



**Nov.  
2004**

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## **HOLIDAY FOLK FAIR 2004 Ireland's New Cross-Fertilization**

by Brian Witt

Ireland has, over time, been known for its lush green hills and valleys, as well as its rich agricultural base. Even during the Great Famine, the country was a large food exporter to England. The variety of crops range from the ancient, barley and wheat, to the more recent, soybeans and corn.

Ireland has also been the recipient of wave upon wave of immigrants, many of whom fought bloody battles in order to establish footholds upon the island. These newcomers included the Milesians, Belgae, (or Firbolg), Manapii, Fomorians, and the Tuatha De Dana, as the Celts of mainland Europe found their way to the island in search of room to live. The next arrivals were the Vikings, Normans, and the English of the Middle Ages, followed by the Protestant German Palatines and French Huguenots, as well as the Scottish Plantation of Ulster. Recent waves of immigrants have come from lands which were never expected a few decades ago: Romanians, Bosnians, Chinese, and Africans of many countries, and others from the Middle and Far East.

The 2004 Holiday Folk Fair will take place November 19–21 at the Wisconsin State Fair Park. The theme this year is “The Grains of Culture”. The Shamrock Club will again be a part of this spectacular demonstration of ethnicity, representing the Irish for our 44th year. We will have sales and food booths, as well as our always outstanding Cultural booth.

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A world of cultures and customs are united in peaceful solidarity to be felt, listened to and tasted through a variety of honored family recipes, artifacts, ethnic music and spirited folk dances at the Holiday Folk Fair International. Among the special features of Folk Fair will be:

- **WORLD CAFE** – An assortment of time honored recipes passed down through generations will introduce you to distinct and extraordinary flavors that will certainly awaken your taste buds.
- **COFFEE HOUSE** – Take a break in a comforting atmosphere where you can relax with friends and family and listen to music of the world while enjoying Italian biscotti or homemade Scottish scones along with a cup of coffee, tea, or espresso.
- **ALL NATIONS THEATER** – Live performances featuring dynamic African drums, Russian balalaikas, the colorful Ukrainian national hopak dance, the Scottish fling and the vibrant Spanish flamencos.

The Holiday Folk Fair is open during the following times:

Friday, Nov. 19 — 3-10 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 20 — 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 21 — 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

If you would like to work at the 2004 Holiday Folk Fair, please contact the Shamrock Club's Holiday Folk Fair Chairs, (FOOD): Pete and Fran Dundon at (414) 242-8245 or email at [petedundon@juno.com](mailto:petedundon@juno.com); (SALES): Noreen Barclay at (262) 695-8563 or email her at [FDBarclay@earthlink.net](mailto:FDBarclay@earthlink.net); or (CULTURAL): Marianne Fischer at (414) 541-8215, or [gingmous@execpc.com](mailto:gingmous@execpc.com). Or contact us at our e-mail address, [shamrockclub@shamrockclubwisc.com](mailto:shamrockclub@shamrockclubwisc.com)

Ireland is still mainly an agricultural society, with a rapidly diminishing farm work force as yields continue to improve. There were 141,527 active farms in June 2000, compared to 170,578 in 1991. This was a fall of some 17% in the number of farms. The average size of farm increased from 26.0 hectares in 1991 to 31.4 hectares in 2000, according to the Irish Central Statistics Office.

Farmers grow mostly grains on the 14 percent of the land that can be farmed. Barley, wheat, potatoes, and sugar beets are the main crops. Barley is the principal crop in terms of acreage. It is used by the brewing and distilling industries and as feed for farm animals. The raising of oats, once significant

as a crop for horse-feed, has fallen with the declining use of these animals due to the increasing use of machines. The country was once heavily dependent on the potato crop, but Irish farmers have increased their plantings of other crops, and potato production has declined. Tobacco is grown in limited areas, as is corn. The small family farm has long been the backbone of Irish agriculture.

These crops can be used for many things, crossing over from animal feed to food usage to distillery products. They cross boundaries, and enrich all aspects of Irish life.

