



## Nov. 2007

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## Holiday Folk Fair 2007 – The Compasses of Culture

### HELP MAKE THE IRISH REPRESENTATION A SUCCESS!

*by Brian Witt*

Maybe people have heard the name of St Brendan the Navigator. What he did was remarkable. Around the year 530, Brendan set sail from the foot of Mount Brandon, Shanakeel — Seana Cill, (Old Church), in County Kerry for a seven year voyage. There, he and between fourteen and sixty others took a journey that was said to have landed in the New World. The records he left were remarkable, and it is said that Christopher Columbus had not only a Galway man, but a copy of Brendan's "Navagatio Sancti Brendani" to help guide him across the ocean, on his voyage in 1492. However, many people regarded the account to be either a religious allegory or a fairy tale.

Brendan, however, was using the records of others. He was following the directions of the monks who came before, and made the same journey in earlier times. The Navagatio told of encountering goats on an island, landing on an island, which turned out to be a whale, volcanoes, and a place where there was a lot of greenery.

In 1976, Tim Severin, an English scholar, built a boat to the dimensions that Brendan had left in his book. He set sail in the boat, made out of leather and wood, using the directions that Brendan set forth. It took two years, but Severin and his crew landed in Newfoundland, Canada. In the process, he documented many of the same things that Brendan listed. He was able to put names to the places that Brendan mentioned. What was considered fabulous was now seen to be factual.

In recent years, a person by the name of Crichton Miller has speculated that the Celtic Cross, the rounded top crucifix, was actually a working wheel that was used in prehistoric times by

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actually a working wheel that was used in prehistoric times by Celtic navigators. It certainly does have a marked resemblance.

The theme this year is the "Compasses of Culture." A compass can be a navigational instrument for finding directions. Or it can be an area in which something acts or operates or has power or control. The ancient Celts invaded the British Isles in a number of waves from Continental Europe. Their control extended over the area from the furthest western parts of the continent to Asia Minor. As their power receded, they were somewhat isolated to those northern islands. The Celts were also great seafaring peoples, making trips to the north of Africa and the Mediterranean Sea back to their homelands.

The modern Irish have inhabited all continents except Antarctica in the past number of centuries. In the United States, over one-fifth of all people say they have some Irish ancestry. The same numbers can be counted in Canada. In Australia, where prison ships dropped off thousands of Irish, about one tenth of the Aussies say they have the blood of Erin in them.

For whatever reasons, be it famine, forced deportation for crimes, or just economic needs, the Irish managed to both navigate to foreign lands, and then take control of them. The Irish ran the Catholic Church in both the U.S. and Australia. Political machines were developed by the sons of St Patrick. In the past few decades, Irish culture, song and dance have become very popular and strong throughout the world. What may have started out as accidents of emigration became sources of strength for the Irish. In this way, the compasses have both helped to direct them, and to let that same culture grow.

It is time for the annual Holiday Folk Fair. This year, it will again be held at the Wisconsin State Fair Grounds, 84th and Greenfield. The dates are November 16, 17, and 18. The Shamrock Club will represent the Irish in our sales, food and cultural booths. The Glencastle Irish Dancers will be the dance representatives.

We are again the face of the Irish community in this area. Each year we are called upon to represent the Irish, to show the world what we are, what we have done, and what we can do. To do that, the Shamrock Club will need volunteers for our retail, cultural, and food areas. We also need to sell tickets to the Folk Fair.

Admission is as follows: Adults \$8 in advance. Tickets will be available for sale at the November membership meeting. Please see Muriel Crowley. You can also use the accompanying order form to purchase tickets via mail. As a sponsoring group of the Fair we need to sell a number of tickets or make up the cost elsewhere.

#### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: EARLY AND LATE SHIFTS**

The Holiday Folk Fair is open during the following times:

Friday, Nov. 17 — 3–11 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 18 — 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 19 — 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

The annual Holiday Folk Fair will take place the weekend preceding Thanksgiving. We will be needing help in a number of areas. If you would like to work a four hour shift at the Holiday Folk Fair, please contact the Shamrock Club's Holiday Folk Fair Chairmen, (Food) Mary Culver at [redheadgardener@hotmail.com]; (Sales) Noreen Barclay at (262) 695-8563 or [nabarclay@earthlink.net]; or (Cultural) Pam Canon at (414) 476-2595 or [dpCanon@wi.rr.com]. Or contact us at our e-mail address, [info@shamrockclubwis.com]. You will receive the annual Folk Fair participant pin, plus admission for Folk Fair for all three days. In a new position as Dance School Coordinator is Bridget Jaskulski. She can be reached at [Bridget@GlencastleIrishDancers.com].

