



# Mar. 2006

## Irish Primer 2006

by Brian Witt

Here is a short Irish primer for our readers this March 2006. As March is the most Irish of months, we offer a reference to help you along in your learning of Irish facts, figures, and general and obscure knowledge.

**St. Valentine of Dublin.** The ancient martyr is supposedly interred in Dublin, brought there by an Irish priest, a Carmelite by the name of John Spratt. Spratt was well regarded as a preacher and also for his work among the destitute in Dublin's Liberties area. He was responsible for the building of the new church to Our Lady of Mount Carmel at Whitefriar Street. During a pilgrimage to Rome in 1835, he was asked to preach at the famous Jesuit Church in the city, the Gesu. His fame as a speaker had preceded him, spread by a number of Jesuits who had been in Dublin. The elite of the Eternal City came out to hear him and he received many gifts from the leaders of the Church during a visit in 1835. One such gift came from Pope Gregory XVI, the remains of Saint Valentine. They were interred at the Dublin church in a ceremony celebrated by Irish Cardinal Murray in 1836. After Spratt's death, the remains were locked away until a church renovation in the 1950s. Now, lovers who are looking for a blessing on their relationships visit the church. It just goes to show that a good Irish preacher can get anyone to hand over anything.

**Guglielmo Marconi – Irish inventor.** Guglielmo Marconi, Nobel laureate, is seen as one of Italy's greatest inventors. Still, he was half Irish, born near Bologna, Italy, the second son of Giuseppe Marconi, an Italian landowner, and his Irish

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wife, Annie Jameson, granddaughter of the founder of the Jameson & Sons Distillery, on April 25, 1874. He was educated in Florence and Livorno. One of his first wireless experiments was conducted on Rathlin Island, off the Antrim coast. On March 16, 1905, he married Beatrice O'Brien, daughter of Edward Donough O'Brien, 14th Baron Inchiquin. They had three daughters, and one son. They divorced later.

**By Hook or By Crook.** Did the phrase originate in Ireland? Supposedly, when the Norman earl of Pembroke, known as "Strongbow," sailed into Waterford in 1170, he saw a tower on one side of the harbor and a church on the other. He asked their names and was told that it was the "Tower of Hook" and the "Church of Crook." And he said, "We must take the town by Hook and by Crook." A variation on this has a ship's captain using either of the two headlands at Waterford harbor as a guide in bad weather. And then there are those who find the source of the phrase in penmanship exercises that have "hooks and crooks." Or it originated in England, with a less prosaic meaning. We stick with the Irish.

**St. Brigid and the Abbey at Kildare.** According to legend, St. Brigid asked the holder of land at the curragh in Kildare, a sweeping expanse of terrain, for property to build her abbey. He said, certainly, all the land that you can cover with your cloak. As she lay her cloak upon the ground, it grew and filled the entire curragh. Thus, she was able to construct her monastery, which grew into one of the largest settlements in Ireland, with compounds for both men and women. Brigid was also awarded the crozier, the staff symbolizing the status of bishop. She also had her own brewer, and once hung her cloak on her shadow, when no hook was available. One can only hope that it had shrunk back to its original size by then. Kildare means "church of the oak" in Irish. Oaks were important to the Druids. Brigid's father was a Druid.

**Trinity College.** The original name of Trinity College was "Trinity College Near Dublin." The capital was a lot smaller then.

**Shillelagh.** Named after a village in Ireland, the Shillelagh is a short club that was carried as a defense against muggers and thieves in days of old.

**Sean O'Casey.** The Irish playwright wrote a number of pieces for the Abbey Theatre in Dublin, among them, *The Shadow of a Gunman* (1923), *Juno and the Paycock* (1924), and *The Plough and the Stars*, (1926). He moved to England after riots broke out over "The Plough". He said this on the Irish: "All the world's a stage and most of us are desperately

unrehearsed.”

**Relative size:** Ireland is smaller landwise than all but seven American states, and is smaller in population to 40 of them, as well.

**George Bernard Shaw.** The Irish-born playwright, critic, and essayist, became one of the most famous writers of the 1900s. Shaw was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature in 1925. He wrote over 50 plays in a span of 70 years, and his plays are performed more than those of any English-language playwright except William Shakespeare.

Shaw’s dramas are filled with wit, challenging ideas, forceful characters, and vigorous, eloquent dialogue. While the plays often treat serious matters and promote Shaw’s views, their points are frequently twisted, compromised, or emphasized through comedy. Shaw thought that a sense of humor could give balance and depth to seriousness. Shaw was a lifelong vegetarian, and a socialist, both of which might require a sense of humor.

**Quotes by Shaw:** “I showed my appreciation of my native land in the usual Irish way: by getting out of it as soon as I possibly could.” “Put an Irishman on the spit and you can always get another Irishman to turn him.” “An Irishman’s heart is nothing but his imagination.” “Eternal is the fact that the human creature born in Ireland and brought up in its air is Irish. I have lived for twenty years in Ireland and for seventy-two in England; but the twenty came first, and in Britain I am still a foreigner and shall die one.”

**Tuatha De Dannan.** The Tuatha De Dannan ( too-ah day dannan), the people of the goddess Danu, arrived in Ireland bearing with them their stone of destiny, called the Lia Fail. Supposedly, it was placed on the mound of Tara, and the stone would choose the rightful kings of Ireland. They also brought the spear of Lugh, which ensured victory to whoever wielded it, The Sword of Nuada from whom none could escape, and the Cauldron of the Dagda from which none would go unsatisfied.

There is a story that they came to Ireland in flying ships but could not land as the Fomorians had set in place a spell that they could not penetrate. So they had to circle Ireland nine times before finding a breach and setting down in the bogs of Leitrim.

They clashed with the Fir Bolg, the Belgae, Celts from present day Belgium, who they defeated at the first battle of Moytura. They prospered under their two great heroes Nuada of the

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Silver Arm and Lugh of the Long Arm. After defeating the Fomorians, they were eventually defeated by the Milesians at Teltown. As they were a magical people they decided to go underground into another dimension of space and time. The other explanation was that they were exterminated and buried, which was why they left the surface. No word was left on their flying machines.

