



**LADIES ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS**  
“Our Lady of Knock”  
Division #87 – Organized February 4, 1992

**April 2026 Newsletter**

Hello Ladies,

Tomorrow is April 1, 2026, and I’m sure we are looking forward to warmer days, flowers blooming, spring cleaning and outdoor activities.

The board and I would like to express our gratitude to all those who participated in the preparation and sale of Irish Potatoes. There was a great deal of enjoyment and the event was successful. This year, the ingredients were increased, and after three days of hard work, almost 1,200 containers were prepared for sale. We still have a limited supply at the club which we expect to sell out after the meeting on April 7th.

Now for a few updates. We marched in the Philadelphia St Patrick’s Day Parade on Sunday March 15, 2026. The weather wasn’t too cold, and we had a great time. Ladies were very sparse but hopefully next year, with starting a color guard we will have many more marchers.

On March 22, 2026, approximately 15 LAOH members spent the day in reflection at Francis House of Prayer under the guidance of our Chaplin and moderator, Sr. Lisa. This day consistently provides an enriching and uplifting experience.

Chances are available for a gorgeous handmade Irish Afghan, signed book “Nativist Riot” and delicious Irish potatoes. Proceeds to benefit LAOH 87 Charity Fund. Drawing to be held April 11, 2026, at 5:00 pm live on LAOH 87 Facebook page. Donation: 1 chance for \$5.00 or 3 for \$10.00.

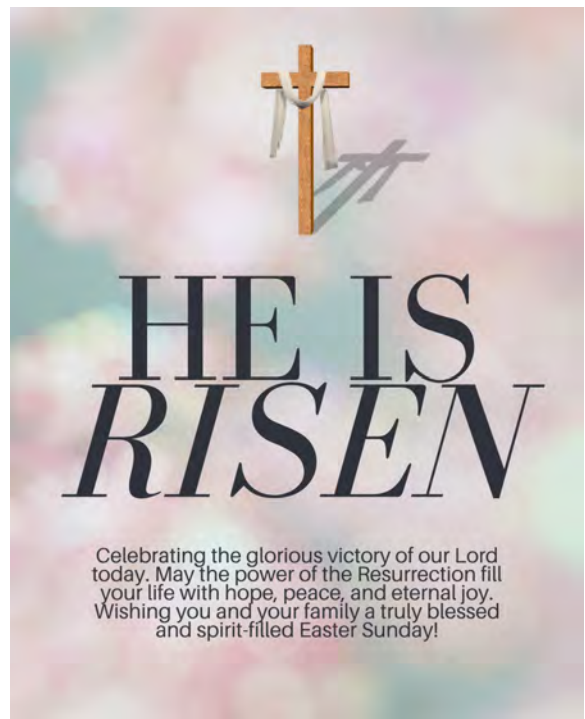
Please remember all members and special intentions in your prayer.

I hope to see you at the April meeting on the 7th.

If you have any questions or concerns, be sure to contact me or any other officer.

In Our Motto,

***Maria Gallagher***



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# Prayer Requests



Gracious and Merciful Father,

As we gather before Your presence, we bring before You our joys and concerns, knowing that You care for every detail of our lives. We thank You for the moments of joy that have filled our hearts—a new life welcomed into this world, a restored relationship, answered prayers, and the simple pleasures that remind us of Your goodness. Our hearts overflow with gratitude for these blessings.

Yet, Lord, we also lift up our concerns and burdens before You. We think of those who are facing health challenges, financial difficulties, and emotional struggles. We ask for Your healing touch, provision, and comfort to be upon them. We remember those who are grieving the loss of loved ones, and we pray for Your peace that surpasses understanding to envelop their hearts.

In this sacred time, we lay our joys and concerns at Your feet, trusting in Your unfailing love and wisdom. May Your grace sustain us, Your peace guard our hearts, and Your presence guide us through every joy and every trial.

We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus, our Savior, and Redeemer. Amen.



## MISSIONS & CHARITIES COIN DROP!

There's no better time to clean out that purse, empty those pockets and lift those couch cushions!! Gather up all that spare change that is weighing you down and bring it to the meeting and drop off to Kris Bucko. Kris will accept the folding stuff too!

All proceeds benefit Columban Missions.

The LAOH has maintained a strong relationship with the Columban Fathers and Columban Sisters. The Columban Fathers have been the primary charity of the LAOH since 1935, and the LAOH added the Columban Sisters in 2006. The donations collected help those that answered the call to mission and help facilitate their work across the world.



### GENERAL MEETING:

Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026

7:00 PM

3524 E. Thompson Street, Philadelphia, PA.  
Parking at Thompson and Tioga Streets.  
Please do not park in numbered spaces

Zoom link will be sent out prior to the meeting!!