Ireland had been a quiet place for immigrants for years. The Chinese and Pakistani takeaway shops, as well as the Italian chipper trucks, have been mainstays of Irish society for the past few decades. (One humorous side note shown in a recent PBS documentary on the European Union changes: a family reunion in Sicily where cars licensed to County Dublin were in abundance.)

The non-Irish ethnic community includes the Travelling community (21,000), which is the largest; Africans, Asians and people from the Caribbean (20,000); the Jewish community (3,000), (some of whom have migrated, mainly to the United States of America); asylum seekers and refugees. According to statistics of the Department of Justice, Immigration and Citizenship Division, there were 33,000 legally registered foreigners living in Ireland in 1995.

Yet there are thousands of new arrivals to the land, mainly due to the success of the Celtic Tiger phenomenon, in which Ireland was to become a power amongst its European partners, and needed workers. The land that used to beg others to take its citizens now called them back, and when that proved to be insufficient, the need to import workers rose. Others came as a result of humanitarian needs, as the borders opened to many who were fleeing wars in Europe, Africa, and Asia.

The newcomers have not gone seamlessly into Irish life. There has been a rise in the number of crimes against persons amongst the immigrants, due mainly inter-ethnic strife. Nevertheless, there have been drastic changes in Ireland. There are now seven mosques in the country that once saw only a handful of establish religions, all Christian in their origin. Now, there are Muslim, animist, and Buddhist places of worship. Suddenly, Ireland is facing the same questions of racism that has dogged its eastern island neighbor for decades.

In 2004, a referendum to amend the Irish Constitution took

place in which Ireland's generous immigration policy was questioned. RTE Radio's exit poll results of 3,300 individuals at 166 polling stations listed 36% of "yes" voters having given the main reason for their vote as "the country is being exploited by immigrants." Another 27% had agreed with the statement, "there are too many immigrants in the country." The incident that prompted the vote was the case of a Chinese woman who came to Belfast to have a baby, in order to secure Irish nationality.

In low income Irish urban areas where there is competition for limited State resources, there is often no distinction made between legal and illegal immigrants. Rumors that immigrants get priority on the public housing list and get welfare payments that are much higher than available to locals, are accepted as fact. In Northern Ireland in recent times, there has been a marked increase in violent racist attacks. President Mary McAleese has eloquently condemned such activity and has also been a prominent voice in warnings against the evils of racism on the island.

For the most part the Irish have embraced the changes. The diversity in the society has also brought about changes in the way the Irish look at themselves. There are new restaurants, and a foreign accent isn't always just a county variant of the English language.

Still, as seeds have grown on the rocky soil of the land since creation, and as the country has absorbed countless others who became Irish by dint and desire, as well as time, there is no reason these new Irish will not be a part of the long term Irish landscape. A bit of fertilization will lead to increased crop yields.

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## **2004 HOLIDAY FOLK FAIR**

November 19, 20, 21, 2004

The Shamrock Club must sell 125 Holiday Folk Fair Tickets  
Any unsold tickets must be purchased by the club at full value.

Advance Sales Tickets: \$7 / At the Door: \$9

**HELP US MEET OUR GOAL!**

Holiday Folk Fair Advance Sale Ticket Order Form

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## Dane County

Our October meeting was held on October 12, 2004, at the Coliseum Bar. The featured speaker was Brian Covey from the UW's graduate history department. His presentation was on the "United Irishmen, The Rebellion of 1798." It included slides and some interesting observations from Brian. This is the third time in the past eight months that the Dane County Club has tapped into local academia for features at our meetings – they have been well received.

The November meeting will feature some instruction in Irish dancing. I am advised, I can borrow a pair of young legs for the evening. Be advised that our Christmas Party will be on Tuesday, December 14, 2004, at the Coliseum Bar. The entertainment will be announced next month.

– Bob Kerans

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## Rock County

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 16 – Regular Membership Meeting, 7 p.m.

We look forward to a large turnout at our November meeting.

– Tom Kennedy

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## South Central Shamrock Club

We opened the new year at Longley's in Reedsburg, on September 19, with 22 members present.

