

## Arts Groups Brace For Budget Battle

Local arts organizations and their supporters are joining their colleagues across the nation in a fast growing movement to fight expected cuts in federal funding, write Michael A. Fucco in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

A 2012 publication released by the **National Endowment for the Arts** (NEA) points out that, of the total amount of money that art groups across the country receive; only about 2.5% come from the federal government. However, for smaller organizations and specific

projects, the funding can be crucial.

Nevertheless, the Trump Administration is calling for massive cuts in funds for art, culture and public broadcasting.

A broad swath of people, from major stars to local communities is speaking up. TheHill.com posted a story in late January of how celebrities like actor Tim Daly have voice concerned --- especially the irony of how these cuts would especially hurt “the very people who voted for him.” (<http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/315434-hollywood-stars-slam-trump-over-proposed-art-funding-cuts>). Omaha station KETV has a report on how Nebraskans might be affected and respond. ( <http://www.msn.com/en-us/video/watch/concerns-about-arts-funding-threats/vp-AAmi7E8>)

Donavan Slack, writing for *USA Today*, details this national effort at <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2017/02/24/trump-national-endowment-arts-funding-battle-looming/98326712/>. This effort includes “mobilizing some 5,000 local councils, agencies and funders and 300,000 ‘citizen activists’ to flood members of Congress with calls, sign a petition to the White House and generally get the message out about the importance of the arts and federally funding them as Trump final-

izes his budget in the coming weeks.”

Pittsburgh ranks seventh in the country for jobs created through the arts. “I assure you the arts community is organization itself at this very moment,” Mitch Swain of the **Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council** (GPAC) told Fucco. According to Fucco’s article, local groups would see their grants drop from just over \$3 million in 2016 to just under \$1 million in 2017. Fucco also points out that “for every \$1 invested in the arts, such as the National Endowment for the Arts grants, there is a return of \$9.”

Among the concerns is that many members of the public don’t fully understand the importance of these funds. “Often people think that when you get a grant, it all goes into an artist’s pocket. But really it goes into the community: we buy lumber, we hire plumbers,” Michael Olijnyk of the *Mattress Factory* told the *Art Newspaper’s* Helen Stoilas. “The artist gets a small honorarium ---the rest is going into making the art.”

*The New York Times* posted a story on February 21 offering more information this national

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## Arts Groups Brace For Budget Battle

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effort which gained momentum after a February 17 report (<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/17/us/politics/trump-program-eliminations-white-house-budget-office.html>) that the Administration has a “hit list” of agencies and programs it wants to eliminate such as “longstanding conservative targets like the **Corporation for Public Broadcasting**, the **Legal Services Corporation**, **AmeriCorps** and the National Endowments for the Arts and the Humanities.” This means local public broadcasters, especially **WQED Multimedia**, will be affected. The February 21 article ([https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/19/arts/nea-cuts-trump-arts-reaction.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/19/arts/nea-cuts-trump-arts-reaction.html?_r=0)) points out how Middle America would be hit especially hard. The article quotes the executive director of an Arkansas theater company as explaining that “losing these [local organizations dependant on NEA grants] would mean fewer jobs, a lower quality of life and less local spending in the small towns that need it most.”

Overall freedom is a key element of this growing concern, especially with President Trump’s continuing attacks on respected media like CNN and the *New York Times* by calling them “fake news.” **The Mattress Factory’s** Barbara Luderowski told Stoilas that “when you look at other countries that are struggling for their freedom, the first things that are attacked are the arts, poetry, culture. Artists are known to speak up, and an autocratic government doesn’t like that.” She adds: “Cutting out the NEA, I would find that repressive.”

**Beware of hot dudes bearing gifts.**



[www.farawayhill.net](http://www.farawayhill.net)

GREATER PITTSBURGH  
ARTS COUNCIL



Arts loud and clear

GPAC is encouraging members of the local arts & entertainment community to participate in this year’s Pennsylvania Arts Advocacy Day in Harrisburg on April 25.

To learn more, visit

[www.citizensfortheartsinpa.org](http://www.citizensfortheartsinpa.org) or contact David Pankratz at [dpankratz@pittsburghartscouncil.org](mailto:dpankratz@pittsburghartscouncil.org).



