



May 2010

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The Irish in American Politics

by Brian Witt

The Irish have been a part of the election process in the United States since the earliest days of the nation. The Ulster Scots and the Irish Catholics made up a majority of George Washington's army, and later would affect the first election. Andrew Jackson's election was pushed forward by a coalition of Protestant and Catholic Irish. And the presidential election of 1884 featured Grover Cleveland and James G. Blaine, in one of the dirtiest campaigns ever in American politics. It was also a contest that pitted the two candidates in an attempt to attract the Irish votes with an "I am more Irish than my opponent" strategy. Both men had family from Northern Ireland, of, in the vernacular of the day, "Protestant stock," but Blaine had a mother who was raised Catholic. Cleveland won.

With this preamble, we are just re-minding you that the Shamrock Club elections are here again. Please come out to vote on May 6.

Shamrock Club of Wisconsin (Milw) 2010-11 Candidates' Statements

President Josh Walton

I have served as Parliamentarian for two years and trustee this past year. I would be honored to continue my service to the Shamrock Club as the president, following in the steps of my father. Also, I am currently serving as chairperson of the 50th Anniversary Committee. I am honored to be the 2010 Irishman of the Year, as well.

I first joined the Shamrock Club in 1973 and have been a volunteer for the St. Patrick's Day Parade, Folk Fair, Bradley Center, and the annual picnic. In addition, I have been an Irish Fest volunteer since its inception. I am also a Past Grand Knight of the Bishop Brust (Wauwatosa) Council of the Knights of Columbus, as well as a past president of the St. Joseph's Benevolent Society.

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Vice President Kathy Donovan

It is a great honor to be nominated as vice president of the Shamrock Club. I was named the 2009 Irish Rose for the Shamrock Club. My husband Bob and I have been members for about nine years. In that time I have helped organize the Shamrock Club picnic, volunteered at Folk Fair, and have helped in the transportation trailer for Irish Fest. I have helped work and organize the raffle for the Emerald Society fundraiser for the Brendan Heart Fund for the past couple of years. I have been a board member for the Shamrock Club for four years. Two of those years I was sergeant at arms. I am currently serving my third year as trustee.

Secretary Malkin Wallace

After 28 years away from Milwaukee, I returned home, and ended up joining the Shamrock Club on my return. I became a proud flag carrying member of the Color Guard, Pipes and Drums. I ran the Post Parade Party in 2007 and 2008. I have also served as sergeant at arms for two years. I believe in giving back to the community, and I feel that as secretary, I can do that for the members of this club. Outside of the Shamrock Club, I'm a full time realtor with Shorewest Realtors.

Treasurer John Fisher

I have been treasurer for the past two years. My wife Mary and I have also been judging the St. Pat's parade for many years as well as working at many other events of the club. I am a retired Customer Services manager of the US Postal Service. I am involved in the Ulster Project, Friends of St. Patrick Center and the Bay View Historical Society. I am currently the president of the St. Joseph's Benevolent Society, as I have been for over 20 years following Josh Walton. I have five children, including my youngest son, Tom, who is pursuing a PHD in Celtic Studies at the University of Ireland-Galway.

Sergeant at Arms Veronica Ceszynski

I have been a member of the Shamrock Club for about 40 years. During that time it has been a privilege to meet so many others who proclaim their Irish pride all year long and live up to its ways. During my years in the Shamrock Club I have had many behind the scenes jobs. For the past few years I have enjoyed chairing the breakfast after the Easter Mass, a really old-fashioned Irish family event. Last year I stepped up to being Sergeant at Arms and created a "food of the month" theme for meetings which has been quite successful. I look forward to serving again in the next year. I am also a part of the 50th anniversary committee, and work on the ad book. Milwaukee Irish Fest has also consumed much of my

time during its 30 years.

Trustee
Sandy Quinlan

My name is Sandy Quinlan. For the last 19 years I have been the Director of the Grobschmidt Senior Center in South Milwaukee. I have been married to Kevin for 25 years, and have two daughters, Kelly and Kari. Kelly is a drummer and Kari is a piper in the Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums. I have been volunteering for the Irish community ever since I entered into the Quinlan family. I have worked at the Folk Fair, the Bradley Center, the post parade party, many pipe and drum fundraisers, and of course the annual raffle. I also volunteer for events at the ICHC and this will be my 27th year as a volunteer for Irish Fest where I serve as a beer captain at the Lakefront stage. It would be a great honor to serve you as the trustee of the Shamrock Club

Trustee
Ken Tehan

Ken has been a long time member of the Shamrock Club. He has worked with the Color Guard, and recently helped to build the Shamrock Club's 50th Anniversary float, providing the space for construction. He is also among the cadre of Shamrock Club members who serve as the Irish Fest Cultural Area construction and set up crew. Ken is also the landscaper for the festival.

