



# Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

Pearl River, NY

February, 2017



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



We extend a warm welcome to our new chaplain, Fr. Eric Raaser, and many thanks to Msgr. O'Keefe for his many years of service. Welcome aboard as well to new members James Drew, Tommy O'Connor, Cornelius Kapral, Eric Hansen, Dean McSherry, and Kevin McMahon. Our next meeting will be held on Friday, February 24th and elections of Hibernian House officers will take place. Many thanks to all who attended the Metro Conference on January 28th and helped out with the Grand Marshal Reception on February 3rd. Congratulations to Chuck Parnow and Dan Peterson who once again ran a fantastic ski trip to Belleayre Mountain on February 4th. We are entering our busy season so please see all the different upcoming events in this newsletter. Let's dress appropriately and march with pride with Division 3 through the streets of Pearl River behind our Aide to Grand Marshal Marty Davin and Battalion Commander Chuck Parnow in the 2017 St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 19th.

Dan Callanan reports the following Good and Welfare News...Please say a prayer for the repose of the souls of John Ovchinnikoff's dad Larry, Harry Stern's mom Lillian, Jerry Goulding's wife Patricia and Kevin Grogan's mom Virginia. Please say another prayer for Charlie Murphy who is scheduled for a Pacemaker installation next month, for Jack Cunningham who recently suffered a stroke and is undergoing speech therapy, for Dougie Meeks' wife Lisa who suffered a stroke and is in Hackensack Hospital ICU, and for Phil Sheridan who took a flop on the ice and suffered a compound fracture of his right arm. Mark Donnelly reports that he's feeling better with the help of a housekeeper, and Jim Walsh and Gene Flood are both reporting that they are doing well. Hillsdale College is offering 16 free online courses on such subjects as the US Constitution, Bill of Rights, etc. Go to [www.hillsdale.edu](http://www.hillsdale.edu).

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.*

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

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*Chaplain*  
**FR. ERIC RAASER**

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**FRANK McDONAGH**

*Vice President*  
**PETER DUNNE**

*Treasurer*  
**PHIL SHERIDAN**

*Recording Secretary*  
**JOHN GANNON**

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

- 2-24** Division Meeting
- 2-25** Emerald Ball
- 3-05** St. Margaret's Party
- 3-09** Friendly Sons Dinner
- 3-17** NYC Parade
- 3-18** Senior Luncheon
- 3-19** Rockland Parade
- 4-08** Scholarship Exam
- 4-23** Communion Breakfast



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## LAOH

At our Valentine's Day meeting we welcomed Suzie Cardenty to our division. Katie Basler, historian, announced the Irish History essay contest winners. On the high school level: 1st place: Kaileen McGeever; 2nd place: Kevin Dickey, 3rd place: Ryan Heffernan and honorable mention: Megan Heffernan. On the middle school level: 1st place: Jake Dickey, 2nd place: Danny Hooker and 3rd place: Kaitlyn Heffernan. Many of our members attended and enjoyed the RCLAOH St Brigid's celebration on 2/4/17. The celebration consisted of Mass officiated by Father Rasser at St. Margaret's church, followed by dinner at Bellissimo. Plans are underway by co-chairs Katie Basler and Mary O'Sullivan for our annual St. Patrick's Day party. It will be held on 3/14/17 at the Castle in Blue Hill and is open to non-members as well. Please keep the family of Pat Keady in your thoughts and prayers. Pat lost her mother, Maureen Frederick, recently. Looking forward to seeing many of you at the party on the 14th.

*Yours in friendship, unity and  
Christian charity,*

*Terry McGeever, President*

## HIBERNIAN HOUSE

We had a great Karaoke night arranged by Tom Lynch at Kwai Thai in Pearl River. We found out that the literal translation for Karaoke is "Tom Lynch will not give up the mike". Neil O'Sullivan knocked out a song in some foreign language known only to Neil. Thank goodness for the Captain, AKA Dennis Toal who, just like the boy who stuck his finger in the dike, solved our leak problem in the Pub. That's the leak behind the bar in case anyone is curious. In addition, if anyone is interested in learning Hula dancing, the Captain is a certified instructor- not the only thing he is certified for. Warren Hennessy once again over ate at Italian night. Good to see Tom Healy caught up in the NBA again, he's a big fan. George Leahy sends his regards from Florida, give him a call

if you have time. Thanks to everyone who kicked back from the Super Bowl, the money goes to a good cause. Contrary to popular opinion it does not go to Gannon's vacation fund. Off to Ireland in a week, hold the bail money. Good chance with the crew that's going that we may need it. We are going to visit Ed All Day's relatives if they are still out on bail. *Pete Dunne*