Channel  
Pittsburgh

## Davis Wins Supporting Actress Oscar For “Fences”

Viola Davis won Best Supporting Actress at this year’s unusual Academy Awards for her performance in the Pittsburgh-made film “Fences.”

“Fences” is an adaptation the Pulitzer Prize winning play by Pittsburgh writer August Wilson. Davis’ win was the only one of the film’s four nominations.

The ceremony made headlines for both its diversity among the nominees and embarrassing mistakes. The biggest mistake involved a mix-up over envelopes when the Best Picture winner was announced --- first, the musical “La La Land” but in reality the drama “Moonlight” had won.

President Trump was the focus of many jokes and comments during the evening. As part of his mono-

logue, host Jimmy Kimmel thanked Mr. Trump for his recent actions and statements by saying, “Remember last year when it seemed like the Oscars were racist? That’s gone, thanks to him.”

The winner of Best Foreign Language Film, Iranian director Asghar Farhadi, boycotted the ceremony in response to Trump’s controversially ban on some Muslim-majority countries.

In response, Trump said on a Fox News Channel interview the following morning that the ceremony was playing “the race card” with him as the target.

See the full list of winners online at <http://oscar.go.com/>

## New AWC Chairman

Local developer Michael Polite has been named the new Chairman of the Board for the struggling **August Wilson Center for African American Culture**, reports the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

Polite is the principal owner of **Ralph A. Falbo, Inc.**

“The next two years will be critical as we bring on an executive



August Wilson  
Center for  
African American  
Culture

director and map out the Center’s future,” the newspaper quotes Polite from a press release. “While I’m taking over the helm, the work

of the center will always be the joint effort of our board and the center’s supporters from the wider community, including public- and private-sector representatives.”

The center is still searching for an executive director.



## Pittsburgh Novel To Be Filmed

A film-version of the Pittsburgh-based science fiction novel *Tomorrow and Tomorrow* has signed director Matt Ross (“Captain Fantastic”), writes the *Hollywood Reporter’s* Matt Ross.

Written by English mathematician Charles Sheffield (1935-2002) and first published in 1997, *Tomorrow and Tomorrow* is the story of an emotionally troubled man who awakens from cryogenic sleep in the year 2500 to discover that a disaster has destroyed Pittsburgh, which is then recreated in a virtual reality program.

You can read Ross’ full article by clicking <http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/heat-vision/captain-fantastic-director-matt-ross-tackling-sci-fi-novel-tomorrow-tomorrow-979163>. At press time, *Pittsburgh Applause* had no information on when shooting will begin or whether the film will be made in Pittsburgh.



## CBS Buys Radio Company

The country's fourth largest radio station owner, **Entercom Communications**, is being absorbed by **CBS Corporation's** radio division.

In Pittsburgh, CBS owns television and radio stations, most notably KDKA.



According to a company press release, the deal "will create a preeminent radio platform, with a

nationwide footprint of 244 stations, including 23 of the top 25 U.S. markets, as well as robust digital capabilities and a growing events platform."

It will take months for the transaction to be finalized with CBS Radio chief Andre Fernandez continuing his leadership role in the meantime.

In other news, pioneering talk show host and television producer Oprah Winfrey is joining "60 Minutes" as a special contributor.

## NBC Promotions, Renewals & High "SNL" Numbers

Spanish-language television network Telemundo, part of **Comcast**, has promoted Vanessa Pombo to a newly created position running all of Telemundo's news programming. She has some two decades of experience and was recently in charge of just the business news.



Comcast operates Pittsburgh's cable television franchise and owns NBC-Universal.

In other news, NBC has renewed its only surviving soap opera, "Days of our Lives," for another year. There was concern among many fans that the network would drop "Days" to make room for a new program featuring former Fox News host Megyn Kelly.

Instead, "Today" will lose one of its hour blocks.

Universal Filmed Entertainment has announced that the division has taken a minority stake in **Amblin Partners** thus cementing the partnership between the two movie companies.

Spoofing Donald Trump's colorful and controversial presidency has given "Saturday Night Live: its best ratings in six years. More than ten million people watched actor Alec Baldwin impersonate the billionaire politician on the February 11 broadcast.