The calendar for the year was set up. The special dates are: our Christmas party, which is set for December 12, at the Opera House, in Baraboo, the other is for our St. Patrick's Party, which will once again be at the Voyageur, in Reedsburg.

On Sunday, October 10, a 10 a.m. Memorial Mass was held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Baraboo, with many in attendance. Following the Mass a nice group enjoyed a

brunch at the Farm Kitchen in Baraboo.

Our club will be donating monies to the local cancer society in honor of a former member who passed away last year.

Our November meeting will be held in Reedsburg, at the Country Club.

– Mary E. Stieve, reporter

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## **Milwaukee President's Message**

November is a month of great events in Wisconsin. Please, as a good citizen, remember to vote for your candidates. If you are a deer hunter, you will be out there with a million of your closest friends. If you want to find a bargain shopper's paradise, enjoy the great variety of items available at the Holiday Folk Fair at State Fair Park, November 19, 20, 21. Please visit our food, retail, and cultural area, and thank those volunteers for their efforts. Thanks to the Glencastle Adult dancers for agreeing to represent us as well as the Cashel Dennehy youth representatives. After the Folk Fair, you can get the turkey ready for Thanksgiving, and enjoy the four-day weekend.

Our thanks to Irish Fest for the use of the Great Hall and facilities for our October meeting. Barry Stapleton's presentation was well received and we thank Jane Anderson for her welcoming remarks, and arrangements.

My thanks to the members of the Audit Committee for their work in September. This includes our Trustees, and members Cate Harris and Tom Wiseman. Our thanks to all of you for this task including former Treasurer Sharon Murphy for her hospitality and the use of her office to do all of this.

I wish to announce the resignation of our secretary, Kathy Ferrell. Kathy's mother needs care, and she must assist by traveling to Minnesota regularly. We thank her for her service and ask that you remember to say a prayer for her family. Please take note also of the resignation of Cate Harris from the Chairmanship of the Bradley Center. Cate has handled this responsibility for several years, and should be thanked by all of us for this long-term volunteer position raising thousands of dollars for this club.

The Midwest Oireachtas will be held in Chicago with the four

local dance schools bringing their best pupils to compete. This annual event starts the day after Thanksgiving and ends on Sunday. Milwaukee is home to some of the Midwest's best dancers. The large cities within the region host this event on a two-year basis. The last time it was in Milwaukee was 1996. This involves thousands of competitors and their families. The Shamrock Club wishes them all the best.

Needless to say, you may spend some time watching the Wisconsin Badgers or the Green Bay Packers. There is a loyal following at our house concerning the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame. This tradition in Wisconsin is the envy of other states. With November, you may even find time for a Milwaukee Bucks game, and always look for the Shamrock Club booth at the Bradley Center.

I am asking former honorees or board members to look through their home storage areas to find two items. We are still missing a sash for the Parade Marshal, and a manual for the Senior Trustee. If you should have either item, please bring it to the next meeting.

If you are looking for a gift for a family member or friend, enroll them in the club and we will send them a membership card and the name of the person sending the gift.

See you at the next meeting.

– Julie Smith

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## **Milwaukee Honoree Dinner Rescheduled**

Due to the death of Thomas Neville, husband of Irish Rose Gail Neville, the Honoree Dinner has been rescheduled to Sunday November 7, 2004. Cocktail hour at 6 p.m. will be followed by a family style dinner at 6:30 p.m. The location has also been changed to Serb Hall at 51st and Oklahoma. Cost is \$15 per person. See Kristine Pluskota for sign up and details (414) 768-8876 or dkplus@tds.net.

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## **Boston Store**

# Coupon Books for Sale

The Shamrock Club is selling the “Boston Store Community Days” coupon book for \$5. They are available at the November meeting. The shopping day is Saturday November 20, 2004. See Kristine at the meeting or call (414) 768-8876.

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## Celtic Women First Friday Lecture Series

Nov. 5, 2004. Topic: “From the Script to the Stage”.  
Speaker: Charlotte Brady, recently moved here from Rochester, NY; she has been involved with the Rochester Irish Players as board chair, producer and director, and is now part of Milwaukee Irish Arts. She will explore the beginnings of theatre in Ireland, from a plan hatched in Coole Park, Co. Galway that became the Abbey Theatre. How does a play happen, what is the process from the script to the stage? She will actually work a scene from Lady Gregory’s “Spreading the News”.