**Danu.** Danu was one of the most ubiquitous of Celtic goddesses. She was the goddess of life and water. If you see a river starting with Dan or Don or Dn, or Avon, for that matter, they were named for her. Dnieper, Don, and Danube are examples.

**Downpatrick.** Downpatrick is the county town of County Down. It is the burial place for St. Patrick, St. Columba and St. Brigid, the triumvirate of Irish saints. And a good place to stop this second Irish primer.

We hope you learned something about the Irish from this short primer. Now, go out and amaze your family and friends.

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# Milwaukee Names John Maher, Kris Pluskota, And Joe and Catherine Donovan as its 2006 Honorees



### **2006 Irishman of the Year John Gregory Maher**

The Shamrock Club has had many deserving members over the years holding the title of Irishman of the Year. One who had declined over the years for a variety of reasons is a person who has been a vital part of the Milwaukee Irish community for decades, John Maher, our 2006 Irishman of the Year.

John Maher is a long time Shamrock Club of Wisconsin member. He can be seen as an Irish dancer, with Therese

Kinsella, on the beer stein that commemorated the Irish year as the featured group of the Holiday Folk Fair. He was treasurer of the Shamrock Club when he took on the additional duties as running the bank operations at Irish Fest the first years. In 1985-87, he served as President of Milwaukee Irish Fest. And, on top of that, he was a member of Milwaukee's premiere Irish band, playing fiddle for the group Blarney.

John's family have been a part of this Irish experience as well. Mother Jane Mahar Maher is a past Irish Rose. Father Bill has worked at many events over the years, and the two of them have run the Genealogy area at Milwaukee Irish Fest since its inception. Both are involved in the Irish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin. Sister Cathy is a coordinator at the festival, working in the beer and wine ticket sales. His brother, Father Michael Maher, has said the Easter Rising Mass for the Shamrock Club for many years, even though he has had to commute from St. Louis and Washington State. Father Mike also celebrated the 25th anniversary Irish Fest Mass in 2005, a personal joy for him. When Father Mike was teaching at Marquette University, he advised the university Irish Club, and also brought scores of students with him to Nash's Irish Castle, where he introduced them to ceili and set dancing.

With a family so well grounded in Irish life, John was to find himself deeply immersed in it. While he was a graduate student at UWM, he became one of the first Shamrock Club scholarship winners. John has an appreciation of things Irish, and also an appreciation of the work that it takes to make things work so seemingly seamlessly. He has given hours of his time to the Shamrock Club and Irish Fest, as well as working long hours for the ICHC. If one goes to the grounds during the setup week of Irish Fest, John is the first or second person there, and often the last to leave, about 17 hours later.

John was appointed the Executive Director of the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center of Wisconsin in May, 1997. He is a past treasurer of the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin and a founding member and a past president of Irish Festivals, Inc., the producer of Milwaukee Irish Fest. He currently is the coordinator of office operations on the grounds during the festival, a member of the festival's budget and finance committee and treasurer of the Irish Fest Foundation.

Previous to his appointment at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, he was an officer of First Bank System (now US Bank) with responsibilities in lending, investigations, and bank regulatory compliance.

John holds a Master's Degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He has traveled and worked extensively in Central America as well as parts of Europe and the Near East. He is a member of Gesu Church and is active in the church's mission to provide shelter for homeless women. Additionally, he is licensed as an apprentice funeral director associated with Brett Funeral Home in Milwaukee.

Congratulations go out again to this deserving Irishman of the Year. This community would never have been where it is without your hard work, John.



**2006 Irish Rose  
Kristine Pluskota**

Kristine Ellen Carrigg came into this world at 12:25 a.m. on 12/25/55 to Bill and Lois Carrigg. What a perfect arrival for life. I am a

daughter, niece, sister, mother, friend, aunty, volunteer, teacher, and wife. I joined the club in November 1991 and my first Shamrock Club event was Holiday Folk Fair and I haven't missed this event, except in 1999 when I had back surgery. I always enjoy this weekend of fun. You will usually find me in the Food Booth. I have served you as Sergeant at Arms in 1995-96, Vice President 2004, Chair of the Food Booth for the Post Parade Party in 1994, 1995, 1996, and 1997, General Chair in 2003, 2004, 2005. I have planned the installation dinner for 1996, 2003 and 2005. I have cooked for the Christmas Party in 1995 and 1996 along with 2002 and last year's prime rib dinner. I have organized the Honoree dinner for 2003, 2004 and 2005. If you haven't guessed by now, anything to do with party planning and cooking I'm involved. That is truly my passion.

I had the honor of marching with the finest Color Guard, Pipes and Drum Band for five years under the direction of Chuck McLaughlin. One of my fondest memories is my first Mass at St. Patrick's Church, with my mother present. St. Patrick's was her home parish growing up on Madison St. I also was given the responsibility to care take the Kilt that was made for Joseph Pembroke. I respected him and still miss him. We did many fund raisers for the Color Guard so we could go on trips to represent the club. We were also asked to run a food booth on behalf of the Irish down at Veteran's Park for the Olympic Torch Run in 1996. It rained all day and the crowds were not

as big as expected. It was close to the end of the night when the last miles were run by our own Jeannie McCue and then she handed the torch off to Dan Janzen. My son Bobby showed up at that point. When I asked why he was there because he had worked the Milwaukee Mile all day for a race for Miller Brands, he said, "Mom, this is history being made and you, I and the Color Guard are a part of this. I wouldn't miss this for anything!" I was proud to put on the uniform and march in the heat and cold and even the rain. The cheers we got marching down the street was so awesome. I was truly disappointed when I was told that my back wouldn't and couldn't take marching anymore. So I retired from the Color Guard.