Channel Pittsburgh

## Violinist Ross Leaves PSO

Violinist Jennifer Ross is leaving the **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** (PSO) after some 20 years with the symphony, reports Normal Lebrecht on Slipped-Disc.com.

This now leaves the symphony with three vacant positions, two of which have been empty since 2015. Ross cites a desire for a change of pace, and is moving to Wyoming.



In a separate article, Lebrecht writes that the PSO has found sponsors for its upcoming European tour with performances in Germany, Austria, the United Kingdom and Romania.

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## Virtual Presidents

On February 16, the **Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center** launched a fascinating new online exhibit.

“Presidents in Office” features images of dozens of History Center artifacts related to US presidents. These include a tassel taken from the catafalque that supported Abraham Lincoln’s coffin, an 1834 letter written by Andrew Jackson and the formal invitations to the inaugurations of three presidents.

The exhibit uses Google Arts & Culture (<http://g.co/artsandculture>), a new, immersive way to experience art, history, culture and world wonders from over a thousand organizations worldwide.

“Presidents in Office” can be seen by clicking <https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/beta/exhibit/vwlyp8WEDtPmKg>

The click here for  
Pittsburgh  
A&E Book

## KST’s Arts Incubator

A new program has been launched by the **Kelly-Strayhorn Theater** to support the development of new arts projects.



That program is called Futuremakers, an incubator for event producers and curators. A press release explains that in this 12-week program “participants will focus on refining ideas while taking their project through the phases of innovation, test and scale.”

Futuremakers begins in April. For more information, click <http://kelly-strayhorn.org/community/futuremakers-labs/>

## Class Crowd Funds Cuba

A filmmaking class at **Carnegie-Mellon University** (CMU) has launched a crowd funding campaign for a historic project --- traveling to Cuba.

## Carnegie Mellon University

CMU’s Mediated Narrative course seeks to expose students to a variety of disciplines centered on narrative, including film. A group of students is schedule to go to Cuba during Spring Break 2017 to create a computer-based interactive documentary film about contemporary Cuban society.

## Images

Celebrate Pittsburgh’s arts & entertainment history and community.



*This is an image of the Apollo command module that will be the centerpiece of an upcoming Regional History Center exhibition.*

To have an image considered contact Jim Richards at [jim@james-richards.com](mailto:jim@james-richards.com)

## High Tech & High Fashion At Carnegie Museums

Two of the four **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh** have embraced time: one, the future, and the other, the past.

CARNEGIE | MUSEUMS  
OF PITTSBURGH

Using a Facebook service, the Carnegie Museum of Natural History has launched a new streaming program that brings scientists into schools across the country. This live video series takes students behind the scenes at the museum to learn about science in general with an emphasis on the collection.

“This series is helping us achieve one of our primary institutional goals, which is to educate the public,” said the museum’s Dr. Eric Dorfman, in a press release. “By utilizing technology, we are reaching wider audiences in schools, not just in Pittsburgh but

across the country.” Learn more at [facebook.com/carnegiemn](https://www.facebook.com/carnegiemn)

Meanwhile, the Andy Warhol Museum is a backdrop for fashion designer Calvin Klein’s spring campaign. *Billboard*’s Sam Reed writes that “photographed by Willy Vanderperre at both the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh and the Rubell Family Collection in Miami, the spring campaign images see half-clothed models standing before works by Warhol, Richard Prince, Dan Flavin and Sterling Ruby wearing iconic pieces from the Calvin Klein archives.”

The campaign is being called “American Classics” and Reed’s full article is available at <http://www.billboard.com/articles/news/lifestyle/7685256/calvin-klein-steers-clear-celebrities-spring-campaign>

## Bakaitus Leaves Drusky

After nearly a decade with **Drusky Entertainment**, that company’s vice president Josh Bakaitus has left it for a job at **Mr. Small’s**.

*The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*’s Scott Mervis quotes Bakaitus: “I’m extremely grateful for Brian [Drusky’s] support and everything we did together. It was time for a change,”



Bakaitus will be Mr. Small’s new brand manager. Guitarist Adam Valen will fill-in for Bakaitus at Drusky.



