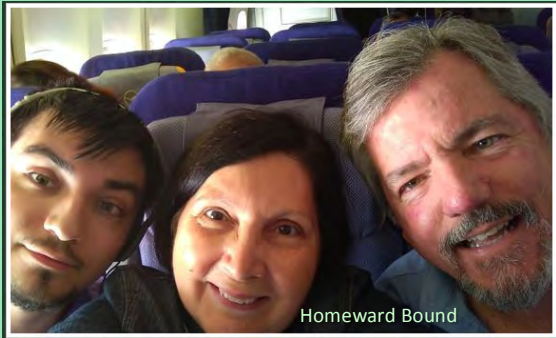





yan Year 18: *Beannachtam na Feile Padraig!* Happy St. Patrick's Day to each & every one of our gentle

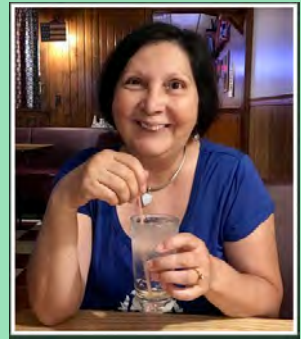



and Faithful AWE-Inspired Readers (FAIR) and friends! Tis God's grace to be sure that lo these many years we've been meeting in this wee space at this holy time to while away wistfully and in wonderment at the unabated comings and goings of our wee band of Ameri-Irish known to one 'n all 'n all as the Ryans in this the Annual Wee Epistle (AWE). Un-inebriated readers (hey, it could happen!) will no doubt recall that each St. Paddy's Day marks the official start of the Ryan Year (RY). Now then, as RY17 closes and we ring in the new RY18 may we pAWes to give a wee word of thanks for all the wonderful wishes wished upon us this last Christmas to which our AWE-18 responds kindly in kind? This annual recitation of the Ryan Hysterical Year is for you FAIR and loving

friend; many a proud tradition has humble beginnings and ours is no exception: First-time AWE-inspired readers will no doubt appreciate a short history--given that the first appearance of our progeny, marking the millennial transition from BC (Before Children) to AD (After Delivery), caused such chaos and mayhem at Christmastime that we were barely able to keep our wits about us let alone dash off the odd card to loved ones and fond friends far and wide in response to the many meaningful monologue masterpieces mounted on our mantle. We thereby resolved in the heat of baby's first Christmas to express as recompense our sincere admiration and adulation with a Leprechaun's liberal literary libation, as one is wont to do, at our earliest convenience, which turned out to be the blessed day set aside in honor of our dear Saint Patrick! And so on this St. Paddy's eve, expectant as we are for the joyous holiday ahead, may I be the first to wish you "Happy Ryan New Year 2018!" Let us begin: "Céad Míle Fáilte" -- "A hundred thousand welcomes" to the latest AWESome annual chapter in the Ryan Chronicle: In RY17 a tumultuous turn of events tested our trusty travelers with tumbling teasers and treacherous yet tantalizing transitions timed to taunt and titillate...Spoiler Alert (SA)...in a word "retirement." But first, a wee something about our players on this world's stage.  Gleefully-Gardening, Gracefully-Going, Gregariously-Gumptious (6Gs) Gloria's greatest goal gained: She managed to keep Chocolate Mint alive! Weeds do wilt in her presence ('cept me o'course) so 'tis quite an accomplishment, and it'll be no surprise that she gifted our neighbors a beautiful flower garden in front of our wee Tree Fort until we left. (More To Follow--(MTF)). Twixt trimming and tilling she tripped with her sister +1 in May starting ever so appropriately at the [Bad Canstatter Spring Bier Festival](#) then by train (who could drive after that Fest?) through the Alps to Genoa, then by boat (no Green



Eggs & Ham though) around the Med with stops in Barcelona (Spain) and Marseille (France?), then 3 Days in [Cinque Terre](#), a brief stop in Rome, then 4 days on the [Amalfi Coast](#) all without the likes of me...Thanks Be To God (TBTG) she made it (SA) to our new home in Pennsylvania (MTF) where, Saints Be Praised (SBP) she started the Lord's work as a Music Teacher at a [local Catholic School](#) putting together the Christmas Concert: A super—Never Before Seen (NBS)—extravaganza! Students playing handbells, table bells, hand drums, and sleigh bells for the big Jingle Bell finish. So inspired she was that she then started playing the guitar in Holy Mass TBTG! Spinning yarns with crochet needles no less she picked that habit up again (and who hasn't picked up an old habit from time to time, my time-to-time is usually 6:00-7:00pm in the pub). Having finished a scarf, she then