The Holiday Folk Fair will have a number of special events during the course of the weekend. They will include:

- Dance Pavilion: a place to learn dances from around the world
- International Exhibits: view exhibits of Japanese wooden dolls, Mexican folk toys
- International Breakfasts: introduce yourselves to new tastes and smells
- Also: Food from around the world; unique gifts for you and someone special; international entertainment; cultural exhibits to assist you in learning about your heritage; demonstrations and hands on opportunities.

There will be an Interdenominational Religious Service on Sunday at 10 a.m. Holiday Folk Fair International is produced by the International Institute of Wisconsin. The International Institute is a not for profit organization dedicated to international cooperation, understanding, and a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural perspective through education, exchange, communication, social activities, and immigration and naturalization services.

State Fair Park  
8100 W. Greenfield Ave.  
West Allis, Wisconsin 53214  
Folk Fair Hotline 414-225-6225 or 1-800-FAIR INTL  
[www.folkfair.org]

Again, as we come back again as the Shamrock Club for our 47th year, we are still sowing the seeds of Irish culture. Help us to both sow and reap.

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## **2007 HOLIDAY FOLK FAIR**

**November 16, 17, 18, 2007**

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

To Order, mail your request to:

Muriel Crowley  
1020 Georges Ave.  
Brookfield, WI 53045

Include your name, address, number of tickets (at \$8 each) and a check made payable to the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin.

Tickets will be sent to you by return mail and are good on any of the three days of Folk Fair.

**HELP US MEET OUR GOAL!**

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## **Wisconsin Shamrock State Advisory Board Meeting**

**August 19, 2007 Minutes**

The advisory Board met at the Cultural Tent at Irish Fest for its August meeting. Members present were Jason and Tiffany Donahoe (LaFayette County) John and Jan Delmore (South Central), Harry and Pat McCarthy, Sue Morrison, Kay Sweeney and Cathy Downs (Dane County), Cate Harris and Brian Witt (Milwaukee), Pat and Frank Warmbrunn (Fox Valley), and Linda Pfaff (LaCrosse).

President Cate Harris called the meeting to order at 10:35 p.m. The minutes from the May 5 meeting were reviewed and approved. The treasurer has \$200 held in the Dane County Shamrock Club account.

Officers for the next two year term were elected and they are as follows

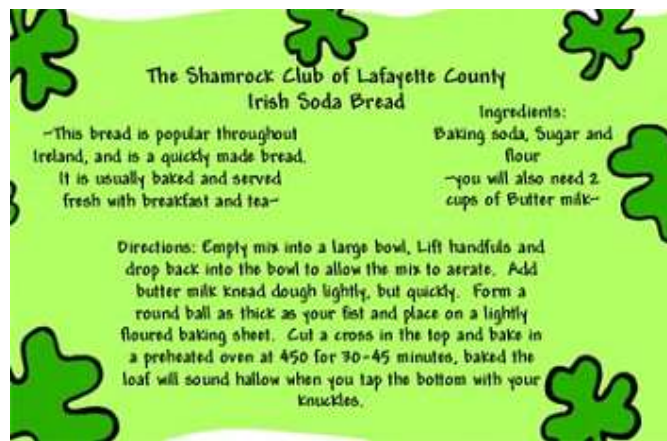
President: Cate Harris  
Vice President: John Delmore  
Secretary: Pat McCarthy  
Treasurer: Harry McCarthy

Brian Witt introduced several of the Milwaukee club members who were working at the festival. Also, he introduced Arthur Cola, who

is the author of the children's book, "Papa and the Gingerbread Man, An Adventure in America's Oldest City" ISBN: 0-9789423-0-2 and the novel "Papa and the Leprechaun King, The Secret Legend of the Shamrock" ISBN-13: 978-59800-903-3. Mr. Cola is interested in offering a book discount if any of the clubs are interested in using a book sale as a fund raiser. If interested, he can be contacted at (262) 308-0743 or [arthurcola@yahoo.com].

The board shared fundraising ideas. A couple of new ideas came from LaFayette County. At a Cinco de Mayo event they sold Irish Soda Bread in a jar for \$5.

