



**Aug.  
2005**

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## Folk Legends Lead The Way At 25th Milwaukee Irish Fest

**Line-up celebrates world, pop and rock greats  
and the bands that influenced them**

Milwaukee Irish Fest celebrates its 25th anniversary, August 18-21, by convening the most popular Irish folk acts in music history, including Barley Bree, the Black Brothers, Liam Clancy, Evans & Doherty, Tommy Makem, Schooner Fare and Paddy Reilly.

“This year, we pay tribute to some of the greatest folk artists in Irish music by bringing them to the festival play alongside contemporary and emerging acts they influenced,” says Chuck Ward, Irish Fest entertainment coordinator.

One of the most hotly anticipated festival acts is the reunion of Barley Bree band mates P.V. O'Donnell, Jim Sweeney, Tom Sweeney and Steven Wainright who have not performed together at Irish Fest since 1993. Barley Bree is known for hearty up tempo jigs and reels and moving ballads featuring fiddle, banjo and guitars.

Among more than 100 groups spread across 16 lakefront stages will be:

Liam Clancy, one of the most successful folk artists of the 1960s, launched into stardom after performing on the Ed Sullivan Show. His varied career has included touring and performing with The Clancy Brothers & Tommy Makem and as a solo artist.

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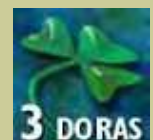
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The Green Fields of America, formed in 1978 by Mick Moloney, the first group on either side of the Atlantic to bring together Irish vocal, instrumental, and dance traditions on the concert and festival stage. Among those who got their start performing with The Green Fields are Seamus Egan, Eileen Ivers, Donny Golden, Jean Butler and Michael Flatley.

Tommy Makem, regarded around the world as “The Godfather” of Irish music, having entertained legions of fans for four decades, armed with his banjo, tinwhistle, poetry, stagecraft and magnificent baritone voice.

Paddy Reilly, one of the most popular balladeers in Ireland, both as a member of the Dubliners and as a solo act.

Irish Fest debuts include Hothouse Flowers, the Bridies and Young Dubliners.

“We are as excited about celebrating new legends as we are in bringing back our best-known bands from years past. Irish Fest has always been about breaking new ground artistically, and this year’s line-up is no exception,” says Ed Ward, Irish Fest president

Featuring former Lord of the Dance fiddlers Brenda Curtin and Máire Egan, the Bridies are one of Ireland’s most popular traditionally influenced contemporary bands. The Hothouse Flowers, a well-known pop group in Ireland since the 1980s, incorporate folk, gospel and traditional music into their original “rock and soul” sound. The Young Dubliners, known for whirling “jig pits” at their shows, combine vocals, guitar, bass, mandolin, harmonica, violin and drums for a rocking jam band sound.

Irish Fest’s 2005 line-up also celebrates the contribution of influential women artists with decades-long international followings. Joining the Bridies as well-known women bands are Carmel Quinn, the only artist in history to perform at Carnegie Hall for 25 consecutive years; Cherish the Ladies, the first commercially successful all-women traditional Irish band; and fiddle legend, Liz Carroll.

Traditional fans can look forward to the Irish Fest return of up-and-comers, Danú, who blend accordion, fiddle, guitar, uilleann pipes, whistles, bouzouki and bodhran, and include Donal Clancy, the son of Liam Clancy.

Irish Fest executive director Jane Anderson says the festival is more than just a folk fest. “It’s an eclectic concert of more than 200 performances ranging from debuts to legends for one low \$12 ticket,” she says. “Scouts, record labels and festival

Email:

[club@shamrockclubwis.com](mailto:club@shamrockclubwis.com)

organizers come to Irish Fest to see the next big thing. We pride ourselves on being on the cutting edge of emerging Irish talent.”

Irish Fest has operated a thriving Rock Stage for 16 years as the popularity of contemporary Irish music has exploded in mainstream American culture. Beyond folk music, a typical line-up mixes bluegrass, jazz, African, Latin, Cuban, and techno influences with more traditional Irish, Celtic and rock sounds.