I also have been a volunteer for Irish Fest for 24 years. Our first assignment was baby sitting a room with kilts, bag pipes and a go-cart made by the Nashes. The only year I missed was 1999. I also have volunteered for the ICHC and have had the pleasure of working with John Maher, this year's Irishman of the Year. If it wasn't for my godfather and uncle, Lee Meyer, suggesting I check out the Shamrock Club, and for Cate Harris and Tom Neville making me feel so welcome at my first meeting at Hart Park, I wouldn't be writing this. My Grandmother, Geraldine Tracey Meyer, was very proud of her Irish roots, and instilled this in all her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She and my mother went to Ireland with the Shamrock Club when we had charter flights going over there. I had the unforgettable trip of my lifetime when I went with my mother in 1997. It was the only time I have had my mother alone, and learned so much from her during our time together. Then two weeks after our wedding in 2002, I left Daryl back in Wisconsin and made the trip with my three sisters and mom. That, too, will be a memory to treasure forever.

When I am not volunteering for the Irish, I teach Sunday school to high school students at Divine Mercy in South Milwaukee. I also volunteer at Milwaukee Spectrum High School. My life is rich with friends and family.

I am thankful for my family, which consists of my mom, Lois Carrigg, Uncle/Godfather Lee Meyer; Mark, Donna, Lucas Moran and Darin Carrigg of Cloverleaf Lake in Clintonville, Wisconsin; Rick and Jean Carrell; Tracey and Dan Micale, Sgt. Jason Hass, Megan Hass, Kathleen, Dennis, Sarah, Amy Grocholski, my beloved son Bobby Glowinski and my dear husband Daryl Pluskota. Daryl didn't know when we took our vows three years ago after Father said to love, honor and cherish, he also said and to be Irish. I have had the honor to work alongside so many intelligent and caring people. We have laughed and cried together, we have attend weddings,

births and way too many funerals, we have gotten frustrated and vented with each other, we have prayed together and for each other and above all we have loved together and have had fun together.

I will continue to do my best to represent this great club and to pass on our heritage and tradition of the Shamrock Club. Thank you for bestowing this honor on me this year.



**2006 Parade Marshals  
Joe and Catherine Donovan**

Joe and Catherine have remained involved members of the Shamrock Club for over 40 years.

Joe presently holds the office of Trustee and is also the Sunshine Chairman. He also has the honor of having served on more boards than any other member. In addition to Trustee he has also served as Sgt. at Arms, Parliamentarian, and Vice President. He was also a member of the Color Guard for 25 years.

The Donovans are the parents of one daughter and four sons and they have six grandsons. Their Irish ancestors are from County Cork.

Catherine has also served as Secretary for the board, was 1988 Irish Rose, and has also volunteered at Irish Fest, Folk Fair, Color Guard events, and the Bradley Center.

There are not many events they haven't volunteered for. Catherine worked quietly at Joe's side as he served as Parade Chairman, Picnic Chairman, Parade Ticket Chairman and Golf Outing Chairman.

The Donovans say they have enjoyed "volunteering" and the good company of many club members who have worked along side them through the years.

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**Rock County**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **MARCH 14** – St. Patrick’s Day Party at the Senior Center, 5 p.m.
- **MARCH 21** – No Meeting
- **APRIL 18** – Regular meeting at 7 p.m. followed by the White Elephant Exchange

Again this year we are co-hosting the St. Patrick’s Day Party with the Senior Center. The corned beef and cabbage dinner will be served at 5 p.m. The tickets for this dinner and entertainment are \$6 per person. Your reservations must be made and paid in advance. Reservations must be in by March 8, but I suggest you make your reservations as soon as possible as seating is limited to 100 people. Make reservations at the Senior Center, 69 S. Water Street. Casey’s Fancy will entertain us after the dinner.

After our April meeting we will have the White Elephant Gift Exchange which we have had at the Christmas Party other years.

– **President Tom Kennedy**

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## **Dane County**

The Dane County Shamrock Club is holding its annual St. Patrick’s Day dinner on March 17 at the Coliseum Bar in Madison. We welcome everyone if they would like to join us. We have a choice of the traditional corned beef and cabbage, shrimp, rosemary chicken, or vegetarian; and, for the kids, chicken strips. After the meal we will be entertained by the Trinity Dancers and we will have a raffle.

On March 12 at noon, we will hold the annual unfurling of the Irish trio-colors in the capitol. We will introduce our Irish Person of the Year, listen to the sound of the Shriners play their pipes; watch the Trinity Dancers’ feet a flying and hear the wise words of the invited dignitaries. Before the events in the capitol, Madison holds a 5k/10k walk/run leaving from the Madison Monona Terrace Convention Center; and a mass at St. Patrick’s. After the events in the capitol, we join in the parade around the capitol square. There will be contests for most Irish man, woman, youngest leprechaun, oldest Irish

person, most Irish pet, best family crest, etc.

Our Irish Person of the Year is Bob Kerans. He held the club positions of vice president and president in the past. He is now on the executive board holding the position of past-president. He brings his Bostonian humor and accent to all the meetings and is very knowledgeable on all things Irish. He is a big asset to the club and we are very lucky that he left the city of Boston and settled in Madison. He also is a member of the Madison St. Patrick's Day Committee and spends a lot of energy helping the Irish community in Madison. We are proud that we have someone like Bob to honor on March 17.

Anyone wishing to know more about our club can contact us at P.O. Box 70765, Madison, WI 53707 or at our web site

[[www.madison.com/communities/shamrock/](http://www.madison.com/communities/shamrock/)].

**–Margaret Rupert, President  
Dane County Shamrock Club**

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### **La Crosse Honorees**

The Greater La Crosse Chapter of the Shamrock Club wishes to congratulate its 2006 Irish honorees, Lois Pervisky and Dave Holtze, the 2006 Irish Rose and Irishman of the Year.

Our St. Patrick's Dinner Dance will be March 11 at the Cedar Creek Country Club. Music by the Amadans.

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### **Shamrock Club of New Dublin**

That time of year is upon us again and the Shamrock Club has been busy getting ready for the 2006 celebration.

Congratulations to Tom (Mooch) and Judi Barrington for being chosen as 2006 Irishman of the Year and Irish Rose.

Our theme for this year is "Ceol Agus Rince" (Music and Dance). Our bands for Irish Fest are Switchback and Reilly.

Stay tuned for further updates.

Please keep Mike Coyle of Finnegan's Wake fame in your prayers as he recovers from a snowmobile accident.