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY

### 2026 DUES ARE NOW DUE!

Annual dues remain \$25 for the year. Make checks payable to LAOH Division 87. You may also Venmo your dues to @LAOH-DivisionEightySeven. Be sure to include your name and "2026 Dues".

If you are unable to attend the meeting mail your dues to: Donna Kearney; 4540 Almond Street; Philadelphia, PA 19137

Please remember you must be a member in good standing in order to remain on the membership list.



LAOH DivisionEightySeven  
@LAOH-DivisionEightySeven



venmo

## LAOH 87 BOOK CLUB



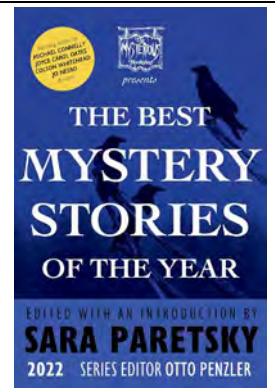
We are reading *The Best Mystery Stories of the Year - 2022*

The April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 7:00 pm. Meetings are via zoom.

To prepare, please read:

- Sleigh Bells for the Sleigh Ride by Keith Lee Morris
- Violent Devotion by Gwen Mullins

Interested in joining or have any questions please contact:  
Terry Welsh (215) 280-5992 or via email at  
TerryLAOH87@gmail.com





**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.LAOH87.COM](http://WWW.LAOH87.COM)**

You will find links to valuable information including the current issue of the newsletter, links to State and National websites, and a link to the "Saint of the Day." Check back often for more information!!

**ARE YOU RECEIVING OUR DIVISION EMAILS??**

This is our primary way of communicating with you between meetings!!

If you aren't receiving emails, please send your email address to [TerryLAOH87@gmail.com](mailto:TerryLAOH87@gmail.com) in order to be added.

**BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO OUR SISTERS!**



Jeanette Bowers .....	7
Maryanne Burnett .....	8
Kathleen Schickling .....	9
Maryanne Selther .....	9
Meghan Kauriga .....	11
Michele Szarek .....	11
Lisa Breslin SSJ .....	13
Sharon McGrath .....	13
Kathleen Morrison.....	17
Joanne Walls Ed. D .....	24
Jill Morris .....	27

May your years be many, your troubles be few,  
and may each birthday remind you of the blessings  
that love and friendship bring into your life.

Note: If we have missed your birthday in this list, please contact Donna Kearney and provide her with the information to ensure we have it correct on the membership list.

**Tar Anall America Invites you to the  
Commemoration of the  
110th Anniversary of the  
1916 Easter Rising**

Honoring Joseph McGarrity, Danny Cahalane & Luke Dillon  
And all deceased who have dedicated their lives to Ireland

**Guest Speaker:**

**Chris Hazzard, MP South Down**

Sunday, April 12, 2026 | Assemble at the cemetery at 12:30 pm

**Holy Cross Cemetery, 626 Baily Road, Yeaddon, PA**

**Irish Groups are welcome to bring their banners!**

**More Info:**

Joe (610) 247-4330

Kathi (302) 463-4190 or kthamelin@outlook.com

Terry (215) 280-5992 or TerryLAOH87@gmail.com

**Social Gathering to Follow at Briarcliff American Legion Post**

29 N. Bartram Ave., Glenolden, PA

Live Music - Irish Buffet - Cash Bar - Raffle

\$25 Adults | \$10 Children Under 12



TAR ANALL AMERICA PRESENTS  
**4th ANNUAL IRISH REBEL SUNDAY**  
IN MEMORY OF BOB DOUGHERTY AND PAT BONNER

**SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026  
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

THE MACSWINEY CLUB  
510 GREENWOOD AVENUE  
JENKINTOWN, PA 19046

BUFFET, CASH BAR  
IRISH REBEL MUSIC JAM SESSION ALL AFTERNOON  
(Featuring many of the best musicians in the Philadelphia Area)

"BANG THE BUCKET" DONATIONS AT THE DOOR  
NEED INFORMATION? Contact:

Joe McBlain (610) 247-4330

Terry Welsh (215) 280-5992 or TerryLAOH87@gmail.com

Kathi Twohig-Hamelin (302) 463-4190 or kthamelin@outlook.com



The Philadelphia AOH/LAOH

**FREEDOM FOR ALL IRELAND Committee**

Is Proud to Present the Documentary

**NORAID: IRISH AMERICA AND THE IRA**

*'Nominated for two Royal Television Society of Ireland awards'*

Come hear about the contributions and sacrifices that the men and women of our area made to advance the vision of an Ireland United, Gaelic and Free