Dec. 3, 2004. Topic: “Celtic Women Christmas Social”.  
Speakers: “Threaded Metaphors”, a presentation of ten local poets, quilters and weaver who have joined their artistry into a visual display which will be on exhibit in Parlor B beginning tonight. They will briefly explain their project and how it came about, with a bit of poetry thrown in.

Celtic craft artisans will display and explain their creations. Bring your favorite Christmas treat to share. Traditional music delights by Sreangan Binn, Bowed Psaltery Ensemble led by C.C. Westgaard. This local group of Celtic women have entertained at our Christmas socials since 2000. A wonderful way to start the yuletide season.

All lectures are held at the ICHC, in Parlor A., from 5:30 to 7 p.m. \$5 admission for all. Enjoy a cup of tea and treats while you are entertained and pleasantly joined with other Celtic women and men.

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## News from Kerry

## **BANK OFFICIAL TELLS PATRICK TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIS OVERDRAFT**

The Lord have mercy on Patrick O’Keeffe but he would purr if he heard the one about the young Bank of Ireland official who rang from Dublin last week looking for him.

The official rang the contact number he found attached to the Patrick O’Keeffe account held in the Castleisland branch and got onto J.K. O’Connor’s. He asked to speak to Patrick O’Keeffe and the shop assistant summoned Cormac O’Mahony – the chairman of the Patrick O’Keeffe Traditional Music Festival.

Cormac introduced himself but the official insisted on speaking to Patrick as it was a delicate matter and highly confidential. Cormac assured the man that he was handling Patrick’s affairs and asked if it was about the overdraft in the local bank. The official was assured that Cormac was on top of his brief and asked that Patrick be reminded to take the matter in hand as he hadn’t done so for some time.

Patrick O’Keeffe – the last of the great fiddle masters died, close enough to penniless, on February 22, 1963. After a few hard-living decades, on the roads of the greater Sliabh Luachra area, the hard winter and early spring of that year finally took its toll on him. During his time on the road he taught many pupils and played music for whatever occasion he came across.

Surviving on a hand-to-mouth existence, Patrick’s world and that of the banks could never be squared or rounded and one can only imagine how he would enjoy last week’s faux pas by the eager official.

The overdraft in question is a result of last year’s festival overrun on musicians and is a regular enough occurrence, However, the generosity of the festival sponsors usually sees that it is cleared up when the collecting for the next event begins.

### **(Kilflynn) WINNING STREAK**

The TV tam ratings went sky high in the locality one Saturday night, as everyone tuned in to the popular Winning Streak programme on RTE 1 to watch Maura Barry representing her mother, Bobs Barry of Clounsillagh. There was huge excitement when Maura who got the opportunity to spin the wheel where she won €12,500. She won €25,500 plus a holiday in total. Bobs was in audience and was joined by her

husband Michael, daughters and sons, relatives and friends.  
Congratulations to Bobs and her family.

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## Shamrock Club August

The Shamrock Club held its picnic and worked at Irish Fest this past August. The picnic attracted about 450 people, and included rides to the hurling playoffs. The Shamrock Club worked the Cultural Tent and Sales Booth at Irish Fest.



A good turnout for the club picnic.



Shamrock Piniata for the kids.



The Flemings -- picnic organizers.



Joe Hughes (left) and the Shamrock Club Griffins hurling team.



Richard Pfeiffer -- Director: Color Guard, Pipes and Drums

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## **Shalom Ireland!**

**Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m., ICHC**

It's the best Irish-Jewish event of the year! Well, actually it's the only Irish-Jewish event of the year!

The Irish and Jews have often been compared to one another, with their propensity to wander, their global spread, and their success at not only surviving centuries of oppression and persecution, but even more – transforming their struggles into success through a unique talent at assimilating into most societies and then rising to the top. Both cultures are also known for their deep reverence for the written word, for music that captures the extremes of human emotion, and for their ability to forge humor out of the ashes of pathos.