The 2006 (Our 22th Annual) Schedule of March Events – subject to change:

- **MARCH 13** – Leprechauns change the name of the town to New Dublin.

- **MARCH 14** – HOOLIGAN DAY.

- **MARCH 15** – Irish Caroling at St. Joseph's Residence and Franklin Park apartments.

- **MARCH 16** – Irish Entertainment at New London Sr. High School auditorium 7 p.m.

- **MARCH 17** – Happy St. Patrick's Day! 8 p.m. Finnegan's Wake service begins at Pup's Irish Pub, 2 miles west of New Dublin on Hwy 54 and proceeds to other local establishments. 7 p.m. Irish Ceili (kay-lee) at Crystal Falls – a traditional gathering of friends and family in celebration of music and dance. Public welcome. Free admission.

- **Saturday, MARCH 18** – The Grand Parade & Irishfest. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Irishfest under the Big Top in Festival Foods Parking lot, downtown New Dublin. Huge heated tent featuring Irish food, beverages, entertainment and market booths. All-day family event. Admission \$5 for all day.

1 p.m. – St. Patrick's Day Parade - downtown New Dublin. Wisconsin's largest St. Patrick's Day parade with marching and bagpipe bands, clan and business floats. Over 100 units. Prizes awarded.

All events sponsored by the Shamrock Club of New Dublin, with the help of many fine businesses and individuals from New Dublin and the surrounding area. Information about any of the events listed may be obtained by calling (920) 982-3891 or by e-mail to [barring4@athenet.net].

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## Milwaukee President's Message

It's time for the Irish brand of March madness here in the

Milwaukee area. We love and dread the craziness of it all, and wonder how we can go to all the events, and keep the home fires burning at the same time. Folks, if you're Irish, it's almost an obligation, and after being cooped up all winter, it's great to see all the friends, neighbors, relatives, and meet all the new friends that feel the same way. We are looking forward to seeing all of you.

You will be at the mass celebrated at St. Patrick's Church, then go to the ICHC for the breakfast, and then head downtown for the parade. This is the 40th anniversary of the parade, and we believe it to be another spectacular event for the Milwaukee area. Our three parade directors, Mike Boyle, Mike O'Leary, and Mark Smith, have been putting out an effort to make us all proud. We are fortunate they have volunteered to do this, and remember to thank them for this immense undertaking. Erin and Meghan Boyle have been lining up volunteers for the parade, and it's also been a pleasure to work with them.

Please talk up our parade to your friends and neighbors, and even offer a ride downtown. The Grand Avenue Parking is only 25 cents, and will be easy to use.

Chuck McLaughlin and his lovely wife Bonnie have done all the arrangements for the mass for the 21st consecutive year. This mass will swell your heart with pride in its tribute to St. Patrick. It is also an opportunity to thank all the Irish before us that made this possible. We hope to see you there on March 11th representing not only the Shamrock Club, but also your own family's clan.

Please come to the ICHC after the mass for a wonderful breakfast for only \$5. This breakfast will be a joint effort with the AOH, and they once again have graciously agreed to make this possible. We will have seating on both levels for those unable to do steps. This will be a great chance to start the day out after mass, as many can tell you.

Plan on coming back after the parade to support the Club, by attending our post parade party. We are pleased to present an entertainment lineup that is the best anywhere in the state. There will be wonderful retail items in the parlor where you'll see Noreen Barclay and her volunteers, and Tom Smith will be there to sign up new members at a bargain rate. We expect to see many of you participate since it's a major fund raiser for us, and we really do want to see you having a great time.

If you didn't make it to the first time ever "Honoree Debut", on January 27th, we know you'll want to know what you missed. Joe Hughes was the chair of this memorable event. He

had the able assistance of Kris Pluskota, Kathy Donovan, and Bridget O'Brien to make it all come together. The announcement of the 2006 Honorees with Joe and Catherine Donovan as our Parade Marshals, Kris Pluskota as the Irish Rose, and John Maher as the Irishman of the Year was my great privilege. All of these good people are examples for all of us when it comes to representing this Club.

March also brings us to the point where we begin the nomination process for the Board of Directors. Please ask yourself if this isn't the year where you throw your hat into the ring, and meet some of Milwaukee's finest people doing such great work. Remember that the person nominated must be present to accept the nomination, and be a member in good standing with the Club.

Have you sent in your money for the raffle tickets? The money for this raffle is used to grant scholarships for anyone in Irish Studies and the recipient need not be a member. We know we can't all win, but it's fun to hope you might be there when your name is drawn. The drawing is in April, at our general meeting, and the announcement of the \$1000 winner, always brings a hush over the crowd. I would love to say your name, so send in your tickets. Don't forget, you can buy more, or pick up tickets at our meetings to sell to your friends.

See you at the next meeting.

– **Julie Smith, President**

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## **Brendan Heart Fund Benefit**

On March 5, 2006, between the hours of 1 and 6 p.m., the Emerald Society of Wisconsin will be sponsoring the 16th annual benefit for the Brendan Heart Fund of Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.

The Emerald Society of Wisconsin, an organization of members of the criminal justice system, held the first Brendan Benefit in 1990. The Benefits have always been held prior to St. Patrick's Day at Derry Hegarty's Irish Pub, 5328 W. Bluemound Ave. This Benefit is designed to be a family event and we continue to be a family oriented event. The cost of the attendance has the family in mind, \$5 in advance, \$6 at the

door, and children under 15 are free.

The afternoon's entertainment will feature Blarney and the Glencastle Irish Dancers. Blarney is a well known Irish group that has delighted its audiences for 20 plus years. Blarney will entertain you as they sing songs from their extensive library of Irish Music. There is no doubt that you will hear many of your favorites. We are also featuring the Glencastle Irish Dancers, and proud to say that this dance school is headed by one of the Emerald Societies members, Bridget Jaskulski. You will be thoroughly entertained by the skill of the dancers as they perform the intricacies of Irish Dance. In addition to Blarney and Glencastle, we will be featuring our "monster raffle", and the Greater Milwaukee Fire & Police Pipes and Drums.