Membership Chair
Denis Donohoe

I am honored to be re-nominated for the Membership Chair and continue following in the footsteps of a great friend, Tom Smith. My wife, Karen (married 34 years, to each other) and I have been members of the Shamrock Club many years, helped to recruit members like Pete and Dawn Fleming plus others, and volunteered behind the scenes on many activities and events. I have lived in Milwaukee practically my whole life, and have volunteered in leadership positions for many organizations in the last 25 years such as the Boy Scouts of America, church organizations, professional societies, and Irish Fest.

I work for DexM Corporation in Pewaukee as the Business Systems Manager in charge of all computer systems and software.

I look forward to continuing to provide my services, talents and experience to enhancing and increasing the Shamrock Club membership.

Parliamentarian
Tom Mcaleese

Second generation Irish. Married, five children, six grandchildren. Shamrock Club member 25 years. Volunteer: Bradley Center, 10 years; Folk Fair, 15 years; Irish Fest Genealogy Booth 15 years; St. Patrick, seven years; Shamrock Club Secretary, two years.

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Milwaukee President's Message

When you use the words “May day” in some professions, it means there’s an emergency. This is just a reminder to bring yourself to the May meeting. We will have the elections for the Board of Directors in May, and do each year. We will have new officers in some positions, and I’m positive I’ll become the Past President. There is no provision for absentee ballots, so you must be there to vote. Our bylaws even allow you to join and vote on the same night, which means you have no excuse not to come and vote. Kathy Donovan will conduct the election as the Senior Trustee, assisted by Mary Culver the Junior Trustee, and another person Kathy will appoint. Josh Walton had to resign to run for another office.

Try to attend one of the parades our SCCGPD will be present for this year. Under the direction of Rand Harteau and Pipe Major Dan McCormick, they are proudly playing new tunes, and marching well together in the Color Guard. Let’s support these representatives of the club as they spend many hours perfecting each facet of their performance.

Thank you for cooperating with us in moving the April meeting date. We felt many of you would not be in attendance on Holy Thursday, and you needed to be there for board nominations.

Thanks again to Sandy Quinlan for presiding over the meeting in March, I knew she’d do great, and she did. The Quinlan Family ran our scholarship raffle again with much success. For all those of you that won, enjoy the prize knowing the students getting the scholarships will be most appreciative.

Having the sports teams with us in April was fun for all. The soccer team and the hurling team have represented us well, and provided volunteers when we needed them. The Shamrock Club Griffins were the hurling champions this past year, and we are proud to have the traveling trophy they presented to us. In the month of May we will take the opportunity to honor our SCCGPD. We would like to see you there, and hear some of the stories from parades past if possible.

If you have the time please make me, or any board member, aware of how you liked any of our 50th anniversary events so far this year. We are looking forward to our anniversary and honoree dinner on September 25th. This event needs to have all of you to come forward and enjoy celebrating with old friends and

welcoming new friends.

Thanks to the following people for making our 40th annual Easter Rising Mass so memorable, Derek Byrne, our musician, Betty Mikush for arranging all the portions of the liturgical affects, Marianne Fisher for the mass booklet, Veronica Ceszynski for the continental breakfast, Dawn Fleming and Kathy Donovan for all the decorations, all the board members for the Easter lilies, and especially Father Terry Brennan for the mass that makes us all proud. Our mass has become a Milwaukee tradition for all of us, and for all the persons behind the scenes, my thanks.

– Julie Smith, President

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Editor's Note:

Thank you to Mary Culver and Jean Bills, whose unattributed photo collections graced last month's photo spread.

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Milwaukee Elections

The 2010 Elections for the Milwaukee chapter will take place on Thursday, May 6, from 6 until 7:30 p.m. No office is opposed.

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Shamrock Club Scholarship Applications

The Shamrock Club's annual Irish Studies Scholarship Application is ready. Applications must be received by May 2, 2010 for consideration. Applicants must be of college age, and are encouraged to volunteer for Shamrock Club events. Applications are available at the ICHC and online for download. Please contact Tim O'Brien, scholarship chair, for more information, at (414) 444-1989.

