CALENDAR \_\_\_\_\_

**9-28 Meeting**

**9-29 RGAA Dance**

**10-5 McGuinness talk**

**10-13 Jukebox Bingo**

**10-19 American Legion Dance**

**10-19 AOH Division 1 Dance**



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## LAOH

I hope everyone enjoyed their summer. Joan Moore, Pat Schrader and I attended the AOH/LAOH National convention in Louisville, Kentucky in July. We attended several meetings and workshops which we will share with you. The 2018/2019 National LAOH executive board officers were also installed. The 2020 convention will be held in Florida and it was voted on at this convention for the 2022 convention to be held in Pennsylvania. The fundraising committee has been busy working over the summer on our fall fundraiser, Juke Box Bingo. It will be held October 13th at the GAA clubhouse at 7:30 PM. The cost will be \$35.00 in advance and \$40.00 at the door. Checks can be made out to LAOH division 3 and dropped in Linda Sheridan's mailbox at Railroad Avenue. Hope to see many members at our 9/11/18 meeting.

*Yours in friendship, unity and Christian charity,*

*Terry McGeever, President*

## HIBERNIAN HOUSE

Summer's over and all our chickens are coming home to roost. Our own RayRay Foiles just back from Fla. where he was voted customer of the month by the waitress staff. He is now known as Big Sugar. Welcome back Big Sugar. Almost time for the arrival of our Fox News critic, the Captain from LBI. Get your ear plugs ready. No truth to the rumor that our Sunday bartender was kidnapped last week. He is alive and well and back to work. The nutty professor back from his second cruise in the last couple of months. Time to check the sheets at the Pub. Just kidding. Maybe. Big Q recently retired and is now working more than ever. Dennis Troy also retired and his lovely wife is begging him to get another job. Don and the Mook once again worried about their Giants. Going to be a long year. If you are in the area stop by the Pub and check the info boards, a lot going on. Hope everyone had a good summer.

*Pete Dunne*

## REMINDE R-NOMINATIONS FOR HOUSE PRESIDENT AND TREASURER IS SEPTEMBER 28TH.

## McGUINNESS TALK & BOOK SIGNING OCTOBER 5TH

On October 5th, renowned commentator Jude Collins will visit Hibernian House to give a talk on his latest book: Martin McGuinness: The Man I Knew. Mr. Collins is also an authority on the current Brexit situation, one of the greatest threats to the peace, security and prosperity of the people of Ireland in a generation, and will provide his insights.

Martin McGuinness: The Man I Knew is a collection of 27 interviews with a range of people who knew Martin McGuinness during his life. There is no cost to attend. Doors open at 7:00PM for a meet and greet with the author. Jude will begin his talk at 7:30. Jude will have books available for purchasing and he will sign them.

Please consider joining us for an insightful talk on a man who played such a key role in the history of Ireland.

## DIVISION 1 DANCE OCTOBER 19TH

Division 1 will be having their Annual Dinner Dance Honoring Mary O'Sullivan for her many years of effort and dedication to the Rockland County St. Patrick's Day Parade. For more information or to purchase tickets or journal ads, please contact Dan Donohue at 914-261-7542.

## JUKEBOX BINGO OCTOBER 13TH

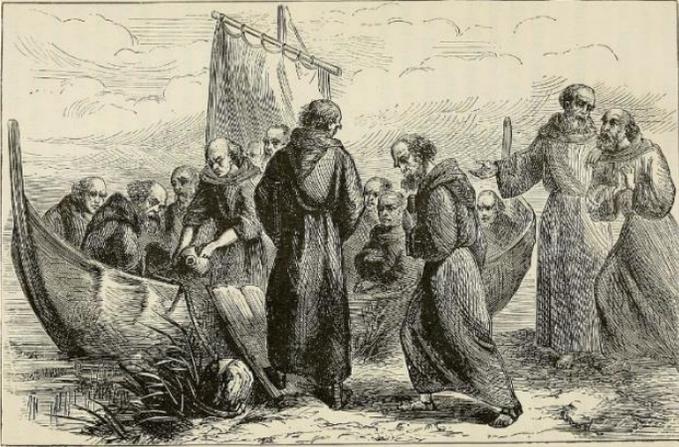
The Ladies of Division 3 are hosting a fun filled evening of "Jukebox Bingo" on October 13, 2018 at the RCGAA field 160 Old Orangeburg Road starting at 7:30 pm. It will be an exciting night of music, games and raffles with some amazing prizes so come on out. Bring your family and friends and test your skill on identifying different tunes. You get 3 bingo cards and each will have several prizes for winning. We are also doing a Tricky Tray of some wonderful prizes and a 50/50. See the attached flyer and order your tickets online via the PayPal Button, <http://praoh.org/event/laoh-div-3-hosting-jukebox-bingo-on-october-13-2018/>. Tickets online are \$35.00 but at the door \$40.00. Reserve your ticket now as this looks like it will sell out fast. The funds raised will help us continue to do the charitable work here in Rockland and support our scholarship fund. Thank you in advance and hope you join us for an exciting night of music, game and raffles. For more information, contact Kim Glynn at 914-450-5870 or Terry McGeever1-917-842-9252.