Mark this date, March 5, on your family calendar and join us for a fine afternoon of Irish Song and Dance. Information can be obtained at the below addresses.

Mailing Address: Emerald Society of Wisconsin; P.O. Box 24;  
Milwaukee, WI 532001-0024

Web: <http://www.emeraldsociety.us>

– **Thomas W. McKale, Chairman**

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## **Color Guard News & Notes**

Well by now I think everyone is ready to get the show going. With the days getting longer and that hint of spring in the air – it must be March. We start the busy weekend of March 11th with mass at St. Patrick's Church followed by the St. Patrick's Parade downtown and the Post Parade Party at the I.C.H.C. For most of you that may seem like a lot but the Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums will get up early Sunday (the 12th) to head to the southside of Chicago for their St. Patrick's Day Parade followed by a trip to Gaelic Park. This is a tradition our group has established for the past 12 years. Let's hope for warm weather for all of the above.

As we have spoken of in the past, the following week the Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums will leave for Savannah, Georgia on March 15 to appear in the second largest St. Patrick's parade in the nation. We return on March 19—a very busy two weeks for our group.

As summer approaches we will post a list of parade performances so you may come out and enjoy the fun with us. Please keep up with Emerald Reflections or our web site [sccgpd.org] for current updates. And as always, if you'd like to be part of our group either as a color guard or to learn pipes or drums please contact us. We practice Tuesday nights at the I.C.H.C.

– Richard Pfeiffer  
milwpiper@cs.com

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# Spring Hallamor Concert

**Karan Casey Band**  
**Friday, March 17, 2006**

Karan Casey's soprano voice is as pure and clear as the crystal from her native County Waterford. She has been described as "one of the true glories of Irish music today" by the Wall Street Journal. Critically acclaimed as the lead singer and founding member of the group Solas, Karan continues to grow as one of Ireland's finest singers as she pursues a solo career. She possesses an awesome ability to interpret both contemporary and traditional material, always sensitive to the message of the song. Karan's 4th solo album, Chasing the Sun is also a fine example of her song writing ability

Call the ICHC at (414) 345-8800 with questions or to order tickets.

**8 pm Concert**  
**Doors open at 6:45, Opening act at 7 pm**  
**Tickets: \$19 advance, \$21 day of concert**

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# Easter Rising Mass

**Sunday, April 16, 2006 -- 9:30 a.m.**

Celebrate the Mass  
In Honor Of the 1916 Easter Rising

Continental Breakfast to follow

Irish Cultural and Heritage Center  
2133 West Wisconsin Avenue,  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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# Preliminary St. Patrick's Week Event's

**A week long celebration sponsored by the Center for Celtic Studies, An Cumann Ceilteach (UWM Celtic Club) and the Celtic Music Club**

**Saturday, March 11** – Milwaukee St. Patrick's Day Parade sponsored by the Shamrock Club of Milwaukee.

Look for our float in the annual St. Patrick's Day parade and join in all the fun and excitement that the day inspires. The parade begins at noon. Step off is at 3rd and Wisconsin and the route will proceed down Wisconsin Avenue.

**Monday, March 13** – Celtic Organization Fair and An Cumann Ceilteach Fundraiser

From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Student Union various Celtic organizations from around Milwaukee will be eager to introduce you to the wonderful world of Irish sports and activities. Don't miss this opportunity to find out just how many ways you can get involved in the Celtic world right in your own backyard. There will also be exhibits and a Scottish piper.

At 7 p.m. join us in the Union Ballroom for a traditional Irish Ceili with music and dance. A \$3 admission will treat you to an evening of dance instruction from an expert in Ceili dance and live Irish music.

**Tuesday, March 14** – A Day with Angela Bourke

Angela Bourke is a Senior Lecturer in Irish at the University College in Dublin, National University of Ireland. She has been a visiting professor at Harvard University, the University of Minnesota and Notre Dame, and writes, lectures, and

broadcasts regularly on Irish oral tradition and literature.

At 4 p.m. a screening of the film “Rocky Road to Dublin” will be shown followed by a discussion led by Angela. Later that evening at 6 p.m. a reception and lecture by Angela Bourke will take place with the accompaniment of traditional Irish music at the Hefter Center.

**Wednesday, March 15** – Shalom Ireland 7 p.m.

An Cumann Ceilteach, in association with the UWM Jewish Student Service (Hillel), presents, an evening of film, dancing and music in the Sandburg residence hall.

**Thursday, March 16** – TBA

**Friday, March 17** – A Day at the Theatre

The day dedicated to St. Patrick begins with tradition Irish dancers at 12 p.m. at the UWM Union. Join us up stairs at 2 p.m. in the Union Cinema for a contemporary Irish movie.

The evening celebration begins with a wine and cheese reception at 6 p.m. at the Hefter Center where a short talk on the life and work of Irish playwright Brian Friel will be presented. Finally, we’re off to witness the playwright’s art in action “Philadelphia Here I Come” at the Studio Theater in the Fine Arts Center.

Please check the Center for Celtic Studies website [<http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/celtic/>] or contact the office at 229-6520 for updates and questions.

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**Tartan Day Week (April 2-8)**

In 1998 the U.S. Senate declared that April 6 would be National Tartan Day, in honor of contributions made by citizens of Scottish descent. Last year several Milwaukee groups banded together to celebrate “Tartan Day Week” for the first time. The tradition continues in 2006 with several days

of variety with a Scottish flavor. Events at the ICHC will be alive with festive tartans, kilts, bagpipes, dancers and music. The Hallamór will be decorated with tartans all week.

Clan Donald will host a “Kirkin’ o’ the Tartan” on Sunday, April 2 at 2 p.m. This is a very festive ceremony in the Hallamór, followed by whiskey-tasting in the Parlors.

On Thursday, April 6, the actual Tartan Day, UWM will host Scottish speaker(s) at the Hefter Center.

Back at the ICHC on Friday, April 7, Flora MacDonald Gammon will emcee a Sit-Down Ceilidh at 7 p.m. This will be a feature of the First Friday Lecture Series for the Conference of Celtic Women, surrounded by the many tartan banners in the Hallamór.