Channel  
Pittsburgh

## Australia Celebrates Warhol

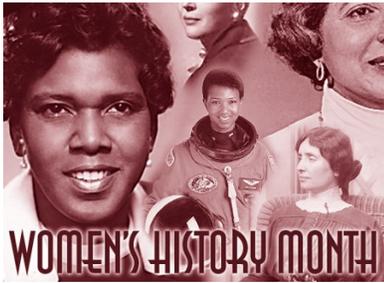
One of Pittsburgh’s most beloved sons, pop art icon Andy Warhol takes center stage at a new exhibit --- in Australia.

**The Art Gallery of New South Wales** was established in 1871 and specializes in modern and contemporary works as well as colonial and 19<sup>th</sup> Century pieces and even some Old Masters. Starting this month, the gallery celebrates the contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) artists.

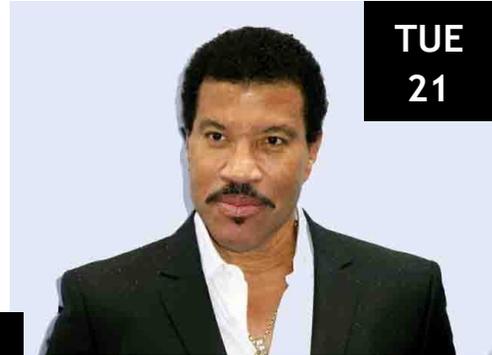
Programs include a performance series called “Queer After Hours” and a Warhol-theme float in Sydney’s Mardi Gras parade. A writer for *The Arts Newspaper* describes the float as “a giant gold shoe that will be flanked by dozens of dancing Warhol lookalikes.”

It’s all an extension of an exhibit called “Warhol before Pop” which will be on display at the Art Gallery through May 28. More information is available at <https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/exhibitions/adman/>





SUN  
5



TUE  
21



THU  
9

FRI  
24



SAT  
11



SAT  
25



WED  
15



SUN  
26

# Opportunities

Auditions are being held on March 11 at the Greensburg Garden & Civic Theatre for a production of the play “Wait until Dark” being staged by the **Greensburg Civic Theatre**. The play was first staged in 1966 and is the gripping story of a blind woman who becomes the target of three dangerous criminals. It was adapted to film in 1967 giving actress Audrey Hepburn one of her finest roles and an Oscar nomination. Details are available at <http://www.gctheatre.org/auditions.html>

Those interested in joining the **Pittsburgh Society of Artists** are welcome to participate in a new member screening scheduled for March 19 at the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts. Applicants are required to submit three gallery-ready pieces made within the last two years. The guidelines and registration form is available at [www.pittsburghsocietyofartists.com](http://www.pittsburghsocietyofartists.com)

Local actor/filmmaker Ryan Bogdewic is seeking actors for his upcoming non-union projects. These are paid positions. To learn more, contact him at [shelbethfilms@gmail.com](mailto:shelbethfilms@gmail.com)

**Howl at the Moon** is seeking pianist/singers to work at their Cultural District club on a regular basis for \$100-\$150 per night. To apply, click <http://www.howlatthemoon.com/piano-player-application/>

**The Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center** is looking for a fundraising professional (see <http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/HHC-Vice-President-Advancement-2017.pdf>) and an event associate (<http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/HHC-Casual-Event-Associate-2014.pdf>).

**Top Notch Art Supply** in Oakland is looking for a part-time associate (about 15 hours a week). This may evolve into a full-time job. For more information, call (412) 683-4444.

**Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens** is seeking part-time event assistants to work events at the facility such as weddings and corporate parties. Anyone interested should email a resume and cover letter to [hr@phipps.conservatory.org](mailto:hr@phipps.conservatory.org)

**The Kelly-Strayhorn Theater** is looking for a communications/fundraising professional and front office staff. Click <http://kelly-strayhorn.org/about/employment/>



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## Evancho Sister Wins In Trans Court Case

The transgender sister of Pittsburgh-area singer Jackie Evancho is among the three students who have won a victory in federal court over school bathroom use.

Use of rest rooms by transgender people has been a growing issue over the past year. This is especially true of youth regarding access to school facilities that include locker rooms. Transgender individuals feel that they should be using the rest room that corresponds with their gender identity while others feel they should use the one reflecting their birth certificate.

US District judge Mark Hornak has ruled that Juliet Evancho and two of her friends can use the

school facilities of their choice, pointing out that their suburban school district could not prove that anyone else's personal privacy was being threatened.