## HIBERNIAN HOUSE OFFICER ELECTIONS FEBRUARY 24TH

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Over the last year or two, we've made great strides in modernizing our communication vehicles, including this newsletter and our website. As you might imagine, it takes some effort to communicate to a group of 750+ people, and we're looking for your help and expertise, as we continue to look for the best ways to keep our members up to speed.

To that end, we are starting a "Communications Committee" to manage the ongoing production of material and our mailing lists, and look for the best and most effective ways to reach out to our membership. We would expect this to take just a few hours a month. If you have any experience in online communications, websites, etc., or if you've just got good organizational skills, we can use your help! We'll discuss at the next meeting, but if you are interested or have questions, drop an email to praoh3@gmail.com.

## 2017 EMERALD BALL

The premier event of the Saint Patrick's Day season, other than the parade itself, is the Rockland County Ancient Order of Hibernians Emerald Ball. This year the ball will be held on February 25, 2017 at the Pearl River Hilton. The cost of the Emerald Ball is \$125.00. Please visit [www.RocklandCountyAOH.com](http://www.RocklandCountyAOH.com) to facilitate your giving/going to the Emerald Ball, St. Patrick's Day Breakfast. You may also mail your check and ad to PO Box 182, Pearl River, NY 10965. Should you have any questions, please send an email to [RocklandCountyHibernians@Gmail.com](mailto:RocklandCountyHibernians@Gmail.com).

## ST. MARGARET'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY GATHERING

School cafeteria, Sunday, March 5th,  
2 to 5 pm. Free Admission  
For more info or to volunteer, contact  
Pat Mulligan at 845-735-4436

## 2017 SCHOLARSHIPS

The scholarship application and all materials are on our website, <http://praoh.org>. Applications must be emailed to [kmcnulty@shp.org](mailto:kmcnulty@shp.org) by March 18th, The test will be administered on April 8th at the Hibernian House and the scholarships will be awarded at our Communion Breakfast on April 23rd.

## SENIOR CITIZEN'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON

Saturday, March 18th Noon to 2pm  
Starting at 10am volunteers will be  
needed before, during, and after  
Contact Jack O'Connor, [oakie0023@yahoo.com](mailto:oakie0023@yahoo.com), or Larry DeGennaro,  
[LDegenn931@aol.com](mailto:LDegenn931@aol.com)

## DIVISION 3 GOLF OUTING-SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, May 12th at Blue Hill,  
details to follow

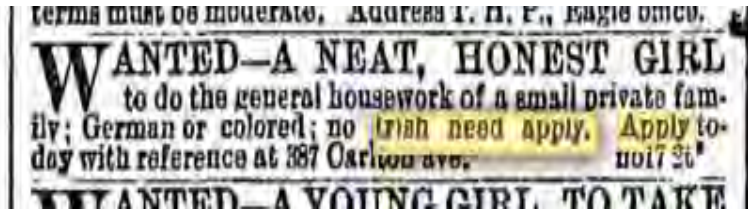
To join the committee or volunteer,  
please call Sean Walsh  
at 845-300-1718

## FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK ANNUAL DINNER

Thursday, March 9 at 7pm at Pearl  
River Hilton Formal attire, cocktail  
hour followed by a 4 course dinner  
\$200 pp, contact Jack Coyle  
at 845-659-7315