This event and all the others are open to the public. Another fund-raiser follows on Saturday, April 8 for the Wisconsin Scottish Highland Games as they take over the ICHC with bands, Scottish food and drink, and their famous raffle.

Come and join in these colorful events and share the fun enjoyed with Scottish heritage.

– **Jean Bills**

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## **Milwaukee Honoree Reception**

The Shamrock Club 2006 Honorees, John Maher, Kris Pluskota, and Joe and Catherine Donovan, will be hosting a reception on Friday, March 3, from 6–10 p.m. at the ICHC.

Come one, come all, to a fun filled afternoon. Music, beverages and snacks will be provided.

RSVP would be welcomed in order to plan this day.

Any questions call Kris at (414) 768-8876.

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### **Volunteers Needed Post Parade Party**

The Post Parade Party will take place on Saturday, March 11, 2006 at the ICHC, from 1 to 6 p.m. We need volunteers at the event. If you would wish to work, please contact Kris and Daryl Pluskota at (414) 768-8876, or [dkplus@tds.net]. We need help with setup on Friday evening, as well as on Saturday. Our shifts are: 8–10 a.m., 10–noon, noon–2 p.m., 2–4 p.m., and 4–6 p.m., as well as a tear down crew after the event finishes at 6 p.m. Everyone’s help is needed, and if you can work a two hour shift, even in between the hours listed, it will really help to make the day a great success. You can work and have fun at the same time.

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### **21st Annual Special Mass to Honor St. Patrick**

Will be held prior to the St. Patrick's Day Parade

**Saturday, MARCH 11, 2006 at 8:30 A.M.**

at St. Patrick's Church

723 South 7th at Washington Street, Milwaukee

Sign reader for hearing impaired

Shuttle Bus: from ICHC rear parking lot (2133 W. Wisconsin Ave.) to St. Patrick's Church and after Mass return to Parade Route or parking lot for just \$3 per person. Bus to leave sharply at 7:45 A.M. for the Church

Tickets for bus can be purchased by mail or at the Shamrock Club February and March General Meetings

More information in March about the Breakfast

For Bus reservations or information contact:

Chuck and Bonnie McLaughlin

12007 W. Walker Street, West Allis, WI 53214; Phone:  
(414) 771-0458

Send self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Make checks payable to Shamrock Club

Mail reservations for BUS ONLY

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Reservations \_\_\_\_\_ Amount  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Bus Reservations will not be taken after March 3

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### **St. Pat's Mass Flower Donations, Memorials, and Honors**

Memorials and donations will be taken at the Milwaukee March general meeting to help defray the cost of flowers for the St. Patrick's Mass, March 11, 2006. Names will be printed in the Mass Booklet. Mail orders can be taken up to March 3, 2006. Make checks payable to the Shamrock Club. Contact Chuck and Bonnie McLaughlin; 12007 W. Walker St., West Allis, WI 53214; (414) 771-0458. Thank you.

– **Chuck McLaughlin**

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### **Nomination of Milwaukee Officers**

Nominations for officers of the Milwaukee chapter will take place at the March and April meetings. Persons nominated must be members in good standing of the Shamrock Club, with dues paid in full, and must be present for their nominations. Elections will take place at the May 4, 2006 meeting.

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### **Raffle Items Needed**

For Milwaukee's Post Parade Party we always have a raffle. If anyone has an item or two to donate to the raffle please bring them to the March meeting.

Thank you!

– Tom Smith

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### **Celtic Women First Friday Lectures**

**MARCH 3, 2006**

**Topic: "Lady Gregory's Inspiration"**

**Speaker: Charlotte Brady**

As one of the founders of the Abbey Theatre and a contemporary keeping company with the likes of J.M. Synge and W.B. Yeats, Lady Gregory started to write her own plays. Her work at preserving old local folk tales and legends, became fodder for her plays, from whole stories to just a few lines here and there. We will explore examples of this in some of her plays and stage a scene to gain an insight into the art of performing. Charlotte is involved with Milwaukee Irish Arts, a

group which brings Irish plays to local, international and Irish Fest communities.

Lectures are held in Parlor A of the ICHC from 5:30–7 p.m. Admission is \$5 and all are welcome, including members, non-members and men. More information on the many upcoming programs is available by calling the ICHC at (414) 345-8800 or on the ICHC web site: [www.ichc.net]. Parking Note: Please observe the posted signs designating the lots where parking is allowed for the ICHC. Thank you.

– **Jean Bills**

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### **Bus Transport for Parade Day Events**

St Patrick's Mass, Breakfast and Parade bus transportation will again be available Saturday, March 11 for the 40th anniversary of the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin's St. Patrick's Day Parade.

This year's Shamrock Club of Wisconsin 40th Anniversary St. Patrick's Day parade is preceded by a Mass to honor St. Patrick, and a Pancake breakfast. The Mass is at St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, 723 S. 7th St. (the corner of S. 7th St. and Washington), begins at 8:30 a.m. and is followed immediately by a Pancake Breakfast at the Irish Cultural Heritage Center, sponsored by the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Please see [[www.saintpatricksparade.org](http://www.saintpatricksparade.org)] for details.

Busses will transport those interested from St. Patrick's Church on to the ICHC, and later to the Parade. This year the busses will drop off our members and guests, at the corner of Juneau and Edison. That is the corner where The Harp is located. The busses will be staged north of that intersection on Edison Street for the return to the ICHC, for the Post Parade Party and cultural activities, immediately following the parade. We expect a big turnout for all the Parade Day activities and look forward to seeing all of you. I'd like to extend a special thank you to all the Shamrock Club members and volunteers who make our Parade day a wonderful experience each year. The Ancient Order of Hibernians have again graciously agreed to help underwrite the pancake breakfast, and deserve kudos for their continued support.