One of the Fest’s most popular acts is Gaelic Storm, whose up-tempo, high energy Celtic music landed them a role as the “Steerage Band” in the Titanic movie. After seven years, Gaelic Storm continues to be one of Milwaukee Irish Fest’s top entertainment draw, generating more revenue in CD and merchandise than any other band that performs at the festival. Another huge draw is Leahy, a Celtic-pop group hailing from Lakefield, Ontario comprised of the nine Leahy siblings, whose lively performances combine Celtic traditions with Canadian folk and French-Canadian step-dancing.

The hotly anticipated acts on the Celtic Rock Stage will be Seven Nations, a world beat favorite that combines mandolin, violin and bagpipes, for a seascape of Celtic and American rock; and the Young Dubliners, whose legendary live shows have helped to build a fervent fan base comparable to that of “jam band” rockers like Phish and Dave Matthews Band. The younger bands will be joined by veteran political rockers Black 47, whose songs cover topics ranging from the Northern Ireland conflict to civil rights and urban unrest in contemporary New York.

Milwaukee Irish Fest is the world’s largest celebration of Irish music and culture, showcasing more than 100 entertainers annually at the 4-day, 16-stage event at Henry Maier Festival Park on Lake Michigan. Passionately committed to igniting a love of Irish culture in all people, Milwaukee Irish Fest teaches Ireland’s music, dance, drama, sports, culture, children’s activities and genealogy at the festival and through yearlong programming.

Milwaukee Irish Fest 2005 is August 18–21,  
Thursday: 5 p.m. – 10 p.m.;  
Friday: 4 p.m. – midnight;  
Saturday: noon – midnight;  
Sunday: 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.

## **President Of Ireland Accepts Invitation To Irish Fest**

### **Visit will celebrate festival's 25th anniversary**

The president of Ireland, Mary McAleese, will visit Milwaukee Irish Fest to help celebrate the festival's 25th anniversary.

“We are tremendously honored that President McAleese will travel to the United States with the express purpose of visiting the festival,” said Ed Ward, Irish Fest President.

“This is a testament to Milwaukee Irish Fest's value as a partner preserving Irish pride, culture, language and heritage for the generations,” said Jane Anderson, Irish Fest Executive Director.

Always the third weekend in August, Milwaukee Irish Fest, 2005, will take place from August 18-21.

McAleese, a former barrister and law professor, was inaugurated as the eighth President of Ireland in November, 1997. She is the first President from Northern Ireland, and has a longstanding interest in issues of justice, equality, social inclusion, anti-sectarianism and reconciliation. The theme of her presidency is “building bridges.”

The Irish government is a crucial partner in programming and funding for the Fest. In 2004, the Irish government sponsored the participation of more than a dozen lecturers, artisans, and crafts-people in the festival.

“In the past quarter century, hundreds of thousands of visitors to Milwaukee Irish Fest have learned to appreciate their heritage by participating in the rainbow of arts, cultural, educational and recreational activities at Irish Fest. We are a great resource for building tourism to the Emerald Isle,” Anderson said.

## **Shamrock Club State Meeting**



The State Advisory Board met on May 22 at R&R Kelly's in Fitchburg.

The State Board Meeting will be held in Milwaukee on August 20th. At this time the exact time and location are uncertain. You are asked to call me at (414) 321- 5153 or e-mail me at for this info after August 1st.

I am sorry about this inconvenience but it was unavoidable.

– **Cate Harris State President**

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# Rock County

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- AUGUST 16 – Annual Club Picnic; 5–9 p.m.
- SEPTEMBER 20 – Monthly membership meeting; 7 p.m.

Our Club Picnic will be held at Sweet- Alyn Park, in Shoppire, on August 16, from 5 to 9 p.m. We will have a potluck supper at 6 p.m. Come early if you can, so you can visit with the other club members before we start eating. The Club will furnish pop. If you would like coffee or some other (non-alcoholic) beverage, bring it along.

