



Слава Україні! Героям Слава!



Glory to Ukraine! To the heroes, glory!

Ní neart go cur le chéile

We are better together.



yan New Year 2023 begins in Singapore dis year, so in good Asian tradition but with Celtic clarity we heartily wish you *Beannachtam na Feile Padraig Lah!* “Happy St. Patrick’s Day Lah” (Singlish emphasis added lah) and Happy Ryan New Year! As the festive moment finalizing RY22 is nigh, we left our happy shipboard home for lo this last month having navigated from Sydney via Bali, Saigon, and other exotic locales to the Lion City, the ultimate merrimentocracy, as it’s all about the food. Hawker centers here we come! But I digress as I digest. This year’s Annual Wee Epistle 2023 (AWE 23) awaits and follows recounting as it does annually the ack ack activities of the wee but wider

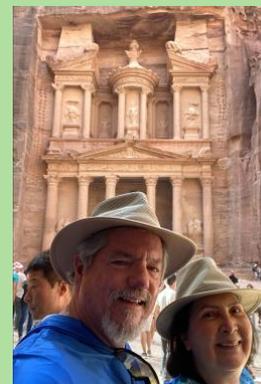


band of Amer-Irish explicably known as the Ryans (NGY – no grandchildren yet). All Long Time AWE-Inspired Readers (ALTAIRs) will no doubt recall with some trepidation the origins of this annual annoyance in that God’s blessings of progeny via procreation twice so encumbered our Christmastime as to cause serious social disconnection, which when coupled with good Irish guilt, compelled compensatory compliments for cards, correspondence, and calls to commence consistently and coupled conveniently at and with that most festive of all moments, St. Paddy’s Day! Therefore, thanks be to you and to God almighty for our continuous connection in this spirited fashion sending such salubrious sentiments sequentially so. Afore I get too far into celebratory rhetorical recounting, please let us take a moment to recall our friends and defenders in Ukraine and their extraordinary president all of whom are keenly demonstrating the finest qualities of humanity in their quest to be free lest we take them and our own freedom for granted and in so doing lose it. Thanks be to God (TBTG). There you have it, so now let’s get on with the retelling, but first

“*Céad Mile Fáilte*” -- “A hundred thousand welcomes” All caveats now observed. Dear AWESome reader, executive summary follows: despite it all’n’all it’s still clear dat God does indeed have a plan TBTG Himself, and His timing is divine; to wit all the Ryans are healthier, happier, and heartier than the year before as you’ll quickly realize via annual-wee-epistle.com as there are more pictures, history, and hysterics there than here, but have no fear, there’s as much of this year here as there. So, on, on! Chronologically, sequentially, and so forth RY22 unfolded thusly. From San Juan, PR via SeaDream II to Barcelona (a voyage that included champagne COVID cloistering in name-embroidered jammies), then overland to dreamily dramatic Andalucia afore returning reluctantly to retirement’s regimen, which saw the German-US Loisach Group in DC, a NATO Task Force in full force, and Farm-friendly frolics installing a Rain Garden, French drains, and a longish 100’+ paved driveway. Favored friends abounded about too numerous to mention, but one Lazer-inspired encounter with childhood hero, astronaut Lt Gen Tom Stafford, must go against convention and be mentioned as should Snoopy’s personal tour of Udvar-Hazy A&S museum – God’s great gifts to be sure! Michael the Elder (M^E) had the honor of the Memorial Day speech in the ancestral place betwixt and between trips to Philadelphia to final farewell fond relatives and bantering about with his brothers in the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Rangers soft ice cream summered us superbly whilst festivals, frolicking Swarms at the Finger Lakes, and farm fruits filled forever moments fantastically. Gloria can now truthfully be called Galloping Glamorous Gloria (G³) given God’s gift of HIPS! Once a mocking moniker HIPS is heaven sent as both are new and working wonders TBTG! And so we’re



off again!! Sister Judy’s convalescent assistance involved buying a buckboard (because), shadowing Gobbler’s Knob (no Punxy Phil), but Phil Cuz Tim’s 50th celebrations nevertheless dontcha know. M^E passed G³’s bedridden rest time teaching golf across the street, playing at Bedford Springs, whilst we all enjoyed Movie Night Under the Stars on the terrace (2nd Hand Lions – Grrreat!), pizza at the Legion, Ethnic Fest (Irish Best), and our (gasp) 40th Air Force Academy reunion where people looked like themselves SBP!! M^E interspersed a few wee wanderings in the Old World taking in the Pubs in Belgium, Germany, the UK, and Estonia, which included an Arctic work event in September in Bavaria featuring arctic-like weather for M^E’s outdoor O’Gau Passion Play. Serendipitously (luckily too), M^E had a true Rowdy’s time @Andechs Klosterbrauerei (beer) with friends of 40 years – all livers be praised!





True highlight follows: Returning via Boston M^E brunched with our amazing daughter and her incredible husband. Carissa and “The Jeff” +Lovecat live memorably in every way whilst moving, changing jobs, minting money (they each make more than I ever did) traveling, skiing/snowboarding, whiskeying, leading, and loving! The new Boston apartment is the transporter pad for the push to the Windy City. The Maine house (www.airbnb.com/h/pinehavenme available for a wee fee) appreciates in every respect. A skiing trip to Tahoe for Snowmageddon highlighted a hectic year. Whilst Squirrely remains the King, Lovecat continues in post-pound Bonus Time lavishing feline felicity, fealty, and favor forever. 🍀 Post reunion whilst M^E *slaved* (AUSA) G³ *played* out West sistering siblings sampling seductively sensual sinus-searing scents - chili peppers to be exact.