## LEGION POST 329 DINNER OCTOBER 19TH

The John H. Secor American Legion Post 329 in Pearl River is hosting a Commander's Dinner honoring past Commanders and commemorating the 100th Anniversary of John H. Secor's ultimate Sacrifice. The dinner will be held on the evening of Friday, October 19th at the Pearl River Elks Club. Many honorees for the evening are division members so please consider attending the dinner, taking an advertisement in their journal, or sponsoring the event. For tickets contact Dan Davin at [DSD4999@aol.com](mailto:DSD4999@aol.com), for journal ads contact Kat McGowan at [kathleenmurhy@icloud.com](mailto:kathleenmurhy@icloud.com), and for any other info contact Tom Lynch at [tomlynch415@yahoo.com](mailto:tomlynch415@yahoo.com).

# History

## St. Brendan the Navigator



Ireland is often referred to as a land of myth and legend. The primary definition of both words describes a widely known story describing historical or natural events. Given that for centuries Irish history, like Irish music, was an aural tradition (and during much of English rule a necessity) passed down from one generation to the other the description is apt. However, in modern parlance “myth” and “legend” have become synonymous with sheer flights of imagination and untrue. Then again, what if they are instead echoes of history and those who lightly dismiss them are only showing a lack of imagination? For years scholars dismissed Homer’s accounts of the Trojan war as mere myths, until archeologist respecting the descriptions in Homer’s text found a very real Troy. What if someone was to treat Ireland’s alleged “myths” with the same open-minded scholarship? Case in point, the story of St. Brendan the Navigator.

The very real and historically undisputed St. Brendan was born near Tralee, County Kerry. Tradition holds that following Celtic custom at the age of one he was sent out to be fostered. His parents chose St. Ida who is usually regarded as second only to St. Brigid among Ireland’s Holy Women and is known as the “Foster Mother of Saints” as she would also foster the future St. Mochoemoc, St. Cumian and St. Fachanan. St. Ita and Brendan developed a strong bond which they maintained throughout their lives. When he was six he was sent to Saint Jarlath’s monastery school at Tuam to further his education. Brendan is one of the “Twelve Apostles of Ireland”, one of those said to have been tutored by the great teacher, Finnian of Clonard. At the age of twenty-six, Brendan was ordained a Catholic priest by Saint Erc

From the beginning the historical Brendan was an inveterate evangelist and voyager. Brendan’s first voyage was to the Aran Islands, where he founded a monastery. Between AD 512 and 530 Brendan founded monasteries in his native Kerry at Ardfert, and Shanakeel. He traveled several times to Scotland and the holy island of Iona where he met St. Columcille and to Wales to study under Saint Gildas. Returning to Ireland, he founded a monastery and convent in Annaghdown, where he spent his later years. He established churches in Galway and Inishglora and most notably at Clonfert, Galway where he was interred upon his death in 557 AD. This is the historically accepted Brendan.

However, what St. Brendan is most remembered for, and even at one time eclipsed St. Patrick in international recognition, is for a voyage that left no tangible evidence. It is described in the *Navigatio Sancti Brendani Abbatis* (The Voyage of Saint Brendan the Abbot), an account compiled by an Irish monk some two hundred years after St. Brendan’s death from various oral traditions. The *Navigatio* was a medieval bestseller. More than 100 Medieval Latin manuscripts of the *Navigatio* still exist, giving an indication of how many copies were originally made. In addition to versions in Middle English, French, German, Italian, Flemish and other languages.

The *Navigatio* describes a journey by St. Brendan and his fellows to a lush and green island paradise. Along the long journey they describe an island of sheep, another island of Birds (who apparently sang the Psalms!) and a hell like island and where the mountains belch rivers of flame and foul-smelling giants threw flaming rocks into the sea. The *Navigatio* describes St. Brendan coming upon gigantic towers of floating crystal in the ocean. The most famous incident of the story is when Brendan and his followers land on an island only to discover it was actually a giant whale. The *Navigatio* was given such credence in its time that medieval map makers showed “Brendan’s Island” on their charts up until the time of Columbus who is said to have studied material on Brendan’s voyage closely.