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Veronica's Cupboard

May is the month we honor our mothers. So, this month we ask the men step up and bring treats to supplement the ham that we'll have. What really pleases your wife? If you don't have a wife, what food can you bring that would attract the attention of a lady you'd like to please?

Here, gentlemen, are some ideas: crunchy salads with fruit, leafy salads with lots of veggies; desserts with ladyfingers? and don't forget chocolate!

Of course, you can call Veronica for more ideas or suggestions: (414) 228-8621.

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50th Anniversary Committee

We are busy working on events for the 50th Anniversary events. Our dinner dance will take place on September 25, at the Humphrey Scottish Rite Center, Van Buren and Wells. Please make plans to attend. The cost will be \$50 per person. It will be the grand Irish gala of the year. Cocktails are at 5:30 p.m., and dinner at 7 p.m.

We are doing an ad book, featuring the history of the Shamrock Club. If you would like to take out an ad, please contact Malkin Wallace at [Malkin218@aol.com], or Veronica Ceszynski at [irishv@ameritech.net].

Calendar of Events for General Meetings 2010

- May: SCCGPD past/present, slide show, Developed by Mary Culver
- June: Irish Dancers All Schools Invitation Dancers in school uniforms?
- July: Installation Dinner

Next Meeting: May 10 at my home, 2432 N. Lefebber Ave., Wauwatosa, at 7 p.m. If you wish to join, please stop by, or call (414) 443-0446.

– Josh Walton

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World Championships of Irish Dance

A number of Shamrock Club members who are dance teachers went to Ireland for the World Championships of Irish Dance. They included Bridget Jaskulski from Glencastle; Natalie Howard from Trinity; and Marisa Rondinelli and Maura Heck from Cashel Dennehy. Milwaukee dancers did well.

The Cashel Dennehy under-16 Girls Ceili team won the U-16 World Ceili over Easter week in Glasgow, Scotland. This makes Cashel Dennehy the first Wisconsin Irish Dance School to attain this high honor, and only the second ever from the Midwest. Paving the way for this great achievement, the girls won the Midwest Championship title over Thanksgiving in Columbus, Ohio and then went on to be crowned All Ireland Champions in Killarney, Ireland in February. At the Glasgow competition the girls competed in two rounds to win against 45 world class dance teams.

The winners are: Gabrielle Caron Schuler; Natalie Rondinelli; Kate Abbott; Kayla Jashinsky; Lauren Sayles; Mary Beth Jablonowski; Mackenzie Bryant; and Jessica Gibson.

In addition to the team, 10 Cashel Dennehy soloists qualified to dance at the World Championship.

Four Milwaukee area dancers, representing Trinity Academy of Irish Dance, took the world stage. Ten-year-old Maggie Nowakowski, a 5th grader at University School in Mequon, took 4th place in her first trip to the World Championships.

Bridget Smith-Jaskulski, went over with her student, Breeanne Glavan-Johnson. Breeanne qualified for the World Championships at the Mid-America Championships in November, 2009 where she received fourth place.

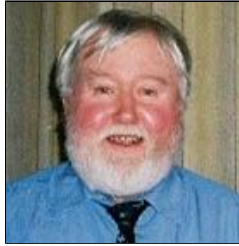
Breeanne competed in the Girls 18-19 category at the Worlds on Friday, April 2nd. There were 100 dancers in the competition and Breeanne received 55th place. While only 38 dancers received a call back, Breeanne was 17 away from a recall at her first Worlds.

Bridget added, "Glencastle Irish Dancers would also like to congratulate the team from Cashel-Dennehy that received the GOLD medal in the Girls 13-16 ceili."

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Celtic Women

First Friday Lectures



John Gleeson

DATE: May 7, 2010

TOPIC: "James Joyce: Bloomsday"

SPEAKER: John Gleeson [gleeson@uwm.edu]

Bloomsday is an annual commemoration observed on 16 June in Dublin, Ireland and elsewhere to celebrate the life of Irish writer James Joyce and relive the events in his novel *Ulysses*, all of which took place on the same day in Dublin in 1904. The name derives from Leopold Bloom, the protagonist of *Ulysses*, and 16 June was the date of Joyce's first outing with his wife-to-be, Nora Barnacle, when they walked to the Dublin village of Ringsend.

John Gleeson is Dublin-born and bred; he is director of the Celtic Studies department at UWM and a long time promoter of all things Irish in Milwaukee. He has led countless tours to Ireland, including studies for UWM students for part of their academic credits.