# History

## No Irish Need Apply and The Emperor's New Clothes



Within the past several months a new term has entered the American vocabulary, "Fake News". One source defines the term as "deliberately publish hoaxes, propaganda, and disinformation purporting to be real news". While a newly minted term, "Fake News" is nothing new for the Irish or Irish Americans. It was "Fake News" regarding alleged massacres during Ireland's 1641 rebellion that was used as the justification of Oliver Cromwell's very real massacres several years later. Reports claimed that tens of thousands of English Colonists who had confiscated Irish lands and displaced Irish landowners (a fact conveniently omitted) were slaughtered in the most barbaric fashion, the one problem being that the numbers reported were in excess of the total colonist population of the time. Yet this myth continues to be perpetuated without question, most recently in the Smithsonian documentary "Born Fighting: How the Scots-Irish [sic] Shaped America". It was "Fake News" in the publishing of the unbelievably salacious accounts of Rebecca Reed, a woman known by her contemporaries to be suffering from mental problems, regarding her time in the Charlestown Convent (where she was enrolled in an act of charity) that was manipulated by publishers anxious to sell newspapers and nativist seeking to fan anti-Irish immigrant prejudices that resulted in the burning of the Charlestown Convent. At the time of the American Centennial, "fake news" masquerading as scholarship wound up with a New England Yankee version of American history that would become the basis of textbooks for decades where the roles of Irish Americans (and African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanics and Women) in the revolution was censored. American academia has done an admirable job in finally giving rightful recognition to the latter groups, but strangely the role of Irish Americans is still under reported.

Sadly, "fake news" targeting Irish Americans is not confined to the distant past and has reached the highest levels of Academia. Recently Dr. Richard Jensen, Professor of History, University of Illinois published a shocking paper entitled "'No Irish Need Apply': A Myth of Victimization". Per Dr. Jensen's paper the numerous accounts of "NO Irish Need Apply" prejudice and discrimination against Irish immigrants was a delusion, a product of the Irish imagination to justify "victimhood" for political and social purposes. Per Dr. Jensen based on his 'exhaustive research' "There are no contemporary or retrospective accounts of a specific sign at a specific location. No particular business enterprise is named as a culprit. No historian, archivist, or museum curator has ever located one; no photograph or drawing exists.... The newspapers and magazines are silent. The courts are silent. There is no record of an angry youth tossing a brick through the window that held such a sign. Have we not discovered all of the signs of an urban legend?"

Now one would think that such a sensational claim, that thousands if not millions, of Irish Americans who had family narratives of experiencing "No Irish Need Apply" were delusional, that a vast conspiracy was perpetuating a "No Irish Need Apply" myth for their own ends, would have drawn some healthy skepticism and questioning from academia; it is usually seen as a scholarly duty to challenge theories to independently validate or disprove them. However that process was strangely absent here; Dr. Jensen's hypothesis was swallowed unchallenged and reported and cited as fact by numerous publications and textbooks. Then came 14 year old Rebecca Fried.

Rebecca is a precocious student who attends a school for advanced students affiliated with the Quakers where students are encouraged to think critically, to research thoroughly, and not to believe everything they read on the internet. When her father brought home an article on Dr. Jensen's theory Rebecca decided to check for herself. Going to her computer and doing a few searches of Internet databases she soon found dozens of examples of ads from the 19th century with the admonishment "No Irish Need Apply" where Dr. Jensen's "exhaustive research" allegedly found none. Rebecca continued her research and found numerous other examples of "No Irish Need Apply" in cities stretching from Boston to Butte Montana and from the 1840s to the early twentieth century. She took her research to Professor Kerby A. Miller, an award winning historian and Pulitzer Prize finalist. He was so impressed with the teenagers work that he agreed to serve as her mentor. Under Dr. Millers guidance Rebecca wrote a paper on her findings that was accepted for publication in the prestigious Oxford Journal of Social History.

Unfortunately, even confronted with evidence that refutes his outrageous assertion that discrimination targeting the Irish was a myth, Dr. Jensen has retreated into arrogance and condescension. While first adamantly claiming there was no evidence of the existence or "No Irish Need Apply", now Dr. Jensen contends that the numerous examples uncovered are not enough. While complimenting Rebecca Fried on her zeal he dismisses the validity of her results because she is not a professional academic. Dr. Jensen forgets that at one time professional academic also vehemently believed the earth was flat and manned flight impossible. Through it all, the broader academic community remains conspicuously silent.

The story of the remarkable work of 14 year old Rebecca Fried is analogous to Hans Christian Anderson's "The Emperor's New Clothes" with a young person with no agenda other than to innocently seek the truth challenging the status quo unencumbered by ego and pretension. Sadly, on "No Irish Need Apply" Dr. Jensen insists on walking about naked of fact and far too many of his peers are afraid to speak for fear of being considered unsophisticated or accused of being sympathetic to Irish Catholics immigrants which is currently out of fashion in academia. The lesson is that we should encourage our young people to challenge "accepted fact" and think for themselves especially when it comes to their heritage. Let us not fall prey to sensational academic "Fake News".



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