








Слава Україні! Героям Слава!  Glory to Ukraine! To the heroes, glory!  
 “An té a bhíonn siúlach, bíonn scéalach” “He who travels has stories to tell”




Ryan New Year 2024 is here! Be of good cheer be ya far or near and shout *Beannachtam na Feile Padraig* or “Happy St. Patrick’s” to those with a beer! (or whiskey, even a cocktail) Happy Ryan New Year! As Ryan Year 23’s lingering moments flicker and fade rejoice for this year’s Annual Wee Epistle 2024 (AWE24) has found you wanting to know everything about the Amer-Irish exploits leaping to these 366 days from the annals of the wee Ryans (NGY) of County Cambria in the magical Laurel Highlands of a lush-filled land called Penn’s Woods. All Long Time AWE-Inspired Readers (ALTAIRs), many of you among them TBTG, will well imagine the by now familiar comings and



goings, goings and comings of the main characters of our ongoing epic with no doubt a smile on your lips and a joy in your heart. Have no fear fair ALTAIR for this year’s delights far exceed those past, presenting as they do an evolutionary expansion into heretofore untold realms Homerically retelling, recounting, and recalling rambunctious ramblings, raucous respites, and rarified revelry.  Afore we go, it must be said, and truly so, how festive our foregoing feast found us inundated as we were with Christmas cards and letters from you faithful friends for which it is hoped today’s fulsome expression of fondness, fraternity, and fidelity finds favor, for as you by now know our habitual lack of Christmas correspondence was a conundrum created by creation of creatures cuddly and cute called kids. By and by St. Paddy’s Day remains our first post-Nativity possibility to present patrimonious pleasantries pleasingly presented in this AWE24 TBTG.  A beginning is a great place to start so “*Céad Mile Fáilte*” - “A hundred thousand welcomes”  All caveats

now observed.  Dear AWESome reader, Executive Summary: God has a plan. Life is good. It’s all about the food. The world is there to be seen. Money is made to be spent. Never eat at a restaurant with a “Cook Wanted” sign in the window. There you have it. Hearty souls will read On, On! Carrying on chronologically as it were AWE-fully attentive ALTAIRs know RY23 began in Singapore amidst Curry Puffs and Slings afore beering in Bavaria at Andechs, Augustiner, and the obligatory HofbrauHaus. Whilst quaffing in Garmisch, Oberammergau, und Riessersee, schnitzel, currywurst, pommes, and spaghetti eis, helped the medicinal go down. Greenland next (I’m not making this up) to assuage all things Arctic for the assembled in Nuuk. Fjords & musk ox steak tamed the treeless tundra twixt taskings. Two steps to Texas then doing double Dallas duty for Rowdy’s B-day and Broiler’s nuptials sprung May into summer mostly home save a savory sojourn south to spend the winey season with near & dear lakeshore willfully wetting whistles, whiskeying oneself wonderfully, and winging watercraft wistfully (a jetski is a lovely t’ing). Business in Brussels beckoned but ‘n Emerald siren lured us to Dublin afore Lavenham, UK, for our 37<sup>th</sup> anniversarial retelling, then high tea at the RAF Club (thanks Geoff) before back to BRU for *inter alia* a gourmet gathering of gallant gods (aka fighter pilots) who bestowed on our earth-bound host his now most prized possession – a call sign: COF. Cat On Fire is now a very happy man!  (Film at 11) Cancun-sunned sisters summered seaside afore invading Indiana by car/truck for nephew nuptials stopping at the Air Force Museum and lingering at the Boone County Jail (distillery). Business in Bavaria bounded by Bacchanalian bounty compelled the Deutsche Double: world’s largest winefest before AND Oktoberfest after (with Rowdies of course). Paris family offered a weekend respite of red wine, WC Rugby, et Le Malakoff TBTG! But work catches up to ya and so it did: three speaking sea sagas ensued, but first: Carissa & Jeff met us making Montreal magical, then onboard to quintessential Quebec City, a Saguenay sea plane ride,

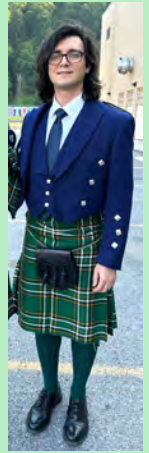


lobster rolls TDF at Prince Edward Island, Irish Poutine in St. John, ending in a festive feast from fabulous friends in Ft Lauderdale, to which we hastily returned to join same to Barbados boarding for the AzAmazing Amazon (river not...): Manaus, Rio, Spinoglio Winery, and Buenos Aires et al plus so many new friends as always! Sloth hug a highlight! No rest for the beery, so off to Santiago in advance to sample sumptuously afore sallying south amidst Chilean fjords, glaciers, & buffets to Patagonia, Ushaia, the Falklands, Spinoglio Winery, and Buenos Aires. Pinguinos the absolute highlight plus Tango lessons (we bought the shoes!). 