All lectures are held from 5:30–7 p.m. at Greene Hall, 3347 N. Downer Ave. on the UWM campus. Plenty of street parking at the door with a wheel chair access ramp. This is our twelfth year of lectures without interruption. The public is always invited. We offer tea, snacks and a promise of a delightful couple of hours. Cost: \$7.

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**South Central
Shamrock Club May News**



South Central Shamrock Club's St. Patrick's Day Party was held on March 20th. Irish Rose Luanne Krohn and Irishman Richard Fish were honored. Irish Eyes were Smiling on them throughout the evening. The party was well attended and the club wishes to thank all who participated to make the evening successful.

The raffle ticket winners were: 1st Prize to Scott Anderson (Gurney, IL) who won the trip for two to Ireland; 2nd Prize to Kate Horkan (Reedsburg, WI) who won a choice of an overnight stay at County Clare, Milwaukee, St. Brendan's Inn, Green Bay or The Irish Cottage in Galena, IL; and 3rd Prize to Larry Sheahan (Madison) who won the Golf Package to Reedsburg or Baraboo Country Clubs. All proceeds to benefit the "Marquerite I Murray Scholarship Fund.

Our sympathy goes out to Corky Powers whose husband, club member E. Thomas Powers, passed away.

Spring is here so enjoy the many shades of green! Many Blessings to our Mothers on May 9th!

– Dana Horkan-Gant

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2010 Raffle Winners

We want to thank all the people who entered our Scholarship Raffle. This helps us to raise funds for our Irish Studies scholarship. Since 1972, the Shamrock Club has given away over \$25,000 to

students.

- Grand prize – \$1000 – Frederick Smith
- 1st – Brown Deer golf pkg – Mary Beth Holloway
- 2nd – ICHC concert series and waterford crystal – J. Robert Scanlan
- 3rd – overnight County Clare – Mary Beth Holloway
- 4th – overnight Irish Cottage – John “Jack” O’Day
- 5th – overnight St. Brendan’s – Joan Wilson
- 6th – silver necklace – Ray Christensen
- 7th – Beleek vase – Jean Petersen

– Sandy Quinlan

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Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums Schedule

MAY

- Monday, May 31
Memorial Day Parade - Menomonee Falls, WI
- Monday, May 31
Memorial Day Parade - Downtown Milwaukee

JUNE

- Sunday, June 13
Oshkosh Irish Fest - Oshkosh, WI
- Saturday, June 26
Fun Before the 4th Parade - Theinsville, WI (unconfirmed)

JULY

- Sunday, July 4
4th of July Parade - Oak Creek, WI
- Sunday, July 4
4th of July Parade - New Berlin, WI
- Saturday, July 10
South Shore Frolics - Milwaukee (unconfirmed)
- Saturday, July 17
Shamrock Club Picnic - Milwaukee
- Saturday, July 24
South Milwaukee Heritage Days - South Milwaukee, WI

(unconfirmed)

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Milwaukee Celtic Soccer

With a number of new players, we are excited about the new outdoor spring season. All of our matches are at Polonia, 11400 W. Loomis Road, on Sundays. Please come out and cheer for us. We may also have some surprises for the spring. Stay tuned.

If you have any questions, please contact either Al Moss or Kevin Hooley. Al can be reached at [mossjr.alton@millercoors.com], or at (414) 234-9611. Kevin can be reached at [hooley11@hotmail.com], or (414) 702-7665

Upcoming Matches (at Polonia)

- May 2 vs USA Palermo; 4:30 p.m.
- May 9 vs Caribbean Kickers; 4:30 p.m.
- May 16 vs WC Rampage; 4:30 p.m.
- May 23 vs Verdi; 12:30 p.m.
- June 6 vs Polonia; 2:30 p.m.
- June 13 vs USA Palermo Due; 4:30 p.m.

– Al Moss and Kevin Hooley

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Karan Casey Band at ICHC on May 22

Karan Casey, one of the most original and influential voices in Irish music, will perform at the Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, on Saturday, May 22, at 7:30 p.m. Backing Casey will be Caolmhin Vallely on piano, Kate Ellis on cello, and Robbie Overson on guitar.

Pre-concert music in Quinlan's Pub will be provided by Milwaukee traditional band *Ceol Cairde* from 6:30-7:15 p.m.

Casey was first introduced to American audiences as lead vocalist of the Irish "supergroup" *Solas* in the mid-1990s. She had immigrated to New York from Ireland in 1993 to pursue a jazz degree at Brooklyn's Long Island University and met up with the future members of *Solas* while attending Irish music sessions.

