



Fall 2023

## Getting to know... Stevie and Hannah

In the Summer Ceilíer, we interviewed Joanne Fitzgerald and Jim Típe, who gave us a love story that took many decades to reach its happy ending. This time, we're telling a love story that might never have happened in decades past and almost certainly wouldn't have been publicly told.

Most PCC members who dance at the Harp know Stevie and Hannah Hogan, and many of us shared their joy at their wedding last fall at the beautiful Springwood Conference Center. Their road to marriage was shorter than Jim and Joanne's, but more fraught with obstacles. And, appropriately, it started at our beloved Mullaney's Harp & Fiddle.

Stevie started coming to the Harp with their sister Bridget in 2012. Four years later, Marlee Ebbert started bringing a bunch of college friends to the Harp, after seeing an Irish dancing demonstration at Duquesne University. Hannah was among that group, and the Kidz Table in the corner was born. The future spouses started as friends, but a mutual attraction soon developed. In October 2016, Stevie asked Hannah out on their first date, for dinner and a Halloween movie. Anyone who knows – or has even seen – Hannah can imagine that a Halloween movie was probably the quickest way to her heart!

Stevie also did the proposing. Their plan was to make the proposal at the Harp, during a show-your-lady in one of the dances. Liz and the band members were in



on the scheme. One problem: the proposal was to take place in March of 2020. A little thing called Covid intervened.

So, the proposal was almost a year late and less public than planned. Stevie popped the question while the couple were watching the ball drop on the New Year of 2021. Instead of all their whole PCC family, the only audience was their dog, Buddy.

But the road to that happy moment was longer than just the five years between 2016 and January 1, 2021.

During their early teens, Stevie suffered from migraine headaches so debilitating that they had to be homeschooled. Many days, all they could do was lie in bed and endure the pain. They felt like their illness made them a burden to their parents, and they became depressed. But the time alone gave them the opportunity to go inward. They confronted the growing realization that they felt attracted to girls, not boys. And a good therapist helped them to cope with the physical pain and the depression, and to accept their sexuality with their family's support.

Hannah's road to self-acceptance came later. She had felt attracted to women before, but had also been engaged for a time to a man. Because of her conservative Christian upbringing, she was reluctant to accept her attraction to women – until she met Stevie and fell in love. It was hard

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### Kathy Bashaar



I don't have any good pictures of my great-grandfather whose parents were born in Ulster, but here is a picture of his brother, Patrick Grant. Although he died before I was born, I heard many colorful stories about Uncle Pat. He worked on the Trans-Siberian Railroad in the early 1920s and had to flee east ahead of the Bolsheviks. He escaped through Japan and brought home this beautiful silk embroidery, which hung in my

grandmother's house, then my mother's, and now mine. He invested in the stock market with the money he earned on the railroad, and was a paper millionaire for a short time. But he lost all of his money in the crash of 1929,

and had to move into my grandparents' already-crowded home. He worked for several years as a bartender at Corny Mann's Hotel in McKees Rocks. When World War Two started, his experience in railroading led to a job at Dravo, where he helped build the LSTs that were used in the D-Day invasion. Born in 1878, he died in 1952.



### Alex Brown

This is a picture of Alex Brown's great great grandfather, James Duffy (1848 - 1921), with his wife, Alex's great great grandmother, Catherine Eccles (1856 - 1912). James was from Armagh, and Catherine was from Tyrone. They were married in Dungannon, and briefly moved in with relatives in Scotland. They arrived in the United States on August 23rd, 1882. They had ten daughters, pictured with a few of them here outside of their house in Greensburg, PA, which is still in the family.



### P J Kernick

My grandmother was an O'Leary. She is in the first row, right side. There were 11 children in her family, 8 girls and 3 boys. The oldest of the sisters died in childbirth and is not pictured here. When my great grandfather Patrick passed away in 1904, my great grandmother Mary Ann moved the family from their farm in Penn Hills to Wilksburg so the girls could find husbands. Lol!

The O'Learys came from Cork. The siblings in my grandmother's generation produced 100 first cousins. Wow!