The ingredients are: 4 cups flour; 2 tsp baking soda; 2 tsp sugar. In a quart jar we find that layering from bottom up mixes well: two cups flour, sugar, baking soda, and the remaining two cups of flour on top. Instructions are included for baking, see graphic below.



Important when baking: (1) don't over mix, as this will make the bread tuff; (2) make a ball of dough and make no thicker than a fist, I flatten mine a bit more, otherwise it is a bit tricky to get it to cook even. (3) cover with a cloth when done and this will give the bread an awesome crust!

They also sold cinnamon rolls with green icing. Mmmm, doesn't that sound good!

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, November 3 in Darlington. Jason and Tiffany Donahoe of the LaFayette County club will be our hosts. The meeting will be held at:

Annie's Bar & Grill – noon  
300 Washington St  
Darlington, WI 53530  
Phone: (608) 776-3773

Please let Jason and Tiffany know if you will be coming so they can make reservations. You can reach them at (608) 348-2216 or via email [tiffany023@centurytel.net].

Our many thanks to Cate Harris and Brian Witt for organizing the August meeting and providing all the food and beverages.

Respectfully submitted,

– Pat McCarthy, Secretary October 1, 2007

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### **Shamrock Club Of New Dublin News**

Greetings to one and all from the Shamrock Club of New Dublin, we've had a busy year. This year the club has been working in conjunction with the city of New London in partnering with Killaloe, County Clare, Ireland in a Sister City venture. Club members visited Killaloe in May and were introduced to residents of Killaloe as well as members of the County Clare Council. While in Killaloe they visited many historic sites and local schools and businesses. In August the Shamrock Club of New Dublin and the City of New London hosted a luncheon during the Milwaukee Irish Festival with Clare County dignitaries and Killaloe Community Council to further agree to pursue this partnership and we hosted Mr. Tony O'Brien from Killaloe to our city for a week of touring and getting to know our city. It has been a very exciting and rewarding venture for our club and our city and we hope to finalize a charter with Killaloe within a year.

Also in August Shamrock Club member Melissa Mulroy hosted Ann O'Farrell the author of Nora's Children at her B&B, Antiques With Inn. Ann is originally from Dublin now retired to Florida, and was promoting her new book. The story set in Ireland chronicles the life of five children abandoned by their father when their mother dies unexpectedly. It was a wonderful event attended by many in the club and community.

The Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Dinner was held at Flease's Resort on September 17. Food was provided by Crystal Falls Banquet Hall, member Bill Flease, and music was a tribute to the late Tommy Makum with a memorial read by member Dave Mulroy. Election of officers was also held at that time. New officers for two-year terms are as follows: President Jim Clark, Vice President Carrie Katerzynske, Treasurer Larry Katerzynske, Secretary Macushla Mulroy, Membership Chairperson Suzi Snyder, Parliamentarian Judi Barrington, and Sergeant-at-Arms Marge Petit. Also elected for three-year terms were Trustees Dave Tennie and Pat Sullivan.

We're busy planning for St Patrick's Week Festivities 2008. Our Grand Parade and Irish Festival will take place on March 15, 2008.

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## **South Central Shamrock Club News**

*November Meeting will be held at The Farm Kitchen on  
November 11 at 4 p.m.*

Gloria Judge accepted the task to chair our Christmas Party at The Reedsburg Country Club for December 16 beginning at Noon. (I know there is a Packer game, but the club has a nice TV so that all will be able to watch and updates will be provided! ha ) A mass at Sacred Heart Church in Reedsburg beginning at 10:30 a.m. for those wishing to attend prior to the party. John Delmore suggested this and it was approved at the October meeting.

Any questions for Gloria in regards to the Dec. 16th Christmas Party please call her at (608) 524-3665 more details of cost and entertainment will appear in the December issue.

Slainte,

**– Dana Horkan Gant  
South Central Membership Chairperson**

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## **Milwaukee President's Message**

Faillte, Samhain. Welcome, November. The month of Thanksgiving has arrived. Folk Fair has arrived. Cooler weather has arrived. Summer is officially over. And the mosquitos are thinking of leaving.

Folk Fair is our largest fundraiser each year. We will be representing the Irish in the food, cultural and sales area. We need volunteers. Thank you to Malkin Wallace for stepping in as general chair for the event. And thanks to the other chairs, Mary Culver and Pete and Fran Dundon, Food, Noreen Barclay, Sales, Bridget Jaskulski, dance schools, and Pam Canon, Cultural. Check the front page article about how to contact them on volunteering. Our theme this year is odd-sounding, but we are good with playing with ideas and coming up with some really interesting things for the Cultural spot.