Join us at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center on Saturday, November 20, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. as we mix these two vibrant

cultures together for one truly exceptional evening! We'll be showing the film "Shalom Ireland", a beautiful portrayal of the small but vibrant Jewish community in Ireland, produced by Valerie Lapin, a Jewish Californian married to an Irish-American. Though the Jewish population of Ireland has never numbered more than a few thousand, their ranks are full of out-sized characters, such as an IRA gun-runner who later became the first Jewish Lord Mayor of Dublin, and a rabbi who consulted on the development of the modern Irish constitution.

The film will be followed by a brief talkback by Professor Timothy Crain, an expert on both the Irish and Jewish cultures, and then we'll cap the evening with a concert of Irish and Jewish music by Slainte-L'Chayim, an ensemble of some of Milwaukee's favorite Irish and Jewish musicians!

Tickets are \$15, and reserved seating is being offered. Order now to get the choice seats. Call the ICHC at (414) 345-8800.

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## **Hallamor Fall Series Concert #4**

**Ciaran Sheehan & Eily O'Grady Patterson**  
**From Broadway to Galway**  
**Saturday, November 13**

Dublin-born tenor, Ciaran Sheehan has spent much of his career on the Broadway stage in such venues as The Phantom of the Opera, Les Miserables and The Molly Maguires. He has performed for both the President of the United States as well as for the President of Ireland. He had the honor of performing for a memorial mass for John F. Kennedy at old St. Patrick's Cathedral. He is currently touring with fellow Dubliner Eily O'Grady Patterson, wife and accompanist of the late tenor, Frank Patterson. This concert is sponsored by Mark Connelly Productions.

Bob Harrold will perform a 30 minute organ concert on the ICHC's magnificent 4000+ Kimball pipe organ at 7 p.m. to open the evening.

Concert begins 8 p.m.

ICHC • (414) 345-8800

Tickets: \$19 Adv/reserved, \$21 Door

## Color Guard News and Notes

### “PRIDE AND HONOR”

The 2004 event season has come to an end but not the representation of the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin members, by your Color Guard, Pipes and Drums!

With Pride and Honor, the Unit continued its annual appearance at the Ancient Order of Hibernian's Mass and Spaghetti Dinner, held at St. Rose's Church on Oct. 2nd, and the Unit marched smartly in the Door County Sister Bay Festival Parade, on Oct. 16, bringing to an end, another successful parade season.

However, the Color Guard, Pipes and Drums continue to work and represent the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin in different ways throughout the entire year. In November the Unit will once again combine all their efforts to help with their “Food for the Needy” Program and December will see the group collect “Clothing for Christmas”. Both programs have become traditions in an effort to assist the less fortunate and the St. Patrick's Help Fund. In addition, plans are already in the works for the 2005 St. Patrick's Day parades, Easter Rising Mass, Irish Fest and the Pipes and Drums are, on a weekly basis, practicing and putting together new musical selections for the upcoming season.

The Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Color Guard, Pipes and Drums 25th Anniversary Dinner Dance planning is coming together; a great evening of fun, food and dancing will provide everyone with an event to remember! If you have any pictures, newspaper articles, memorabilia of any kind, please contact Tom Blaha (344-3584) to assist in helping put together a display which will outline and honor the Unit's 25 years of representing the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin. If you would like to be a sponsor, volunteer or donator to help with the success of this event, please contact Richard Stover (476-6666) who will be able to direct you to where your contributions will be most appreciated. And please, continue to visit the Unit's web site ([www.SCCGPD.org](http://www.SCCGPD.org)) for the most accurate and up to date information regarding the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Color Guard, Pipes and Drums activities.