Meanwhile, back at The Farm, low-cost luxury living abounds at the Polka Fest, Taste of Johnstown, Ethnic Fest, Music in the Park, +Church Festival amidst and among holidays, family visits, and farm chores picking apples, pears, and grapes, snow blowing, upgrading drainage, installing hardscapes, and building out



our Bayerische Weinstube geh! (mit Wolpertinger geh!) All ‘n all tis a fine fine life indeed it is. 🇮🇪 Gleefully Gluttonous Glamorous Gloria (G<sup>4</sup>)’s mantra “It’s all about the food” (IA<sup>2</sup>tF) drove divination of delectably delightful delicacies (3D) whilst workouts, wonders, and wineries whisked weight and worry away. As CFO G<sup>4</sup> ably assured the viability of the vast Ryan financial empire (read: gave M<sup>E</sup> my allowance) while whittling down her wardrobe into carry-on-able coffers (ensuring empty checked baggage is available for shopping!). Always a marvel, G<sup>4</sup> as sister, wife, chef (IA<sup>2</sup>tF), cat-herder, cruise companion (IA<sup>2</sup>tF), connoisseur (IA<sup>2</sup>tF), and mother (IA<sup>2</sup>tF) exceeds all expectations TBTG. 🍀 Saints be Praised (SBP) Michael Me Boy (M<sup>MB</sup>) is our indispensable farmhand finding favor flourishing fruitfully as a ski



instructor, yoga, fitness, and kettlebell aficionado, and frequent flyer to Colorado to help his Tia y Tio farm the family frontier TBTG. He is still accepting applications for BFFs, assistant farm hands, and the future



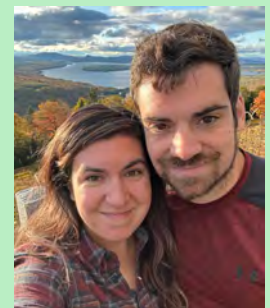
mother of our grandchildren. 🍀 Michael the Elder (M<sup>E</sup>) aside the aforementioned, continues consulting, collaborating, counseling, and copy-writing with the likes of Sky News, Al Jazeera, Friends of Europe (Board), the Ted Stevens Center, and now the American Committee on Foreign Relations who sponsored his visit to Des Moines to caucus with the raucous local ACFR chapter. M<sup>E</sup> was privileged to chair a panel of luminaries including a Norwegian admiral / dear French war college classmate during Norway’s Henry Bacon Seminar. M<sup>E</sup> and G<sup>4</sup> helped design, build, deliver, and dedicate an extraordinary new Veterans Monument at our

Carrolltown American Legion listing >2500 local names (Google it) whilst M<sup>E</sup> & M<sup>MB</sup> were part of the “best seen” PA State Convention of the Ancient Order of Hibernians here in Johnstown where “a good time was had by all n’ all.” Whilst in Blighty we delightfully donated a B-17 photo signed by many of the original 398<sup>th</sup> BG(H) to their Museum in Nuthampstead. M<sup>E</sup>’s copious free time goes to managing G<sup>4</sup>’s She Shed renovation and the professional refurbishment of our 1885 Newton & Co square grand piano, a ‘ting of beauty she is. Golf, skiing, wine, and workouts round



out the program, and delighted to say visits with family (Judy & Peg’n Tom) filled our hearts with joy SBP! 🇮🇪 The Globetrotters Carissa and Jeff +Lovecat (Where does she get it?) did Sweden, Denmark, and for Carissa’s Birthday Berlin as well as California for the Nixon Library, visit galpal Georgia in Palm Springs, and rustle up fun in Pioneer Town, also New York for Camelot and the Detroit Marathon to support guypal Andrew. Closer to home, King Richard’s Faire, and sadly, closing of a favored Brewery. Skiing (SB for Jeff) in Maine, Tahoe, Vail, Beaver Creek et al,

plus the big news: an upcoming move to Chicago from Boston, so they’re selling the awesome ski & country retreat in Maine ([Pinehaven Link](#)) [hint hint] and winding their way to the windy city.



The social event of THE year was pawtdown Lovecat’s “Catceañera” bash for her 15<sup>th</sup> birthday! A catwoman now meow!

🍀 As oneself can surely see, Yet Another Grace Filled Year (YAGFY) for we, G<sup>4</sup>, M<sup>E</sup>, C&J&Lc, und M<sup>MB</sup> your wee & merry band of co-travelers living memorably day-to-day, ship to shore, and fork to mouth (IA<sup>2</sup>tF) SBP TBTG! 🍀 For all this and for all of you ALTAIR or not, we give thanks to the Creator for teaching us not to enjoy but to live in joy! And may it be so with you 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 U.S. Allied, Partner, and especially Ukrainian troops as they go into battle today on our behalf, to give comfort and strength for the battles they will fight inside, to bestow mercy and healing on those injured, to welcome home those who sacrificed, 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*  
**Live memorably!**

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