If you have the time on Sundays, catch the last two games of the

Milwaukee Celtic soccer club. With those brand new uniforms with the Shamrock Club logo on them, they look very impressive. Details are in Reflections as to where they have their last two games. And don't despair if you missed them in action. There is a spring league, as well.

Thanks to County Supervisor Dan Devine for his talk about county government at the October meeting. Also, thanks to Kristina Paris for setting up the Ceol Cairde mini-concert prior to the meeting. Just another example of Shamrock Club members in action.

At the November meeting, we will be having an Irish trivia night. Bring your thinking caps, and maybe get out those travel and history books. This should be a fun time.

As we near fifty years, we should plan for a wonderful celebration of a half century of celebrating Irish life and culture in the State. Only two and a half years left to make these plans.

Our Christmas party is on Thursday, December 6 at 6 p.m. Malkin Wallace is planning a great evening, and we expect to have a return of Santa Claus that night. We are going to provide beverages and the meat. People are asked to bring side dishes and desserts.

The State Advisory Board meeting will be held on November 3 in Darlington. If you would like to attend, please contact Cate Harris at [cateh6@sbcglobal.net] or (414) 321-5153. Milwaukee hosted the meeting in August at Irish Fest, and I think we did a very nice job of it. We found we all have the same common issues, and we all have different ideas on how to fix things.

See you in December.

– **Brian Witt**  
**Briangwitt@shamrockclubwis.com**

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## **Christmas Party 2007**

The annual Christmas party will take place on Thursday, December 6, at the ICHC. The Club will provide meat and beverages for the dinner. We ask that those attending bring a dish to pass. In addition, in order to correctly order the right amount of food, we are asking members to reserve places for the evening. Contact Malkin Wallace at [Malkin218@aol.com] in order to reserve a spot for the party.

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### **Color Guard News and Notes**

Welcome race fans, er, I mean SCCGPD fans! Happy November. Soon the festive season will be upon us. Can you believe it's been eight months since we opened our season in Savannah, Georgia? What a thrill.

Have lots of news this month, but this article is dedicated to THE DRUMMERS!!! We have a lot going on in the group that brings up the rear in parades. They are nothing but last in our books, and are overlooked at times. Well, no more, ladies and gentleman! Here goes:

Welcome new drummers Nic Bizub and Ryan "Mort" Mortimer. Nic is 14 years old and a quad drummer with Mukwanago HS Marching Band. He is also an accomplished viola player with the orchestra. He will join the snare line very soon.

Mort is 15 years old and a bass player with the Mukwanago High School Band. He has set aside his football due to injuries this year, and will join the band as an apprentice tenor drummer.

Also a warm welcome to Jamie Skittles who is also joining the drum line soon as well.

Thank you Super Dave for your enthusiasm in promoting the group. We are so glad that you found us a little more than a year ago and you and your family have brought so much to SCCGPD.

Other drum line news:

JJ Garsombke (snare drummer) is very close to earning his Eagle Scout status. He recently completed a landscaping project at the Old Public Library in West Allis, and helped build some benches. I heard he also had a chance to teach some younger scouts on how to build them as well. Congratulations, JJ.

Ms. Katie Franklin (tenor drum) is heading off to Scotland next July, I hear as the Homestead High School choir will take part in the Aberdeen Music Festival. Have fun, Lassie!

JJ, Dave and Patrick (snare drummers), are three of four percussionists accepted into the prestigious Wisconsin Conservatory of Music percussion ensemble. They are studying with very accomplished musicians and are learning all facets and styles of being a drummer. They will be performing on Dec 3, 7 p.m. at the Conservatory on Prospect Ave. Thanks Kris (JJ's mom) for finding the program for them. Mark your calendars and come out to support these guys. They've worked hard and deserve it!

One last piece, Patrick (snare) has just found out he has been

chosen to be a student ambassador for the “People to People” program that President Eisenhower started way back when. For three weeks out of next summer, he will be exploring Western Europe with 39 other kids. They will visit Ireland, Holland, France, England, Belgium, Isle of Wight and Wales. It’s kind of like a foreign exchange program that he receives school credit for. Wow! Congratulations, Patrick. I heard you made them all laugh in the interview and they were all very impressed.