My great great grandfather left Ireland and moved to Wales in the 1840s before emigrating to the U.S. They settled in Pittsburgh around 1880.

Fun fact: my great great grandmother was 17 years older than my great great grandfather.





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## Our Irish Ancestors

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### Dan McIntyre



My father's name was Manus Joseph McIntyre. He was born in Donegal, Ireland in 1924. He came to the United States when he was 10 months old. He attended Central Catholic School. He lied about his age and joined the Marines at 16.

After he was discharged, he married my mother, who was not Irish, and was never really accepted by my father's Irish parents. They called her the gypsy. My parents had eight

children.

My father worked many jobs, sometimes two at a time to support his eight children, but ultimately retired as a supervisor at the U.S. Postal Service.

My father never danced but he encouraged all of my siblings and me to take Irish dancing when we were younger. And as an aside, my father was responsible for introducing (Robert) Dutch Creely to the Pittsburgh

Ceili Club. Dutch was quite active in the Club and often brought his whole family to the Kick-Offs.

My grandmother, my father's mother, was Rose Boyle McIntyre. (She is in the picture) She came over to this country with my father and her other children, including Cecilia Royle. My grandfather came separately. Cecilia (Cel) is Maureen Strotmeyer's mother and my aunt.



*(Dan's father is the soldier in the picture, and his grandmother is holding Maureen's brother. The color photo is Dan's parents in about 1950)*

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### Getting to Know... con't.

revealing to her family that she was in love with Stevie and they were moving in together. Her mother wanted her gone immediately. That sparked a crisis, during which PCC friends came to the rescue. Theresa Orlando gave the couple a place to live for a few days. Kidz Corner friends went to Hannah's house to move her possessions to the apartment. Hannah says that it was the love shown to her by not only Stevie, but by all of her friends in the Pittsburgh Ceili Club, that helped her to be who she'd really wanted to be all along.

I asked Stevie and Hannah what they each love the most about each other. Stevie mentioned Hannah's big heart, her loyalty and protectiveness. Hannah mentioned Stevie's always putting others before themselves. Stevie was modest about that, attributing it to a family who raised them in a Catholic tradition of always helping others.

Future plans for the couple include owning a home and having children, either biologically or by adoption. They want to both build stability and keep the humor in their lives. They do this by being goofy together and never going to bed mad. And they want to keep dancing forever. "Kidz Table Forever!"

I am thankful to this brave young couple for being so open with me. I think the message their story conveys is simply that love helps us to be our truest and best selves. The love of their family, a competent therapist and loyal friends helped Stevie to become who they are. The love of the PCC helped Hannah to live the life she wants to live. It reminds me of one of my favorite quotes from Julian of Norwich: "You seek to know the Lord's intention in this. Love. Love was his intention." Love is always his intention.



The ancients believed that on Halloween the disembodied spirits were allowed one last chance to remain on earth if they located a favorable body and possessed it. So the villagers dressed in ghoulish costumes to make themselves so unappealing that no spirit would want them.

# Happy Samhain!



## SUMMER FUN

### Kay Balderose



I spent a week at The Biggest Week of Birding in America at Magee Marsh in Ohio with my brother Dave, my son David and his girlfriend Morgan. I think we saw (or heard) nearly 100 species of birds!

I also entered my very first competition playing the Celtic folk harp at the Ohio Scottish Games and received a blue ribbon! I was so surprised! All I hoped for was to not humiliate myself!

My maternal grandmother had red hair and her maiden name was Holt but I don't know what part of UK they were from.



### Kathy Bashaar

My nephew Austin had a summer internship at Hershey Park. His career goal is marketing manager for an amusement park, so that was his dream job. Al and I, and my brother and sister-in-law, and their best friends, all went to Hershey to visit Austin. Hershey Park was very fun (I ride pretty much everything), and Hershey Gardens was beautiful. But the best part was seeing Austin living his dream!



### Craig Connolly



I caught a very big fish this year during a Canadian fishing trip with my dad and uncles.