If you would like to have the Shamrock Club Color Guard,

Pipes and Drums appear in a parade, special event or family occasion – or you would like to join the Unit as a banner carrier, color guard, piper or drummer, please contact:

Richard Pfeiffer, Director  
Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums  
Telephone: (414) 769-1250  
E-mail: milwpiper@cs.com

– Richard Stover

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## **RTE News Items**

### **McALEESE TO SERVE SECOND TERM IN OFFICE**

President Mary McAleese will serve a second term in office having emerged as the only candidate following the close of nominations. Dana Rosemary Scallon failed to secure the backing of either the required number of local authorities or Oireachtas members to add her name to the ballot paper. Accepting the declaration, President McAleese, 53, said she was proud to be part of a transforming and evolving Ireland.

Wishing her every success, Taoiseach Bertie Ahern said she was greatly admired for her warm manner and her shrewd legal mind. He described her as a president for all the people. After conceding defeat, Dana said she was disappointed, not for herself personally, but for democracy.

Earlier, a Cork plumber failed in a High Court attempt to get more time for Dana to seek a nomination. Harry Rea told the court that the denial of his rights to vote meant that the country was under a tyranny. He applied for an injunction to suspend the deadline for nominations, but Mr Justice Paul Butler said the correct way of nominating a president was laid down in the constitution. Later the Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal.

### **OSTEOARTHRITIS DANGER FOR GAA PLAYERS**

GAA players are at high risk of developing the degenerative disease of the joints, osteoarthritis, according to the first study of its kind in Ireland. In a survey backed by the Arthritis Foundation of Ireland, 65% of players showed symptoms of the disease and said daily life was uncomfortable due to pain

and stiffness. In the general population, the incidence of the disease is around 10%.

The report says that more pitches should be watered, especially during the summer months, and that doctors and physiotherapists should have a bigger input into training methods and schedules. The twin demands of club and county are a big factor in injury risk. In all, 262 players were surveyed during the recent championship season, which is around 25% of the playing population at inter-county level in football and hurling. Most of the players were in the 22-25 age group. The report says that football is more likely to cause osteoarthritis.

The highest incidence of osteoarthritis symptoms among players was in Mayo, Westmeath, Dublin and Cork. The areas worst affected were usually the back, knee and ankle. The survey was conducted by St Vincent's University Hospital consultant rheumatologist, Dr Doug Veale, and was funded by Panadol.

## **DRIVERS WARNED OVER PRICE OF INSURANCE**

The latest survey on motor insurance by the Irish Financial Services Regulatory Authority shows that people can save between €200 and €1,800 on their premiums by shopping around. The survey features six profiles, one of which shows that a 35-year-old driver looking for private and commercial cover would be quoted €2,913 by AXA, but just €1,165 by FBD. IFSRA says its survey shows that price is not the only issue, and it lists the additional benefits available with some policies.

IFSRA consumer director Mary O'Dea says the survey also outlines how equality legislation relates to motor insurance. This follows recent cases brought by the Equality Authority on behalf of consumers who were refused motor insurance. Ms O'Dea says insurance companies have the right to refuse cover provided they are not in breach of equality legislation, but they must provide a reason for refusal if asked.

IFSRA has published three previous motor insurance surveys, comparing quotes from insurance companies for people of a range of ages and occupations.

## **BELFAST TO NEW YORK FLIGHTS TO START NEXT MAY**

Direct flights between Belfast and New York are to begin in May next year. The service, between Belfast International

Airport and Newark Airport, will be operated by the US-based Continental Airlines.

It will be the first non-stop scheduled service to operate from the North to the United States.

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## St. Patrick's Help Fund

St. Patrick's Help Fund is in desperate need of school supplies and non-perishable foods. Please place in container at each meeting. However, donations can be brought to the ICHC any time during the week. Questions? Call Katy Voss (414) 352-6479.

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## New Members

NOTE: Please send your dues to your Membership Chairperson in your chapter. All names and addresses are listed in Emerald Reflections.

Milwaukee – Pat McCarthy; Colleen and Jim Schultz (referred by Richard Pfeiffer).

Membership Report Milwaukee Chapter:

- AUG.: 94 memberships up for renewal, 68 paid, 26 dropped for nonpayment.
- SEPT.: 37 memberships up for renewal, 25 paid, 12 due.
- OCT.: 30 memberships up for renewal, 6 paid, 24 due.

– **Tom Smith**

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