The Associated Press quotes Judge Hornak: "Other than perhaps one report received by the high school principal in October 2015 from a student that 'there was a boy' in the girls bathroom . . . followed by a parent inquiry along the same lines in early 2016, there have been no reports of 'incidents' where the use of a common restroom by any one of the plaintiffs has caused any sort of alarm to any other student,"

Jackie Evancho also has two other younger siblings, Zachary and Rachel. Juliet is the family's eldest child.

## SAG-AFTRA & Trump

Add one more list to the organizations criticizing President Donald Trump's treatment of the news media: **SAG-AFTRA**.



**SAG-AFTRA**.

The performers' union has hundreds of members in the Pittsburgh area and a full-time office in downtown. President Trump and some of those around him have decried legitimate news outlets like CNN and the *New York Times* as "fake news" and called the news media an "enemy of the people."

A press release explains that "as a union whose membership includes broadcast and online journalists, SAG-AFTRA champions the rights of a free press, whose

primary role is to provide citizens with the information they need to effectively govern a democracy. These rights are guaranteed by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which establishes that the press shall be free from government interference in the dissemination of information, ideas and opinions." Read the full statement at <http://www.sagaftra.org/sag-aftra-statement-rights-free-and-unencumbered-press-0>

In more positive news, SAG-AFTRA has announced a new mobile app to help members with smartphones to help them track their residuals, which can now be received through direct deposit. The app is available from the App Store and Google Play.

## New IATSE Vice Pres.

James J. Claffey Jr. has been unanimously elected as IATSE's next vice president.

Founded in 1893, the **International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Em-**

**ployees (IATSE)** represents technicians and craftspeople who work in theater, movies and



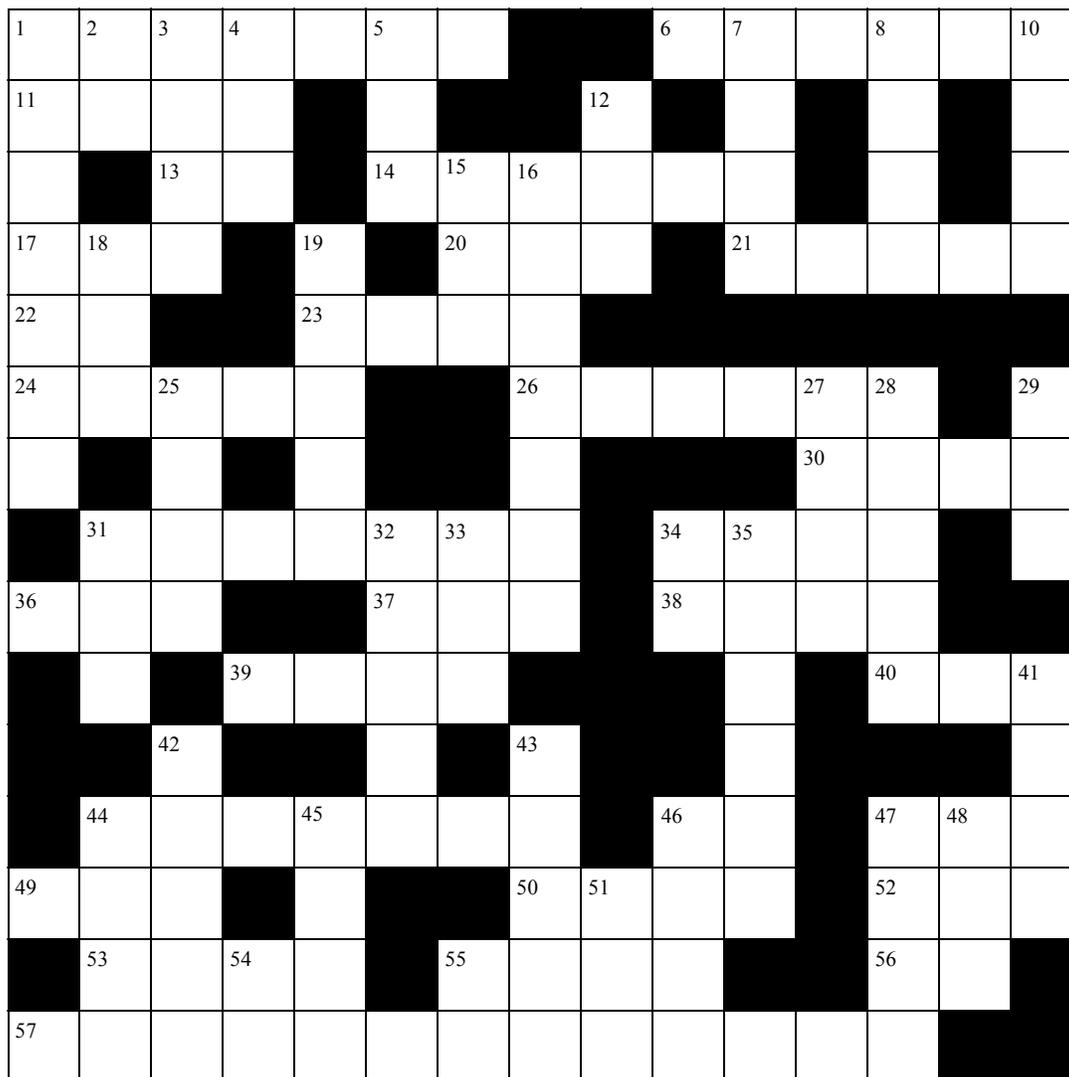
television. The union has hundreds of members in the Pittsburgh-area and two Locals.