– **Mike O'Leary, Parade Director**

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# **Shamrock Club of Wisconsin 40th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade**

**Saturday, MARCH 11, 2006**

Noon – Downtown Milwaukee  
(Parade will last approx. 90 minutes)

Step-off is in front of the Grand Avenue Mall  
on 3rd and Wisconsin:

Proceeding east to Plankinton,  
North on Plankinton to Kilbourn,

West on Kilbourn to Old World 3rd Street,  
North on Old World 3rd Street to Juneau,  
East on Juneau to Water Street,  
South on Water Street



The Parade will feature 130+ units and will include local politicians and celebrities, floats, bagpipe and marching bands, Irish and Celtic organizations. The Guests of Honor will be announced in February.

The Shamrock Club of Wisconsin, Inc. has produced the Parade continuously since 1967. 2006 is the 163rd anniversary of Milwaukee's 1st St. Patrick's Parade.

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## **Milwaukee Annual Parade Raffle**

The Shamrock Club 40th Annual Parade Raffle in support of

the Shamrock Club Scholarship Fund is taking place again. Tickets have been mailed out to members, and will also be on sale at the March meeting and the Post Parade Party. The raffle will be held on Thursday, April 6, at the Shamrock Club General Meeting, at 7:30 p.m. All money and ticket stubs must be returned by that time. Requests for information, or requests for more tickets, can be sent to Kevin Quinlan at [kquinlan@tmore.org].

Top prize is \$1000, second prize is \$200, third prize is \$100, fourth is \$50, and three prizes of \$25 each. Tickets are \$2 each, three for \$5, and six for \$10, or twelve for \$20.

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# **Shamrock Club Post Parade Party**

**Saturday, MARCH 11, 2006 • 1–6 P.M.**

(Doors Open at 12:20 P.M.)

Irish Cultural and Heritage Center:  
2133 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee

Four stages of continuous entertainment

### **HALLAMOR**

2:00 -- Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums

2:30 -- Glencastle

3:15 -- Cashel-Dennehy

4:00 -- Blarney

4:45 -- Kinsella

### **PARLOR B**

1:00 -- Ceol Cairde  
2:15 -- Athas  
3:30 -- Jeff Ward  
4:45 -- Ce

### **UPSTAIRS**

2:00 -- Finbar McCarthy Band  
3:15 -- Caledonian Scottish Dancers  
3:45 -- Finbar McCarthy Band

### **BASEMENT: CHILDRENS AREA**

3:30 -- Eileen O'Rourke: Leprechaun Stories

Bands, Irish Dance Schools, Scottish Dancers, Bagpipe  
Bands, Children's Area

Food and Beverages available for purchase!!!

Adults \$6 / Children (6-12) \$3 / Under 6 Free

Volunteer needed: call Kristine and Daryl Pluskota  
(414) 768-8876

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## **RTE News Items**

### **IFA pulls out of social partnership talks**

The Irish Farmers' Association has pulled out of the Government talks on social partnership.

IFA President Pdraig Walshe has accused the Departments of Agriculture and Environment of undermining the negotiations for farmers' involvement in a new national partnership by announcing the imposition of the Nitrates Directive while the

first partnership meeting was actually in progress.

“It was bad faith and completely at variance with the positive statements inside the talks and I have suspended IFA’s involvement in partnership,” Mr. Walshe said.

He added that he would not lead farmers into what he described as a charade. Farmers say the directive, which puts curbs on the amount and timing of the spreading of farm manure, is unworkable.

It comes as an Oireachtas Committee met to discuss the directive which was signed into law by the Minister for the Environment, Dick Roche, last December. Its aim is to try and reduce the high level of pollution caused to ground water by agricultural fertilisers.

An official from the Department of the Environment told the Joint Committee on Environment and Local Government that phosphorus had been identified as the biggest source of water pollution in Ireland.

John Sadlier also said he believed the threat of a heavy fine from Europe had now receded since the Nitrates Directive was implemented.

Dr. Seamus Cross of Teagasc told the committee that the agency had said on many occasions that the current legislation would provide difficulties for the Irish pig industry.

Michael O’Donovan from the Department of Agriculture and Food said it would be taking out an advert in the Irish Farmers Journal regarding the new regulation, and is also preparing a handbook for farmers on the matter.

### **Great Southern Hotels need €80m - Cullen**

Taoiseach Bertie Ahern said today that an orderly sale of the Great Southern Hotel group provided the best opportunity for the chain to reach its full potential.

The Taoiseach's remarks came as the Minister for Transport, Martin Cullen, said the nine hotels needed fresh investment of up to €80m.

RTE News has learned that the Great Southern directors felt they had no option but to agree to a sale process. The group is owned by the Dublin Airport Authority.

The directors took the step in an effort to protect themselves from facing possible accusations of engaging in reckless trading due to escalating losses. The hotel group lost €6m last year and that. That is expected to rise to €8m this year.

Meanwhile, the Taoiseach said he hopes "most" of the nine hotels in the Great Southern Group will continue to operate as hotels. Speaking in the Dail, he said that when tourism was at an all time peak and the hotel group was still making a loss, the situation could not go on.

Labour leader Pat Rabbitte claimed that some of the hotels would be sold off to property developers, while the current highly skilled staff in the others will be replaced by low paid workers. He said that Fianna Fáil was being dictated to by the PDs, who wanted to put everything "under the hammer".

Mr Ahern said the Government will work with the trade union movement and the workers to ensure the hotels, as far as possible, are sold as a going concern.

Tourism Minister John O'Donoghue told RTE radio this afternoon that although he had opposed a sale in the past, the Government had been presented with a "fait accompli" and the priority now was to ensure that the hotels were sold as going concerns.

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## Colin's Lucky Pants

Colin Farrell has revealed he always turns up on his first day of filming wearing his lucky underwear. The Miami Vice star refuses to throw them away.

He told Star magazine: "I don't wear them to the discos and the clubs. They're only for the first day of filming.

"Shamrock shorts - not very glamorous! I've worn the same pair for about seven films now."

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## Milwaukee Dancers Compete In All Ireland Competition

Dancers from the Glencastle School, along with representatives of the other dance schools, competed in the All Ireland dance competitions the first week of February. Among them was Kamala Murphy, seen here at the Oireachtas in November. Shamrock Club members Bridget Jaskulski and Katie Paszkowski are among the teachers at the school who accompanied their students on their trip. More information in the April issue about results.