There will be a raffle and door prizes and Irish music. One of the prizes on the raffle will be a Leprechaun. If any of you members have anything you would like to donate for the raffle, bring those things along to the picnic. The picnic will be held in the shelter pavilion, so plan on coming, rain or shine.

Don't forget our first meeting of the fall on September 20 at 7 p.m. at the Janesville Senior Center, 69 S. Water Street.

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## South Central Shamrock Club



The South Central Shamrock Club was a part of the Butterfest parade on June 18, 2005 in Reedsburg, WI. The Irishman driving was South Central's president John Delmore. His passenger, seated next to him, was South Central member Gene Murray of Reedsburg. The South Central 2005 Irishman of the Year, Larry Drea, is waving to the assembled crowd of approximately 2,000 people. The Irish Rose for 2005, Jackie Harris, was not able to participate in the parade.

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## Irishfest - LaCrosse

**Friday, August 12 through Sunday August 14. At the Southside Fest Grounds**

The Coulee Region's next great heritage festival. Three stages of Irish culture, music and life. Stage entertainment from Amadans, The Kissers, Danú, Leahy's Luck, The Coulee Celtic Band, Nine Yards, and more. Irish Dance shows featuring the World Champion Glencastle Irish Dancers of Milwaukee.

Irish Market with specialized vendors featuring unique items from the Emerald Isle. Cultural Tent featuring music, lectures, demonstrations, Irish dance, storytelling, and more. Wee

Folks Area with their very own stage featuring lessons on Irish dance, sheep shearing, songs, storytelling, and various games and activities. The Tea Garden featuring homemade Irish foods. And there will be rides in a horse-drawn Irish cart.

PLUS... Food vendors featuring Irish Stew, Irish Potatoes, Corned Beef, and more. Catholic Mass on Sunday from 9 to 10 at our Cultural Stage.

### **Live Broadcast**

The Blarney Party, Saturday, August 13th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Join Ed and Sally Sullivan as they broadcast their WLFN 1490 radio show, The Blarney Party, live from Irishfest-La Crosse.

For more information, write us at Irishfest-La Crosse, PO Box 215, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54602-0215. You can email us at . Our web site is .

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## **Milwaukee President's Message**

August marks the fun filled month of summer in which we all enjoy so many Irish events, all packed into just 31 days. We start with our General Meeting on August 4 with Jane Anderson and Ed Ward relaying all the info on this year's Irish Fest. We expect to see you at our picnic on August 7 at Lake Park. Pete and Dawn Fleming have made this picnic a memorable event. Come on and attend, and bring a dish to pass. Then we have the Milwaukee Feis on August 13, and Irish Fest will be held August 18 through 21. Not satisfied with all this, we will be found at the annual Golf Outing on August 28. There will be some of our young members returning to school, or entering a new school, and we wish them all the best. We are so very fortunate to have all these marvelous events in our city and for our club members, that we are the envy of many others. This has only been accomplished by your hard work and dedication, so congratulations to all of you.

Our July installation dinner was held at Aliota's Restaurant, and was attended by approximately 60 people. We thank Judge Dennis Moroney for his time in providing us with an official swearing in ceremony, and adding to the occasion. My thanks to Kris Pluskota for setting all this up in advance, and for Kathy Donovan to assist with the dinner due to Kris taking a well deserved vacation with husband Daryl. This wonderful

sit down dinner is a great way to begin with our newly elected board members, and to recognize those leaving the board. My thanks to former board members Noreen Barclay, Tom Blaha, Kris Pluskota, and Kerry Jo Pfeiffer. These good people help to make the club what it is and should be. They have labored many hours and should be thanked for their dedication and, I will miss them and hope they will consider running for the board again.

Please remember to bring any items you have on hand for the monthly raffle if you would be so kind. We need you to make this club succeed, and we look forward to any ideas or suggestions for improvement.

See you at the next meeting.