October for the rest of the band went by in a blur. The weather was fantastic and we enjoyed our final parades as a unit. Mayville was hot and sunny and Sister Bay was cool and dry.

Thank you to the Zor pipers that came along for a great time in Door County and a huge thank you to Karen Nielson for putting it all together for us every year.

We have one more parade to go for November. Come see us in Downtown Milwaukee’s Veteran’s day parade, I believe the second week of November. Check the website for more details. And speaking of websites, the SCCGPD has a Myspace page, too!

Thank you also to Mary Culver and Malkin Wallace for heading up the contingent to work the food booth at the folk fair.

And lastly, as the nights continue to get longer, we are indoors once again at the ICHC on Tuesdays through the winter months. Now is the time to stop in if you have always wanted to learn the pipes, the drums or to be a part of our fantastic color guard. We love what we do and have fun doing it.

Christmas party plans continue... still stay tuned. Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving everyone.

– Noel Tylla, 4th year piper

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## **Milwaukee Celtic Update**

The fall season is wrapping up soon. The new uniforms arrived in October, and the team has been playing in the Shamrock Club green since. You can still see the team in action on November 4, against the WSC Serbian Tigers at Whitman Field, 52 and Plainfield, and on November 11 against the Milwaukee Kickers at Uihlein, 71 and Good Hope Road. Both games are at 12:30 p.m.

The team includes: Andrew Barrette, Karl Beir, Michael Beir, Dan Della, Tim Devlin, Abdallah Elsayed, Matthew Gonia, Kevin Hooley, Andrew Krueger, Timothy Martin, Adam Mattson, Ryan Mattson, Matthew McDonough, Travis Powell-Wolf, Mike

Simons, and Adrian Van Etten.

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## Hallamor Fall Concert Series

### **Gan Bua**

**November 10, 2007; 8 p.m.**

Gan Bua is a quintet of the finest musicians who are a new major force in the traditional Irish music scene. Four of the five musicians are All-Ireland Champions who come from different places and backgrounds; each bringing the perfect ingredient to create a powerful, cohesive musical display. Their blend of stimulating instrumentals and spellbinding songs leaves the audience wanting more. "In the spirit of Dervish, Solas, Danu and the like, this driving flighty, bodhran-motored, Chicago-based band steps out into the light with their head-turning sound that can only come from top notch musicianship and immaculately crisp delivery." Tamara Turner, CD Baby. "Gan Bua is the essence of a superb band, collaborative in nature, and able to build upon the best qualities of other's playing and unselfish in sharing the leads." \*Brian G. Witt, Irish Music Magazine

Irish Cultural and Heritage Center  
2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue  
414-345-8800

Tickets: Advance/reserved \$19, \$21 Day of Concert

– Gwen Sisk

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## Celtic Women First Fridays

**Date:** November 2, 2007

**Topic:** "Discovery of America by Welsh Prince Madoc"

**Speaker:** Kevin Dixon-Seid

Kevin Dixon-Seidl is a Native American of the Menominee tribe, living in Milwaukee. His passion is the study of spirituality, and research into the overlap of cultural customs between various ethnic groups such as the Celts, Native Americans, Scandinavians, and Northern European groups. His heritage is the Menomonee and Cherokee tribes; born in Chicago and living his early years on

Wisconsin reservations. He came across Prince Madoc while researching Arthurian legends. Kevin is active in passing on his own Native American customs.

Lectures are held from 5:30 – 7 p.m. at the ICHC, 2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee. Admission is \$7 for all. Tea and biscuits are served. Everyone is welcome.

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## Members' Doings

Cynthia Nazario recently spent time in Ireland with her son, Liam. Mary Beth Holloway and Joan Keenan took a tour of New England, going from Boston to Vermont and New Hampshire. Rock and Katie Elgin recently spent time in Los Angeles and San Diego. The Griffins captain Dan McAuliffe was recently married.

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## Sunshine Club

Tom Smith remains at Mercy Rehabilitation on 27 Street. He enjoys those cards and letters, as well as the visits. Mary Hippler has been hospitalized recently.

Catherine Gahagan, mother of Sheryl, died recently. Our condolences go out to her family.

If you have any information about members, please contact me, Joe Donovan, (414) 259-8040.

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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** – Eileen Brigaitis; Tom Dillon; Linda Edmundson; Cynthia Nazario; David and Ethel Rowen.

**Rock County** – Pat Bourke (referred by Tom and Rita Mauerman).

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