This year marks 20 years since my initial trip to Canada to fish the Gouin Reservoir with my dad, grandpap, and great uncle. I wasn't allowed to drive the boat then because I was too young... My how time flies. This year also marks the catching of my largest ever fish! A 38.5 inch Northern Pike who told me for 7 minutes he didn't want to get into the boat. Here's hoping that beating this record doesn't take me another 20 years!

### Frank Cindrich

I had a week in Ireland in April. Was in Dublin at beginning and end visiting friends and cousins.

The highlight in between the Dublin stay was a weekend on Inishbofin, Co Galway, where my Grandma is from. It was Arts Festival weekend so the music was great too!

Photos are: view from the Inishbofin Ferry  
Cromwell's Barracks (from the 1500's)

Bofin Cemetery

and White Cow Ale (very good...Inish bofin is "Island of the White Cow")





## SUMMER FUN



**Kathy Erhart**

The Pittsburgh Concert Chorale, with which my husband sings, had an 80's concert in May, then again in July on the grounds of the Frick Mansion. The 80's music was great, and it was so "radical" playing the part!



**Liz and Giles Grinko**

A tale of two beaches... Virginia and New Jersey... lots of sand, surf and fun at Sandbridge, VA and Cape May, NJ. Sandbridge is just a bit more south from the traditional Virginia Beach area and a bit quieter. Cape May one of the oldest beach destinations on the east coast with a promenade of hotels, restaurants and ice cream shops alongside the beach. But the ocean sounds were equally wonderful and so were the sunsets!



**Mary Ellen Myers**



Shirley Murphy and I made it to Hawaii this past spring. Picture are pretty explanatory since I picked pictures with where we were. It was a great vacation!

**Joyce Rothermel & Michael Drohan**



We have been going to George's Pond in Franklin, Maine for 2 weeks in the summer for over 30 years. See photo of George's Pond from front of our collage rental. For the past two years we have had stops in Topsham, Maine to visit niece Melissa and family and friend in Yarmouth, Maine who we met many years ago Irish dancing at the Nevele in the Catskills.



**Young Ones!**

Some of the "Kidz" from the PCC took a trip to Cedar Point this summer. Pictured are Jonathan Kelly, Evan Adcock, Marissa Canavan, Kelsey Stark, Nicole Rella, Marlee Ebbert, Brandon Messineo and Alicia Loy.





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## SUMMER FUN

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### Sue Anne Hogan

Well, I've been fortunate enough to have had three trips this summer: a week in Gatlinburg, TN with my sister, 4 days and three nights in Jamestown, NY with a dance friend and a nine-day visit with an old friend from childhood and her husband in Denver, CO. From the Smoky Mts, Sky Lift Park and Ripley's Aquarium to Chautauqua, Lucille Ball's childhood home and Panama Rocks to the Rockies, including Red Rocks Amphitheater, and cultural sites in Denver, it's been grand!!



### Val Keeley

We went "glamping" at Sun Retreats at Geneva on the Lake, Ohio. The grandchildren loved the fishing-it's a big catfish in the 2nd picture.



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## PCC Ladies Step Out at the Gaelic Arts Society's Irish Tea

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This past June 4th, ladies of the PCC donned their fancy hats and attended the Gaelic Arts Society's High Irish Tea at the beautiful Pittsburgh Golf Club in Schenley Park.

We dined on a salad of mixed greens, selection of tea sandwiches, scones, delectable mini desserts, and Irish Tea, of course. This year's Miss Smiling Irish Eyes, Margaret Murphy, and her Court entertained us with Irish music, Step dancing, and stories of the Pittsburgh Banshees, the women's Gaelic Football Club.



\*The Gaelic Arts Society (GAS) promotes the legacy, history, literature, traditions, and crafts of Ireland through various programs and events. The GAS offers programs on the 3rd Sundays of the month at Carlow University's AJ Palumbo Hall. The programs are from 2-3PM, followed by a social from 3-4 PM. Free parking is across the street. For information contact PCC member Shirley Murphy, President, at [pghgaelicarts@gmail.com](mailto:pghgaelicarts@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Events