– **Julie Smith, President**

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### **Volunteers are Needed at Irish Fest**

Shamrock Club members are needed to help out in our two areas at the 2005 Milwaukee Irish Fest. The Sales booth and the Cultural Tent table need people to help out on a four hour shift. Participant passes for the festival, as well as \$4 in food tickets, are included in the bargain.

If you would like to help in either area, please tells our captains. Contact Kris Pluskota at (414) 768-8876 or dkplus@tds.net for the Cultural area. Noreen Barclay is in charge of sales. Contact her at (414) 695-8563 or nabarclay@earthlink.net.

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### **Shamrock Club of Wisconsin**

### **Annual Family Best Ball Golf and Dinner Outing**

**SUNDAY AUGUST 28, 2005**

**EDGEWATER GOLF CLUB, GRAFTON**

1762 W. Cedar Creek Road  
(I-43 north to Hwy 60, west 1.7 miles to 12th Ave.  
right 1.4 miles to Cedar Creek Road, left to coarse)

There will be Door Prizes, a Putting Contest, and other events too numerous to mention.

Golf will begin at 1 p.m.  
Carts included  
Cocktail Hour: 4:30 - 5:30  
Buffet Dinner: 5:30 - 7  
Awards to be presented during dinner

[Click here for sign-up sheet in Acrobat format.](#)

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### **Hurling Club Update**

Going into week seven the Shamrock Club Griffins have a record of 2-4-0. They are tied for second with the Milwaukee Ale House Marauders and the County Clare Cats in the Harp Division. All three are following the 5-1 lead of Packy's Hurlers. With the final two games left in July, the hope is that the team does well in the playoffs.

Members of the Shamrock Club Giffins are: Roxy Bass; Lori Borchert; Dave Goelz; Kevin Harrington; Joel Ingebrigton; Nathan Jamison; Matthew Johnson; Richard Kratz; Mike Larsen; Phil Martin; Tony Mastrogiovanni; Dan McAuliffe; Justin Oliphant; Matt Rothwell; Nick Ruetz; Keith Stachowiak; Darryl Taylor; Jack Tuesher; Jake West; Doug Yoder.

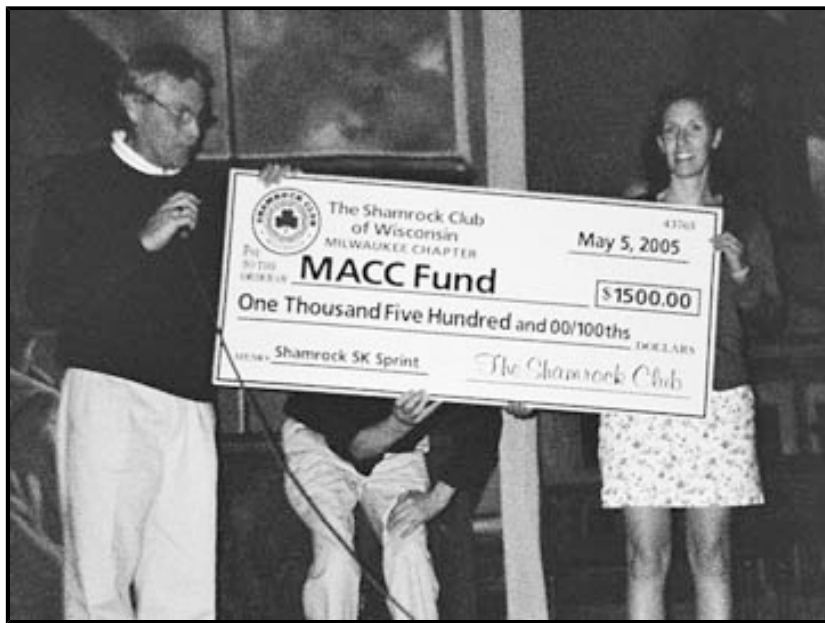
Playoffs are Sunday, August 7 at Brown Deer Park. The finals are Sunday, August 14 at Brown Deer Park.