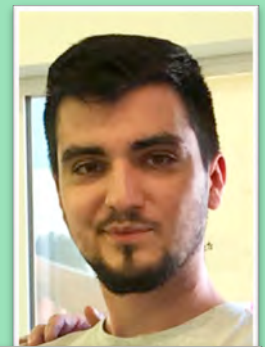


found maternal UFOs (Unfinished Fabric Objects) endeavoring to finish thoses as well. As RY18 draws nigh, 6G Gloria is wedding-dress shopping with the fair Carissa in Boston!  Ah the ever-so-lovely Carissa is a real Nutter this year! Still climbing the ladder she's now very gainfully employed at [Nutter McClennen and Fish Law Firm](#) putting them on "the map" as it were even though on the map they're at the Boston Harbor, which is a great place to be by the by. ALTAIR's (Admiring Long-Time AWE-Inspired Readers) will be overjoyed that King Squirrely's reign over the Sacred Family continues despite the imminent onset of nuptials as intimated above and announced in AWE17 and the unceasing lobbying of Love Cat. The Jeff's and Carissa's whirlwind lifestyle swept them from "Cat Tree" (CT) across the country and around the world to Singapore (Thank you AnHilSan!), Hong Kong, Japan, Portugal, Spain, and France for "[le marathon la plus longue du monde](#)" (The World's Longest Marathon – warning adult beverages involved), followed by a trip down memory lane in Paris and Brussels, then off to [Oktoberfest](#) in Munich (ditto). New York, skiing, theater, concerts, friends and their beloved "[Hash House Harriers](#)" filled their time between holidays, which included M&G+





friends in CT for Thanksgiving, Christmas in California/Nevada with The Jeff's family, and repeat Christmas in Boston with Mom & Dad in January. One must say at this point that they are on their way! 🍀 Michael Me Boy (M^{MB}) is fully engaged in unlockin' the secrets of adult life, whilst seeking and re-seeking ever-more gainful employment. His basecamp for the ongoing assault on the summit of success is a small student apartment near Pittsburgh and his mighty steed his very own 2007 Ford Edge (of which he shares ownership with the Bank of Mom). Whilst school continues, the end of which (MBA) is seemingly within his grasp, the lessons of life, for which we charge nothing, keep coming at a rapid pace TBTG! Open to unlocking their secrets he happily engages the challenges



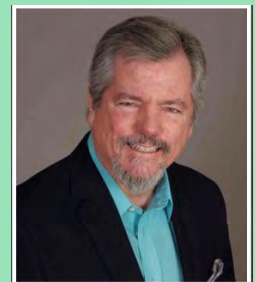
before him SBP and enjoys the journey free of his progenitor's perspective. 🎯 Starting RY17 in the finest of fashions with a semi-circular coastal navigation of the Emerald isle – 30% to go to circumnavigation! MGM (obvious), left Dublin northbound thru Belfast to the [Giant's Causeway](#) and the [Bushmill's distillery](#) quite conveniently co-located (well, almost), thence west until it was no longer possible, south through amazing topography, jaw-dropping cliffs, castles and abbeys galore with stops in Sligo and Galway (+Bay) The [Cliffs of Moher](#) launched us eastward through the center of Ireland to the [Kilbeggan distillery](#) and back in Dublin, to the [Jameson's](#) oasis. 🍀 Our valiant victorious Volvo vaulted the Atlantic to help us carry on and on here in these great United States (MTF), and 'as given us many a happy trip



in this locale, but it twas the blessed rental car that carried us far & wide to Virginia Beach, to Boston, and to the [Kebab Palace](#). Frugality notwithstanding, we ventured fourth in search of friends and fermentation! As social media is no substitute for flesh & blood, we happily spent time & treasure in good company, notably a wonderful-wine-weekend at the [Finger Lakes](#) in NY (Keuka to be exact), which exceeded all expectations in every respect such that it shall now be a tradition, as will our "Fifth Day of Christmas" reception at our ancestral Ryan family home for all those friends, old & new, who made our return a successful transition (TBTG/MTF). Transitioning traditions 6G continued her European culinary creativity craftily



customizing countrified components cooking challenging creations with uncommon combinations. Our local friends were amazed and delighted as most FAIRs & ALTAIRs will no doubt attest. MTF follows: 🍀 FAIRs and ALTAIRs, TBTG, will SBP appreciate this NBS event of MGM--This year Michael the Elder (Me) abandoned his so-called "work" at the earliest pre-appointed pension time to jump headlong into the wild & wonderful world of the "self employed" which at one time was called "retirement" but having found such a state to be so much busier than his former one (i.e., not working more work than working), he decided to be his own he boss and boss himself around (with Gloria's permission of course), so much so that he now consults for a [great company](#), teaches Russian History & Politics at a [local college](#), gives talks from time to time, and manages a [new business](#), which was in [the paper](#) and [on TV](#) to name a few of his pursuits. A little business travel added spice to life highlighted by eight days at [Cornell University](#) for the [Entrepreneur's Bootcamp for Veterans \(EBV\)](#), which was astounding and an incredible launch into business. Thanks to all those who give service and honor to veterans—all too numerous to mention here. Life in PA is good, our ancestral home wonderful, and our new "farm" amazing ([Photos of 1854 Mennonite Farmhouse](#)). We loved the fair (+demolition derby), seeing octogenarian Charlie Daniels sing, the amazing



corn maze sing, getting our stuff (finally), reuniting with my KZ piano, joining the American Legion, and reconnecting all around, especially with our European friends when the come to the US. ME enjoyed founding the Finnish Institute for Defense Studies (FIDS) over dinner in Martin's Tavern in DC, which will no doubt consist one day of a plaque in the bar at the Monastery! 🎯 Finally, as is our custom please join us in inviting our Lord to watch over our coalition troops as they go into battle today and to give comfort to those who've come home and to the families of those who did not. **Godspeed one and all!**

-- Mike, Gloria, Carissa & Michael Ryan RyanMC2@gmail.com
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LIVE MEMORABLY!

-- Lovecat, Obi Wan and Moonbeam too!