A press release explains: "James J. Claffey, Jr., has served as President of IATSE Local One for 13 years. He is the proud son of a Local One member and has five brothers that are all members of the union. Mr. Claffey has worked as a Local One member since 1982, and began his career as a local union officer in 1996. He has served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Theatrical Business Manager, and President of Local One. He also serves as Vice President of the New York City Central Labor Council and on the New York State AFL-CIO Executive Committee."

Claffery succeeds the departing Anthony DePaulo, who plans to continue working with IATSE until his planned 2018 retirement.

# THE APPLAUSE PUZZLE

## “Ireland”



### ACROSS

1. Ireland’s patron saint
6. Irish cricketer Kevin or Niall
11. Scarlett’s home
13. Not out
14. Ireland’s capital
17. Sass
20. Buzzing bother
21. Ancient Greek hunter
22. Clooney’s TV show
23. France, to Caesar
24. Early Irish kingdom
26. See 50-Across
30. Sign gas
31. They invaded Ireland in the 12th Century
34. Military school (init.)
36. Total
37. Hill builder
38. Fuel still used in rural Ireland
39. Challenge

40. Animal pouch
44. Ireland’s longest river
46. Prof.’s helper
47. Madam’s man
49. Actress Charlotte
50. Landmark Irish peace agreement (with 25-Across)
52. Horned animal
53. Sudden attack
55. Circular action
56. Nome’s St.
57. Ireland’s highest peak

### DOWN

1. Ancient Greek who called Ireland “Little Britain”
2. Drunk Grp.
3. Voyage

4. Operated
5. Actress Charisse, to pals
7. U2 leader born in 14-Across
8. Pompous response to “Who is it?”
9. Verb’s pal
12. You might enjoy a pint of this in 14-Across
15. “Family Ties” dog
16. Northern capital
18. Anger
19. Medieval Irish alphabet
25. Small matter
27. She ruled Russia from 1693-1740.
28. Famed Irish poet

29. Lennon’s widow
31. Spiritual sister
32. Moses’ brother
33. Compass direction
34. Not down
35. Upper house of Ireland’s parliament
41. Irish city for bottle stopper
42. See-through
43. Unit of metal
44. Ms. Lee, to pals
45. Nothing, in slang
46. “Fiddler” star
47. Impressive emblem
48. Type
51. Tic-Tac-Toe win
54. Tel Aviv train company, briefly
55. Ohio slowcore band

### Last Month’s Solution

R	O	M	E	O		S	P	A	T		C	G		
I	R	A	N			A	C	H	I	L	L	E	S	
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- \* Make a monetary donation

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[www.pittsburghapplause.com](http://www.pittsburghapplause.com)

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arts & entertainment newsletter

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For more information, contact Jim at [jim@james-richards.com](mailto:jim@james-richards.com)



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