<i>What</i>	<i>When</i>	<i>Where</i>	<i>Contact &amp; infor</i>
Pittsburgh Irish Festival	Sep 8, 9 & 10	Carrie Furnace, 801 Carrie Furnace Blvd.	<a href="https://pghirishfest.org/">https://pghirishfest.org/</a>
	Tickets \$18-25, children under 12 free, \$2 senior discount, weekend pass \$60		
Calliope, The Pittsburgh Folk Music Society Summer Series: Sweaty Already String Band	Sep 14, 7p	Schenley Plaza	Tips or suggested donation of \$15, cash bar
Ligonier Highland Games	Sept 16 8a-6p	Idlewild Park & Soak Zone, Ligonier	
Pittsburgh Halloween Feis	Sep 23, 24, 8a	Pittsburgh International Airport	Free. JIM GRAVEN kayaks201@verizon.net
PCC Picnic	Sep 24. 2-7p	Rose Barn, North Park	FREE for members, \$15 for non-members. Bring a dish!
Knights of Equity & Daughters of Erin Court National Convention	Oct 6, 7, 8	Marriott Pittsburgh North	Rose Kreger, 321 Elm Ct. Pittsburgh 15237, 412-889-3035
Tannahill Weavers	Oct 13, 8p	Greater Pgh Masonic Temple	Events.com
Gaelic Arts Society: Sean Patick Regan, Bagpipe History	Oct 15, 2p	AJ Palumbo Hall	PGHGaelicArts@gmail.com
LAOH Div 11 Monte Carlo Night	Oct 21, 6p	Salvatore's Event Center	Mary Rodgers Schubert mschuber@pitt.edu(412.956.5173) or Shirley Sestric www.laohdiv11.com PGHGaelicArts@gmail.com
Gaelic Arts Sociey: Dan Taylor, Irish History	Nov 5, 2 p.	AJ Palumbo Hall	
Gaelic Arts Society: Christmas Party	Dec 1	Holiday Inn, Parkway Center Mall	PGHGaelicArts@gmail.com
PCC Christmas Ceili	Dec 3	Fox Chapel Yacht Club	Mary McIntyre
Pittsburgh Winter Feis	Dec 30, 31, 8a	Pittsburgh International Airport	Free. JIM GRAVEN kayaks201@verizon.net
Gaelic Arts Society: Rob Tierney, GAA Irish Sports	Jan 14, 2024, 2p	AJ Palumbo Hall	PGHGaelicArts@gmail.com
Gaelic Arts Society: Raymond Werner, Pittsburgh's Shantytown	Feb 18, 2024, 2p	AJ Palumbo Hall	PGHGaelicArts@gmail.com
Calliope, Pittsburgh Folk Music Society: JigJam (Irish/Celtic/bluegrass music)	March 23, 6:30p	City Winery Pittsburgh	<a href="https://calliopehouse.org/">https://calliopehouse.org/</a>
Gaelic Arts Society: Cahal Dunne, "Athenry" book discussion	Apr 14, 2024, 2p	AJ Palumbo Hall	PGHGaelicArts@gmail.com
Gaelic Arts Society: Irish High Tea	June 2, 2024	Pittsburgh Golf Club	PGHGaelicArts@gmail.com







P. O. Box 38183  
Pittsburgh, PA 15238-8183

#### MORE REMINDERS:



- Your PCC dues are due NOW: \$20 for an individual, \$35 per family. If you are a NEW member and paid in April, May or June, you are covered until 6/30/24 and do not have to pay again. Everyone else: cash or check (made out to Pittsburgh Ceili Club) can be given to Maureen Strotmeyer. (NOTE: Coming soon for your convenience is payment by Venmo and/or credit card. We hope to have at least one of these options ready in time for the Christmas Ceili).

- Be sure to order your PCC swag. In addition to jackets, we now have t-shirts, sweatshirts and polos. They make great gifts. Be like the cool people: dress PCC! See Maureen Strotmeyer.

**As we start into a darker, colder time of year, this feels like a needed blessing...**

*An Old Celtic Blessing*

May the blessing of light be on you—  
light without and light within.  
May the blessed sunlight shine on you  
and warm your heart  
till it glows like a great peat fire.



*Ceilier STAFF: Editor- Kathy Bashaar; Layout- Jim Guay*

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