*Kamala Murphy Aman and Bridget Jaskulski.*



*Sean Beglan, Shamrock Club members Ann Bartelt, Kamala Murphy Amann, Bridget Jaskulski, Katie Paszkowski share a happy moment as Kamala had just qualified for the Worlds Irish Dance Competition. She is also an instructor with Glencastle.*

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## **MIA Production Of “An Irish Play”**

A sharp play will have its Milwaukee première at the ICHC in April and May, 2006. An Irish Play is the story of seven amateur actors who come together to read a new drama by an American writer, during which old rivalries are re-ignited and

jealousies come to a head. It will be presented by Milwaukee Irish Arts.

The production is set in a community pub-theater in Cork City, Ireland, where a group of amateur actors convenes to read a new play by a mysterious American author. As the troupe struggles toward an understanding of the enigmatic play, bitter rivalries re-ignite, old jealousies come to a head and family secrets are revealed. Written by Dan O'Brien, the play captures some of his experiences while living in Ireland.

The play is being performed in Parlor B of the ICHC. It will feature the talents of Michael Kane, Eamon O'Neill, Margaret Casey, Dante Fitzgerlad Keith Tamset, Sarah Mankowski, and Robert Kennedy. It will be directed by Milwaukee actor and director Jim Gallagher, who has directed and performed with a number of Milwaukee theatre companies.

The dates of the play will be April 28–30, May 4–7, and May 11–13. Performance times will be Thursday at 7:30 p.m., and all other days at 8 p.m. There will be no matinees.

The play will be the MIA production for “Acting Irish”, the North American Irish theatre competition that is taking place this year in Toronto on June 1.

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## **Iron Age ‘Bog Bodies’ Unveiled**

BBC NI–Archaeologists have unveiled two Iron Age “bog bodies” which were found in the Republic of Ireland. The bodies, which are both male and have been dated to more than 2,000 years old, probably belong to the victims of a ritual

sacrifice. In common with other bog bodies, they show signs of having been tortured before their deaths.

The first body dropped off a peat cutting machine in February 2003 in Clonycavan, near Dublin. The forearms, hands and lower abdomen are missing, believed to have been hacked off by the machine.

The second was found in May the same year in Croghan, just 25 miles from Clonycavan. Old Croghan Man, as it has become known, was missing a head and lower limbs. It was discovered by workmen clearing a drainage ditch through a peat bog.

Both bodies were subsequently taken to the National Museum of Ireland in Dublin. A team of experts from the UK and Ireland has been examining the bodies to learn how they lived and died. Radiocarbon dating, for example, would show that both had died at similar times – around 2,300 years ago.

Hundreds of bodies have been recovered from peat wetlands across Northern Europe. The earliest accounts date back to the 18th Century. The unique chemistry of peat bogs essentially mummifies bodies. The peat-building sphagnum moss embeds remains in cold, acid and oxygen-free conditions that immobilise bacteria.

“The way peat wetlands preserve bodies has been described as a process of ‘slow-cooking’ which tans them dark brown,” Timewatch producer John Hayes-Fisher told the BBC News website.

From his studies, Ned Kelly, keeper of Irish antiquities at the National Museum of Ireland, has developed a new theory to explain why so many remains are buried on important political or royal boundaries. “My belief is that these burials are offerings to the gods of fertility by kings to ensure a successful reign. Bodies are placed in the borders immediately surrounding royal land or on tribal boundaries to ensure a good yield of corn and milk throughout the reign of the king.”

## Milwaukee Members Gather to be Part of the Big Announcement



The 2006 Inaugural Honoree celebration took place on January 27 at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center. The Irish honorees were introduced to the assembled crowd. Chicago Irish Consul General Charles Sheehan (pictured above, center) delivered a speech about the importance of the Shamrock Club, its parade and its honorees to the city and to Wisconsin. Representing the City of Milwaukee, were Mayor Tom Barrett and Alderman Bob Donovan, joined by their spouses, Kris Barrett, and one of the event organizers, Kathy Donovan. Irish Fest Executive Director Jane Anderson and former Irish Fest President Barb Tyler made appearances. The Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums performed. About 70 people were in attendance.



*Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barret and wife, Kris congratulate John Maher on being named Irishman of the Year 2006.*



*The Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums took part in the evenings ceremonies.*

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## **Time to Join the Shamrock Club?**

So, you would like to join the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin, but you haven't gotten to it yet. What are the benefits? Well your support by joining, allows the Shamrock Club to continue to put on displays at the Milwaukee Public Museum, the Milwaukee Holiday Folk Fair, and the March events of Mass, Parade, and Post Parade Party. You will help us to continue to

help raise funds to provide scholarships to college students, sponsorship at Milwaukee Irish Fest, as well as helping the dance schools, the Hurling Club, and other Irish-American organizations in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and throughout the country. You become a part of one of the greatest Irish-American membership organizations in the history of the United States. We have been going for almost a half century, and we plan to be here for our centennial.

Come join our celebration of Irish-American life. Join in March, and get in at the special rate of \$17 for single, and \$22 for family, a savings of \$3 off the regular membership. And, after joining, become active in the Club itself.

You can read Emerald Reflections each month as it arrives in the mail, instead of searching around for a copy. So, join, or rejoin. We are looking forward to having you join us.

**Yes, I want to join the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin!!**

Family (DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH: \$22, normally \$25)  
 Single (DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH: \$17, normally \$20)  
 New     Rejoin

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Memberships for the Shamrock Club are for Milwaukee, Rock County and New Dublin at the \$20/\$25 rate. Other chapters have higher dues structures and must be contacted separately.**

Mail to: Milwaukee Membership Chair  
Tom Smith  
1107 S. 26th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53204

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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.

December – January – February new members: 2

December: 20 memberships up for renewal, 10 paid, 10 due.

January: 25 memberships up for renewal, 13 paid, 12 due.

February: 40 memberships up for renewal, 14 paid, 26 due.

Membership as of 2-1-06 in the Milwaukee Chapter is 245 Single memberships, 258 Family memberships.

– **Tom Smith**

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