After almost five years with *Solas*, Casey embarked on an award-winning solo career in 1999. She pushes the boundaries of traditional songs and seamlessly mixes them with the contemporary as well as her own compositions. The most recent of her five albums, *Ships in the Forest*, is a return to more traditional material, including a cover of Joni Mitchell's antiwar song, "The Fiddle and the Drum," which reflects Casey's passion for social justice. Casey says that it is important for her to make every song she sings her own.

Casey has been involved in performing and recording projects and collaborations with a who's who of Irish and folk performers, among them the late Liam Clancy, former band mates Seamus Eagan and John Doyle, Peggy Seeger, and Mick Moloney as well as her husband, accordionist Niall Vallely.

Tickets for the show are \$19 in advance and \$21 the day of concert with discounts for students and groups. To order online, visit [www.ichc.net]. Tickets may also be ordered by calling (414) 345-8800.

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Milwaukee Chapter Membership News

We are resurrecting the monthly column on the Milwaukee Chapter Membership doings with this issue. First of all, I am honored to assume the Milwaukee Membership Chair position with the approval of the Club Board of Directors. I hope that I can bring my services and expertise to serve and grow both the mission and size of the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin for many years to come.

I would like to welcome the following new Members joining from March of this year; John and Colette McNamara, Kevin, Kelly and Thomas Kelleher, Luke and Mary Kate (Kelleher) Junk, Terence and Jaclyn Browne, Christine and Steven Mulligan, and Erin Bolye.

For those members who have renewed recently, I hope that you like the newly redesigned Membership Card with our 50th Anniversary Logo. In addition, we have recently run out of our current Logo Labels/Stickers and are going to instead have soon, durable static cling Label/Stickers that will last longer and can be easily placed on windows in cars and homes without worry of fading. Expect to see them at the May meeting and I will hand out (during voting) one for Single Membership and two for Family Membership.

You may also note that with the April issue of *Reflections*, your membership expiration date (month and year) now prints just above your name to help you know when your annual membership renewal comes up. Memberships are assumed to run through the end of the month. As part of the renewal, post cards are mailed each month starting with the current and next month (ie. April and May). Up to two reminders will be sent prior to the renewal expiration date. If your renewal goes beyond the 60 days after you membership expiration, you will be dropped from the current membership list and no longer receive the *Reflections* newsletter. If you renew after that, your membership anniversary will remain the same month. *However, if your membership has expired before May 2010, you will not be allowed to cast a ballot for voting.*

Currently the Milwaukee Chapter as of March 31 has 384 Members with 196 Family and 188 single Memberships. 25 Members who have allowed their Membership to go past 60 days, have been dropped.

Statewide our Membership totals 596 Memberships.

Please be sure to have your memberships renewals in before May 1 for those whose expire by 4/30/2010.

– Denis Donohoe

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Members' Doings

Julie Pruske competed in the State Forensics Meet in De Pere during March. She is also heading to New York City to sing with the Milwaukee Youth Chorus in May. Travel news: Chuck Ward recently went to Northern Ireland. Tom Tuescher went to California to spend time with his son in March. Pat and Jane Fitzgibbons went to Alabama's Gulf Coast for vacation over Easter. Pam, Del and Erin Canon went to Phoenix for Easter week to visit family.

Brigitte Mikush, daughter of Bob and Debbi Mikush, was wed in early March in Phoenix. She is also the granddaughter of Ed and Betty Mikush.

Erin Canon, who is a member of the Wauwatosa East High School Raiderette Dance Team, received the Raider Award for Outstanding Athletic Achievement at the Spring Athletic Awards Banquet. Michael Tierney recently toured the East Coast and Midwest with his band *Beatallica*.

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Sunshine Club

We are sad to convey that Bob Dotson, son of Nancy Vose, died on March 21, 2010 of pancreatic cancer. He was 47 and fought for two years. Char Harteau's mother died recently. Longtime member Ruth Cummings passed away recently. She is survived by brother Bud and sister Joan Cummings. Please keep them in your prayers.

Tom Tuescher recently had abdominal surgery. Wife Linda had surgery on her ankle, after breaking it during St. Patrick's week. Get well wishes to both.

If you have any news for the Sunshine Club, please call us at (414) 344-0688 or email us at [slainte41-shamrock@yahoo.com].

– **Maggie and Tom Blaha**

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