Guest Speaker: Martin Galvin - AOH National FFAI Chairman  
(former NORAID National Publicity Chair - and Editor of the IRISH PEOPLE Newspaper)

**Saturday...May 16, 2026 at 2:00pm**

**AOH Division 39**

7229 Tulip Street Philadelphia, PA 19135

Suggested donation \$10.00

All are Welcome

All proceeds benefit AOH/LAOH Freedom for All Ireland Charities

**HANDMADE  
IRISH AFGHAN RAFFLE**

Proceeds benefit the LAOH Division 87  
Charity fund



Prize includes cozy, handmade afghan; Irish Potatoes and The Philadelphia Nativist Riots book signed by the author!!

**1 chance for \$5 or 3 for \$10**

Please contact Maria Gallagher  
(609) 304-7929  
or Venmo LAOH 87

@LAOH-DivisionEightySeven include  
your name and phone number



Drawing April 11, 2026 at 5:00 pm  
Live on Facebook

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Sr. Lisa Breslin, SSJ

### Jesus is risen! Tell your peeps!

When I recall childhood Easters, I remember being confused. I could never reconcile the presence of the Easter Bunny with Jesus rising from the dead. Symbolic thinking apparently came late for me. I was also confused that Bunnies left eggs, and going to church BEFORE we could eat candy was the worst. There were five of us and we each had our own basket, but my mother's approach was that the oldest received the smallest basket and the youngest the largest. I was the middle child, and average size was okay by me. A chocolate covered coconut egg graced the middle of each basket. I was always jealous of my oldest brother's giant egg. I missed the fact that the basket made it look bigger and that all our eggs were the same size. I was slow on spatial thinking too! Full disclosure...I loved red jellybeans and would steal them from my sibling's baskets, just the red ones, when they weren't looking. I learned this from my mother who would take all the black jellybeans. There was no greater delight than digging through the plastic grass and finding a buried jellybean or chocolate egg.

I still love red jellybeans, but now I get more excited about what Jesus did for EACH of us. For me and for you and for the grump who lives next door, Jesus suffered and died and rose from the dead. I am not a theologian, so I am very limited in explaining the tenets and mysteries of our faith, but at Mass, the meaning of Easter is clear to me. After the consecration, we say, "Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life..." Let that sink in. Death is destroyed; life is restored. Easter is no longer about bunnies and eggs and baskets, it's about God's redeeming unconditional love for you and me. During this Easter Season which lasts until Pentecost Sunday, May 24th, I will pray that each of you experiences a felt sense of God's love and forgiveness. Jesus already paid the price and now hope; gratitude and self-forgiveness are as real and as tasty as red jellybeans.

Happy Easter!

Sister Lisa

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## STATE OF THE HEART



The next State of the Heart will be held April 20th, 2026, at 7:00 pm. It will be held at AOH 87 Hall (2<sup>nd</sup> floor).

State of the Heart is a meeting facilitated by Sister Lisa Breslin. This is a space for meditation, prayer and sharing where you are at the present moment.

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## In Case You Missed March's Irish History Report:

### How Sybil Connolly Led the Irish Invasion into the Fashion World

Sybil Connolly was the first Irish woman to have the international world of fashion falling at her feet. Through her innovative use of traditional fabrics, she became the first designer to successfully target the American market and also change the way sophisticated women dressed.

Born in Swansea, Wales in 1921, Sybil moved to Waterford as a teenager with her mother after the death of her Irish father. She studied dress making in London at the age of 17 as an apprentice for London's Bradley & Co., a dressmaking company run by two Irish brothers. Connolly got to work with Bradley & Co.'s most prestigious client, Queen Mary, before returning to Dublin to work for the fashion house Richard Alan. There she worked as a Manager under the French designer Gaston Mallet. Mallet, formerly a designer at the house of Balmain, never used Irish fabrics. He left the house in 1952, and Sybil replaced him as Design Director. By using tweed, crochet, and lace in vibrant colors and interesting silhouettes, she quickly attracted the attention of the American market and, most importantly, Carmel Snow, the Irish-born editor of *Harper's Bazaar*.

Snow proved instrumental in launching Sybil's career. In 1953, Snow brought press and buyers to Ireland, where they were shown Sybil's collections at a candle-lit dinner in the elegant Dunsany Castle. When Sybil traveled to America later that year, her full-length red cape and white crochet dress were on the cover of *Life Magazine*, accompanied by the caption "Irish Invade Fashion World".

