2017 Year in Review

- In July, we released *The Day We Celebrate: 175 Years of Cleveland’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade*—the result of four years of extensive research and community collaboration. This lavishly illustrated book celebrates the story of our enduring Irish-American Cleveland community by commemorating one of the city’s oldest and most vibrant public celebrations. It’s available for purchase online at www.irisharchives.org.

Praise for *The Day We Celebrate*:

“The book is a towering achievement and a permanent, and tremendously illuminating, contribution to Cleveland history—and the history of its Irish community. This is one of those books that fills a gap in our collective story, and presents a narrative that is unlikely ever to be surpassed. It is destined to become a permanent part of what we know about ourselves and our community.” - Dennis Dooley, founding board member of IAAS and award-winning journalist

- A special grant from the City of Cleveland and contributions from many generous donors will make it possible for us to donate copies of *The Day We Celebrate* to high school and university libraries in northeast Ohio. While most of the books will be delivered shortly, students in Holy Name High Schools Irish Studies classes were able to have a sneak preview.

- Since 2012, when we launched the Johnny Kilbane Sculpture project, we have reached nearly 10,000 people by delivering 89 talks, tours, or displays. In 2017, outreach activities were conducted at or with John Carroll University, Western Reserve Historical Society, the First Friday Club, the Geauga County Department on Aging, the United Irish Societies, Kamm’s Corners Development Corporation, the Hawken School, Lorain County Ohio Genealogical Society, Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival, Ohio Celtic Festival, East Side Irish American Club, and West Side Irish American Club.

- Talks already planned for 2018 include:

  - At County Library branches—“The History of the Irish in Cleveland”
  - Parma branch – Thurs, March 1 at 7 PM
  - Fairview Park branch - Mon, March 5 at 7 PM
  - Brooklyn branch - Tues, March 6 at 7:15 PM
  - Middleburg Heights branch – Saturday, March 10, 2 pm
  - Independence branch - Tues, March 13 at 7 PM
  - At Cleveland Public library Main Branch March 10, 11:00 am: “Civil War Veterans and the Cause of Irish Nationalism in Cleveland”
  - At Music Box Supper Club March 14, 7 pm: “How the Irish Built Cleveland”
  - At Flat Iron Pub, Irish American News Speaker Series March 21, 6:30 pm: “Parade Characters and Controversies”

Please consider an “annual donation” to support our mission in 2018!

### 2018 Events

**Annual Walks of Life Awards Dinner**

**Honoring**

William M. Denihan  
Myles Gallagher  
Sr. Rita Mary Harwood, SND  
Chief Justice Maureen O’Connor

**Windows on the River**

2000 Sycamore Street  
Cleveland, OH 44113

**Donation $75 ($44 tax deductible) or $150 VIP ticket ($90 tax deductible)**

**Contact Margaret Lynch at iaasadmin@gmail.com or (216) 941-5727 by February 8 if you are interested in ad or table sponsorship opportunities.**

See p. 4 for a list of talks about aspects of the history of the Irish in Cleveland that will take place at a variety of venues throughout March 2018.

**Save the Date!**

Thursday, February 22, 2018, 5:30 pm

**Annual Walks of Life Awards Dinner**

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We look forward to your company!

Chief Justice Maureen O’Connor

Born in the nation’s capital and raised in Strongsville and Parma, Chief Justice Maureen O’Connor has had a distinguished career in public service and the law that spans three decades and includes time as a private lawyer, magistrate, common pleas court judge, prosecutor, and Ohio Supreme Court justice.

O’Connor is the state’s 10th chief justice and the first woman in Ohio history to lead the Ohio judicial branch. Since she took office in 2011, Chief Justice O’Connor has led significant reforms and improvements in the Ohio judicial system, including improving access to justice by addressing the impact that court fines, fees, and bail practices have on economically disadvantaged communities. In addition, she established a task force to maintain public trust and confidence in grand juries, created a committee to examine the administration of the death penalty, and proposed improvements to strengthen judicial elections in Ohio.

Her first statewide judicial election in 2002, in which she took more than 57 percent of the vote, made her the 148th justice to the court, the sixth woman to join the court, and gave the court its first-ever female majority. She was elected chief justice in 2010 and was re-elected to a second six-year term in 2016.