We look forward to seeing you there.

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### **Shamrock Club Donates \$1500 To the MACC Fund**



Tim O'Brien of the Shamrock Club presents the MACC Fund with a check for \$1500 at the May 5, 2005 Shamrock Club Meeting. The money was raised at the Shamrock Club's 5K Sprint on parade day.

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# Milwaukee Shamrock Club Picnic

A Day of Food, Fun and Frolic

Lake Park: Picnic Area #6

**AUGUST 7, 2005 • 1 p.m. til 6 p.m.**

(Enter on Kenwood Avenue between  
Lincoln Memorial Drive and Lake Drive)

Refreshments • Soda • Entertainment

Irish Dance Exhibitions • Join in sessions with local musicians  
Music, Pipers, Pin the Tail on the Leprechaun, Kid Games

For Information call: (414) 687-2049

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# Color Guard News & Notes

It has been an interesting June, the weather has been more like August than June. As we enter the 2nd half of our parade season the Shamrock Color Guard has had the pleasure of

being in Appleton, Thiensville, Hartland and Waubeka. All dry and VERY hot. Then there was the 4th of July, far from dry but the crowds loved our group. The next parade was Port Washington Fish Days on July 16th (sorry no South Shore this year). But we hope we'll be back there next year. As director I would like to thank all of the people that have helped our group throughout the years to make us what we have become. As we work toward our planned trip to Texas in 2006 we would hope that if you have extra pocket change please direct it to our unit, every penny helps. As always we do these parades as an honor unit for the Irish and please let us know how we look and sound.

For more information, confirmation of parade schedules and times, please visit the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Color Guard, Pipes & Drums web site: .

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 Pfeiffer**

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# **Celtic Women: Conference and Lectures**

The Conference of Celtic Women, Inc. is composed of two parts: an annual conference and monthly lectures. All are held at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center in Milwaukee.

Plans are well underway for the annual conference scheduled for October 20-22, featuring such illustrious Celtic women from overseas as Maggie Cronin from Ireland, Elinor Bennett from Wales, Maureen Jelks from Scotland and Nolwenn Monjarett from Brittany. Other native born Celts who now reside in the U.S. are also on deck including Marjorie Warren (Scotland) and John Gleeson (Ireland). Still more with a Celtic heritage will come from far parts of this country. Music, dance, culture, artisans, and pure enjoyment are on tap for all who attend.

The First Friday Lecture Series will resume for the new season on Friday, September 9th at 5:30 p.m. This long-running series (since 1997 non-stop) just keeps getting better and better. The coming year we will hear from Peggy Ruetz, Kaitlin Hahn, Charlotte Brady, "Pete" Kucik, and Flora MacDonald Gammon. Others, not yet confirmed, will fill out the bill.

As often as feasible, the lectures are coordinated with the opening of ICHC art exhibits with wine-and-cheese and the artist present. That makes for a delightful evening of good Celtic culture and ambiance. Try it sometime, you are invited!

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### **ICHC to Offer Evening of Flu Shots**

The Irish Cultural and Heritage Center will be offering flu shots again this year.

The evening is sponsored by Covenant Home Health and will take place on Thursday, October 6, 2005 from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. in Parlor A at the ICHC. The cost is \$25. Persons under Medicare may bring their Medicare card and the vaccination will be provided free of charge.

The ICHC is providing the venue free of charge as a service to those in the neighborhood, Shamrock Club members, and any others who might be using our building that evening. It is the night of the Shamrock Club October meeting.

– John Maher

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### **The Shamrock Club was well represented at the Highland Games June 4, 2005 at Old Heidelberg Park**



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## Honoree Dinner October 2005

We will have our annual honoree dinner in early October at American Serb Hall, 51 and Oklahoma. We will be feting

Irishman Ed Mikush, Irish Rose Noreen Barclay and Parade Marshal Richard Stover that evening. Contact Kris Pluskota at (414) 768-8876 or for more details.