However, is it all myth or as some believe a religious allegory symbolizing the journey to salvation? If we take the known elements of Brendan’s life and the core elements of the *Navigatio*, looking at the world with medieval eyes and allowing for some poetic embellishment in two centuries of oral storytelling, what do we have? We know that the historical St. Brendan traveled to Iona, part of the collection

# History

## St. Brendan the Navigator

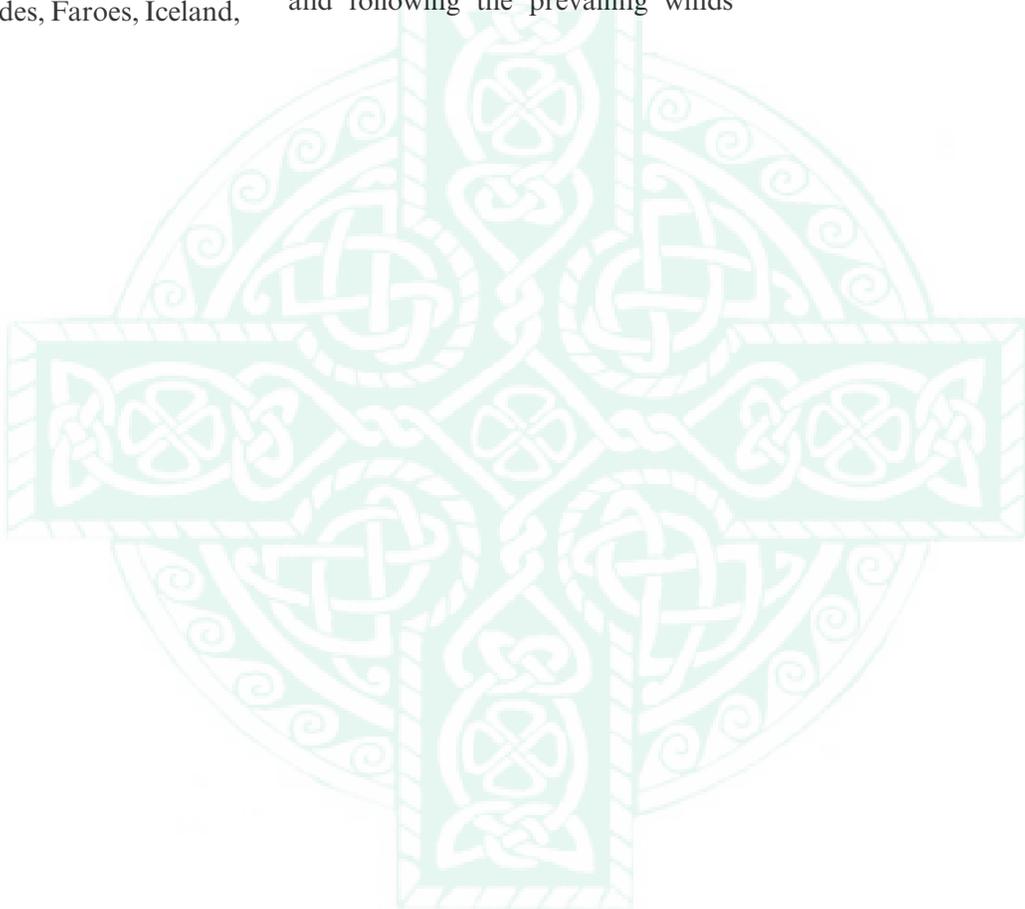
of islands that make up the Hebrides. Beyond the Hebrides lies the Faroe Islands, Faroe being derived from an old Norse word for sheep (Brendan's island of sheep). The islands of the Faroes chain have sheer coastal cliffs that harbor a wide variety of seabirds in the thousands that still today draw bird watchers from around the world (Brendan's Island of Bird's). Mountains billowing rivers of fire and flaming rocks being cast into the ocean sound like the volcanic activity that Iceland is famous for, activity which is accompanied by the foul smell of sulfur (Brendan's island of giants). Would not "pillars of crystal floating in the sea" be an apt description someone may give on seeing an iceberg for the first time? Following this conjectural course, the Hebrides, Faroes, Iceland,

could St. Brendan's Island be North America, whom later documented explorers invariably described as a "lush, green paradise"? Adding more circumstantial evidence, the Norse sagas describe the land south of their settlements in Vineland (which itself was once considered "mythical" until recently confirmed by archeology) as "Irland it Mikla, it" or "Greater Ireland."

In 1976, explorer Tim Severin attempted to answer the question if a voyage to the new world by in the age of St. Brendan was feasible. He built a traditional Irish boat, a currach, using the description in the Navigatio and traditional materials of the time. Casting off from the Dingle Peninsula and following the prevailing winds

across the northernmost part of the Atlantic Ocean, Severin and his crew were able to island-hop their way to Newfoundland. Severin noted that during the voyage he encountered pods of whales who seemed fascinated with their leather hide covered currach, reminiscent of the Brendan and the whale story.

Does this prove that Irish Monks or specifically St. Brendan traveled to America centuries before Columbus and the Vikings? No, but it should open our minds to the possibilities; it should cause us to give greater respect to Ireland's legends and challenge any attempts to easily dismiss them as mere "blarney".



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