A new suitcase full of said S⁵s confounded drug dogs upon airport arrival in time to depart aboard Azamara Quest in Athens bound via Alexandria, Aqaba (Petra), Eilat (Jerusalem), the Suez Canal, Muscat, for Dubai. A week in Paris gave us respite from a long flight as did brother Anil’s hospitality, which included a sumptuous side trip to Brussels as one does. God’s timing being divine, our Paris moment coincided with Saveurs et Vins, our favorite gastronomic event at which we first met and now met again les proprietors de Chateau LaMothe de Haux! Mon Dieu!! 20+ years ago they named their best wine after their new daughter Valentine, and this year we met her - Incroyable!! 🍀 Happily home for Thanksgiving TBTG in time for Chosen in theaters and Gloria’s sisterly recuperative visit by Elsa for Hip #2, whilst, of course, M^E Old Worlded for “work” to NATO (taking one for the home team to be sure dontcha know) ADIF Reception, Neuhaus factory store, famous and infamous friends, Op Bear II planning (wait for it) and V2X success! 🇮🇪 Upon return, frolicking with freezing friends festively fortifying freely we Christmas Eve Eved at the golf course bar across the street in -42F winds then the following week rinsed and repeated to rock New Year’s Eve Eve in +55F. 🍀 Blessings are indeed



bountiful and uncountable but clear nevertheless as Michael Me Boy (M^{MB}) returned for Christmas having embraced multi-generational living, mentoring, coaching, exercising, and cat sitting all to his great personal benefit. M^{MB} is now poised to pursue passions yet to be discerned, while becoming, if that were possible, even more handsome. A pleasure to have around the house, both M^{MB} and M^E are delighted to have found time together thought lost and look forward to flying, cruising, and skiing together in RY23. Saints Be Praised (SBP)! They both enjoy aerobics, Benjy banter, Johnstown Tomahawks and virtual reality at the local lair. 🇮🇪 Michael the Elder (M^E), in occasional retirement, for his part relishes remnants of a readily-remembered reality by re-engaging regularly to reenergize rationality and refresh reason by writing (Chapter on China out soon), commentating (Sky News, Al Jazeera, GBT), lecturing (Crystal, SeaDream, Azamara, Viking so far), consulting (defense firms), and connecting (even farther while avoiding getting even wider). 🍀 Closing out yet another Grace filled year (YAGFY) G³, M^E, & M^{MB} fulfilled a G³ dream / Christmas prezzie attending the dazzling Shen Yun in PGH. A spectacle for all’n’all to be sure SBP! And then, if all that were not enough, the long-awaited friends-inspired camouflage-attired Red Neck Regalia rounded out the YAGFY in find fashion and loose-fitting style with a feast of pheasant, venison, wild boar, steelhead, and many other very local delicacies all dished to delight in gourmet greenery! 🍀 Sydney awaited TBTG at the end of 18-hours of upgraded boon and so we find ourselves back where we started, in joy and gratitude for blessings, bounty, and bliss due in largest part to visits by and with friends too numerous to list here! Thank you all’n’all. Such a life gives us all continuous pause for praise and thanksgiving, but most of all we are thankful for you dear and gentle reader - and since you’ve read this far - true and faithful friend one’n’all’n’all. 🇮🇪 We raise a glass to you and yours, be you near or on some foreign shore, for ‘tis God’s Grace that ere we met, and His true promise that we’ll yet be reunited in our love and arm-in-arm in Heaven’s pub! *Slainte!* 🍀 Finally, as is our custom please join us in inviting our Lord to watch over our coalition and Ukrainian troops as they go into battle today, to give comfort and strength for the battles they will fight inside, and to shine His face upon the families at home as they also serve who only sit and wait. 🍀 **Godspeed!**



🍀 Sydney awaited TBTG at the end of 18-hours of upgraded boon and so we find ourselves back where we started, in joy and gratitude for blessings, bounty, and bliss due in largest part to visits by and with friends too numerous to list here! Thank you all’n’all. Such a life gives us all continuous pause for praise and thanksgiving, but most of all we are thankful for you dear and gentle reader - and since you’ve read this far - true and faithful friend one’n’all’n’all. 🇮🇪 We raise a glass to you and yours, be you near or on some foreign shore, for ‘tis God’s Grace that ere we met, and His true promise that we’ll yet be reunited in our love and arm-in-arm in Heaven’s pub! *Slainte!* 🍀 Finally, as is our custom please join us in inviting our Lord to watch over our coalition and Ukrainian troops as they go into battle today, to give comfort and strength for the battles they will fight inside, and to shine His face upon the families at home as they also serve who only sit and wait. 🍀 **Godspeed!**



Mike, Gloria, Carissa & Jeff, and Michael Ryan, Moonbean & Lovecat too

Live memorably!

(814) 421-6187 ryanmc2@gmail.com www.annual-wee-epistle.com