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### **RTE News Items**

#### **Galway Film Fleadh Awards Announced**

The 17th annual Galway Film Fleadh culminated with the Fleadh Awards Ceremony presenting accolades in seven different categories.

The award for Best Irish Short was won by Billy McCannon for 'Recoil'. Brian O'Neill and Paul Bushe picked up the Best First Irish Short for 'A Taxing Night'. 'Pavee Lackeen' won the award for Best First Feature for Perry Ogden. The John Mallon directed 'Idir Dhá Shaol' claimed the award for Best Irish Short Documentary. The Best First Irish Short Animation award went to 'What Have The Brits Ever Done For Us?', directed by Aidan O'Donovan, Colm Tobin and Kevin Nolan. Director Eoghan Kidney picked up the Best Irish Short Animation award for 'Stars' and the Best Feature Documentary category was won by the Mystelle Brabbée directed 'Highway Courtesans'.

The Galway Film Fleadh also introduced a new award this year, the Stella Artois Pitching Award, inviting screenwriters to submit a one-page story idea for screen. Keith Brogue from Limerick was the recipient of the inaugural award.

The winners of each category were presented with a cheque for €1,000, at the ceremony in the Townhall Theatre in Galway July 10.

Anthony Byrne's first feature 'Short Order', starring John Hurt, closed this year's festival.

#### **More People Regularly In Debt - Survey**

A new survey by the ESRI and IIB Bank reveals a significant increase in the number of Irish adults regularly in debt and a rise in the amount of money they borrow. The survey suggests the acceleration in non-mortgage borrowings may indicate that consumers' incomes are not rising as quickly as people had expected.

It reveals that one in three people are regularly in debt, with personal loans other than mortgages. One in five said these

loans were imposing a strain on their household finances which suggests that up to 150,000 adults are experiencing significant financial strains. Consumers surveyed said that 60% of non-mortgage debt is used to finance their current lifestyles rather than to fund investment. People earning less than €25,000 a year expressed particular concerns as did those in the 40 to 49 year age bracket. The survey also found one in five mortgage holders have been encouraged to increase borrowings because of the rise in property values. Half of these loans are used for extensions and repairs.

IIB Bank's chief economist Austin Hughes says that the sharp rise in non-mortgage borrowing likely reflects weaker than expected income growth of late as well as the cheap cost of money.

'The fact that the rise in personal debt is due to broadly similar increases in the number of people borrowing and in average loan size is less threatening to the economic outlook than a more concentrated rise in borrowing,' the economist said. However, he noted that while more people are comfortable with their borrowings, a small and increasing number of people are under pressure because of a buildup of debt.

David Duffy of the ESRI, who analysed mortgage borrowing in the survey, says it indicates that consumer's perceptions of the burden of their mortgage debt have remained broadly unchanged over the past year. 'The results suggest that consumers are less concerned about their mortgage debt than their other borrowings,' he adds. He says that those who have purchased property since the beginning of the recent house price boom in 1996 are more likely to indicate that they find their mortgage repayments to be a heavy burden.

### **Economy Facing Pensions Challenge**

The threat posed by a lack of adequate private sector pension provision and increased competition in export markets will be among the major challenges facing the Irish economy in the medium term. This is according to the latest Quarterly Economic Outlook from Friends First, published July 11.

Friends First's economist Jim Power says the Government must focus on developing a proper migration policy and develop a strategy to counteract the threat to Ireland's status as a major recipient of Foreign Direct Investment. Mr. Power says that pension covers remains a crucial issue for the future well being of the economy here. He says that coverage is too low and with the population set to age significantly over the coming decades, he warns that it is imperative that pension

provision is increased to avoid the new species of ‘the retiring poor’. ‘Pension coverage will have to move up the political agenda as a matter of extreme urgency,’ the economist urges.

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### **St. Patrick’s Help Fund**

St. Patrick’s Help Fund is in desperate need of 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 – William F. Conroy, IV; Robert and Susan O’Keane (referred by John Whelan).

**– Tom Smith**

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