O’Connor earned her bachelor of arts degree at Seton Hall College in 1973 before going on to earn her law degree from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in 1980. After becoming a prosecuting attorney for Summit County in 1995, she was elected lieutenant governor in 1998. She became the governor’s chief adviser on criminal justice issues, serving as director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, and as chair of Ohio’s Security Task Force and the State Building Security Review Committee.

Among numerous awards and distinctions she received the Founders’ Award from the Ohio Women’s Bar Association in 2011 and was selected by the Irish Voice newspaper in New York to become a member of the Irish Legal 100 in 2010. O’Connor has two children and resides in Akron, Ohio.

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William M. Denihan

Whenever local political leaders, or even Ohio’s governor, sought someone to help oversee a department needing repair during the last half-century, they often called upon William M. Denihan as their change agent. Denihan retired August 1, 2014, as chief executive of the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services of Ohio, the largest alcohol and drug addiction agency in the country and to seek better opportunities for their children.”

Dunlop equipped race car crashed after a tire failure. A television reporter asked Gallagher what caused the blowout. Not wanting blame it on product failure, the rookie salesman explained that many other factors could have caused the tire to give out. “We’ll have to take the tire back to the lab and look at it,” he told the reporter.

The Superlative Group, with offices in Cleveland, Chicago, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Toronto and Dublin, now represents 19 transit agencies, numerous universities, sports teams, airports and state and local governments in the U.S., Canada and Europe.

A decade ago, Gallagher read that the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority intended to call its newly renovated Euclid Avenue bus route the Silver line. Gallagher called Joe Calabrese, RTA’s chief executive, and within 20 minutes convinced Calabrese that selling naming rights would help subsidize the new line, now called the HealthLine. RTA became the nation’s first transit system to sell a naming-rights sponsorship, giving the system $11 million in additional revenue.

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Sister Rita Mary Harwood

As Sister for Parish Life and Development for the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, Sister Rita Mary Harwood helps to promote and sustain the words of the Gospel by helping the people of our parish communities to come to know and love God and to realize God’s love for them-- and to reach out in concern for others.”

Myles Gallagher

Myles Gallagher likes to quote one of his late father’s friends: “Opportunity knocks every day; it takes a smart man to open the door.” Gallagher has made a career out of opening those doors.

After graduating from John Carroll University in 1984, he landed a job selling copiers. Within a year, he was named the company’s Top New Salesman. While on a flight to the company’s annual convention, Gallagher sat next to the vice president of marketing for Dunlop. By the time the plane landed in Connecticut, Gallagher had a job offer from the Dunlop executive.

Just six weeks into his new job, he was at Watkins Glen race track in New York when a Dunlop equipped race car crashed after a tire failure. A television reporter asked Gallagher what caused the blowout. Not wanting blame it on product failure, the rookie salesman explained that many other factors could have caused the tire to give out. “We’ll have to take the tire back to the lab and look at it,” he told the reporter.

Standing nearby was Mark McCormack, the legendary founder and president of IMG, the Cleveland-based sports marketing company. Upon hearing Gallagher’s answer, McCormack reportedly quipped to a colleague and future mentor—Bud Stagner, IMG’s Senior Corporate Vice President—“Now, there’s a salesman. Keep an eye on that kid.” Shortly thereafter while still in his twenties, Gallagher was accepted highly sought-after position on IMG’s marketing staff.

In the early 1990s, Richard Jacobs, then the owner of the Cleveland Indians, was looking for a salesman to handle sales of corporate suites at the team’s new ballpark. An acquaintance recommended Gallagher and Jacobs offered him the job, reminding that the position was a good experience for the firm he would eventually open. The young man asked the owner how he knew that Gallagher wanted to start his own firm. Jacobs replied: “All good salesmen want to create their own company.” In fact, Gallagher always had his sights set on creating his own marketing firm. He even had a name, suggested by a Jesuit at JCU: Superlative.

In the 25 years Gallagher has operated The Superlative Group, the firm has produced more than $2 billion worth of corporate sponsorships and naming rights throughout the United States and Europe. Among the company’s clients are The US Marine Corps, Ohio Department of Transportation, Minnesota United FC., Twentieth Century FOX, the Rock, City of Miami Beach, Caesars Entertainment, Red Rocks Amphitheater, Events DC, London Olympic Venues and most of the universities in Ireland.

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