Her profile and popularity continued to rise in America throughout the late 1950's and 60's and she dressed many Hollywood stars, including Julie Andrews and Elizabeth Taylor. She employed around 100 women back in Ireland who wove tweed and crocheted lace in their homes. Undoubtedly, Sybil's trademark was pleated linen, created by closely pleating up to nine yards of linen handkerchiefs to produce one yard of delicate fabric. It could be packed away and 'emerge unscathed,' making it popular with the new, modern woman. Jackie Kennedy, one of America's most important style icons, wore one of Sybil's pleated linen dresses for her official White House portrait.

Sybil launched her own couture line in 1957 at the age of 36 and moved into 71 Merrion Square, Dublin, "the house that linen built," as she fondly called it. Furnished in eighteenth-century antiques, the house was her design headquarters for the next 40 years.

Though she was popular with men, Sybil never married. She told the Daily Mail in 1957, "For the moment, I like to buy my mink and diamonds myself." She was also a highly religious woman and had a priest bless each collection before its presentation. Sybil also redesigned the habits of three orders of nuns, and a perfume inspired by her was created by a group of Welsh monks.

Eventually, Sybil's career began to falter as she proved reluctant to adapt to the fast-paced fashion world. She maintained that she knew, as all women designers should, that "good fashion does not need to change." She renounced the new phenomenon for mini-skirts, firmly standing by what Christian Dior had told her, "A woman should show her curves, not her joints." She also hated trousers and could not fathom why the new generation "set out to deliberately make themselves look so awful."

In February 1959, a *New York Times* review said that Sybil's latest collection "showed tweeds, as she always has and always will." In 1992, Sybil's pleated linen skirts, lace blouses, and tailored coats looked almost exactly as they had 40 years previously.

Towards the end of her life, Sybil turned her hand to interiors: she was responsible for the refurbishment of a Swiss cottage in Tipperary, penned books on Irish homes and gardens, and designed both tableware for Tiffany & Co. and glasses for Tipperary Crystal.

Her important legacy was evident in the auction that followed her death in May 1998, when thousands of visitors came to 71 Merrion Square over four days to bid on 600 lots. Her contribution to fashion and her influence as a pioneering Irish businesswoman cannot be overstated.

Submitted by: Anne Foody, Irish Historian, Division #87  
March 3, 2026

See: <https://www.irishcentral.com/roots/history/sybil-connolly-irish-fashion>

# LAOH PHILADELPHIA COUNTY TARA DEGREE TEAM

Registration for Degrees Exemplification



Greetings Sisters! The Philadelphia Tara Degree Team  
will be conferring the Major Degrees of the LAOH on Sunday, April 26, 2026

Roman Catholic High School  
301 N. Broad Street  
Phila., PA 19107

We offer free off-street parking and elevators in the building.

The registration table will be open at 12:00PM and the Ceremony will begin at 1:00PM.  
Be Our Guests! Light refreshments will be offered after the ceremony. As Sisters, it will be lovely to spend few  
hours on a Sunday afternoon together.

The fee is \$25.00 for candidates and \$10.00 for observers. To be an observer you must have already  
received your Degree. Pre-registration is required, please register ASAP! **Deadline for registration is Friday,  
April 19th. Our policy is that there will be NO WALK INS accepted at the door.** Also, please note on this  
form if you have any special needs. (e.g. difficulty standing/walking).

If you have any questions pertaining to the Degree or to registration you can also contact Maureen  
Dougherty Brown [bmaureen51@gmail.com](mailto:bmaureen51@gmail.com) /215-495-3015. Thank you.

There are a few ways that you can register and pay for the Degree Exemplification.

Scan registration form to Maureen Dougherty Brown [bmaureen51@gmail.com](mailto:bmaureen51@gmail.com) or

Mail your registration form

Maureen Dougherty Brown

412 Rollings Gate Apt. B2

Bensalem, PA 19020

Payment can be sent as well with your registration.

(Please make checks payable to "LAOH Philadelphia County Tara Degree Team")

or

Venmo @TaraDegreeTeam (Alice Murray)

You will receive confirmation of your registration once we get your form and payment.



**Registration Form for Degree Ceremony  
(one form for each candidate or observer)**

I wish to receive/observe the Major Degrees of the LAOH

\_\_\_\_ Candidate (\$25.00)

\_\_\_\_ Observer (\$10.00)

**Deadline for Registration is Friday, April 19, 2026.  
Again, we ask that you respect our NO WALK INS POLICY.  
Thank you for your understanding.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address for confirmation of registration

\_\_\_\_\_  
Special Needs

Division Name/Number \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

LAOH Membership Date \_\_\_\_\_

**For Observers: Please be ready to present your Degree Card at the registration table**

Please list the date you made your Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Team that performed the Exemplification \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_