Shamrock Club of Wisconsin
Emerald Reflections

Aug. 2011

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2011 Irish Fest to Celebrate Ireland Counties of Derry and Donegal

In Addition to Festival Favorites, Special Showcase Will Be Dedicated to Area's Contributions from Music to Irish Coffee

Milwaukee Irish Fest – North America's largest, four-day celebration of Irish music and culture on the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan, celebrates its 31st anniversary this summer, August 18 through 21, with a special showcase featuring the Ireland counties of Derry and Donegal.

New this Year: Derry and Donegal Showcase

There are certain parts of neighboring Ireland counties, Derry and Donegal that are instantly recognizable. Things like historic walls, bridges, and sculptures that tell the story of reconciliation. There are landscapes of dramatic cliffs, sandy beaches, and unspoiled bog lands that enchant visitors and native music, like the distinctive traditional fiddle of the region. Not to mention, the home of the original Irish coffee. The counties of Derry and Donegal will be featured at this year's Irish Fest through a special "Derry and Donegal Showcase." Spread throughout the festival grounds, the showcase will highlight the culture, heritage, and music that have helped shape the deeply rooted history of these two counties.

The vibrant city of Derry is one of the oldest inhabited sites in Ireland and boasts 6,000 years of creativity. One of the founding fathers of this must-see city was St. Columcille, a poet, priest and emigrant. 2013 marks the 400th anniversary of the building of the city's monumental walls, another important chapter that shaped the history of this place. A melting pot for history, heritage, activity and adventure, Donegal is a region studded with thriving little towns, cozy pubs, excellent seafood, and a friendly welcome. In addition to being known for their exquisite textiles, Donegal is famous for their rich fiddle tradition. Together, Derry and Donegal was the key emigrant port out of Ireland in the 18th and 19th centuries.

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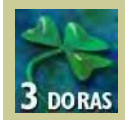

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Hundreds of thousands of emigrants left from these shores, giving the Northwest a unique Diaspora of over 9 million. It's no surprise, then, that the area is known as the "Atlantic Gateways."

Festival goers are invited to explore the Derry and Donegal region as it exists today through interactive exhibits spread throughout the expansive 75-acre festival grounds. These two special counties will be represented at several of the must-see venues at Irish Fest this year, including the Moore Street Market, the Cultural Pavilion, Hedge School, and numerous musical stages, including the Lakefront Brewery Celtic Roots Stage, the main showcase stage for Derry and Donegal artists. In addition, look for these Derry and Donegal attractions on the festival grounds:

• Special exhibit on Beech Hill House and its connection in helping soldiers during WWII in the Cultural Pavilion

• Ceramics, jewelry, and textiles featuring famous area weavers, artists, and craftsmen will be available for purchase in the Moore Street Market

• Exhibit on weaving by Studio Donegal in the Cultural Pavilion

• Discussion on Derry being selected as the UK City of Culture 2013 in the Hedge School

• Award-winning films, "Paradiso," "Shine of Rainbows" and "Dance Lexi Dance," will be shown in the Volta Theatre

• Irish language experts from Glencolumcile and An Culturlann, Genealogist Brian Mitchell and emigration historian Paddy Fitzgerald will be in the Cultural Village

• Stories of U.S. presidential links to Ulster-Scots will unfold in the Hedge School

As part of this year's special focus on the Ireland counties of Derry and Donegal, musicians who hail from those regions and are set to perform at the festival include:

Altan. No Irish traditional band in the last dozen years has had a wider impact on audiences and music lovers than Altan. With their exquisitely produced, award-winning recordings, evident is the band's unwavering commitment to bringing the beauty of traditional Donegal music to contemporary audiences.

Moya Brennan. When you walk the windswept hills and endless beaches of Donegal, the music of Moya Brennan just makes sense. Moya's voice captures the essence of her homeland in all its cascading beauty, mystery, and contradictions. Her music refreshes, heals, and brings a sense of calm to tired hearts.

Kintra. Under the musical direction of renowned fiddle player, Matt McGranahan, Kintra showcases a fusion of Irish and Scottish cultures through, song and dance in an exciting colorful stage show featuring fiddle, piano, tin whistle, guitar, bass, drums, pipers, and

singers.

Different Drums. Different Drums brings the indigenous drums of Ireland – the lambeg and the bodhran together for performances hailed as “celebratory.” The band has played across the world sharing the message – “Celebrate that which makes us different and that which bonds us together.”

Liz Doherty Connection. Dr. Liz Doherty is a well-known fiddle player who hails from Donegal. She performs as the Liz Doherty Connection and, with her PHD in music, lectures on Traditional music at the University of Ulster. Doherty is the director of the North Atlantic Fiddle Convention to be held in Derry and Donegal in 2012.

Fidil. Described as “stunning” and “mind-blowing,” Fidil are rapidly forging a reputation for exhilarating and challenging music. Their music making is marked by an intricate and intelligent approach that maintains the fiery exuberance of traditional fiddle music of their native Donegal.

Brendan Hendry Band. Brendan Hendry, an Irish traditional fiddle player, hails from Bellaghy in South Derry. His work has been called “real trad played and sung perfectly.”

The Henry Girls. The Henry Girls – Joleen, Lorna, and Karen McLaughlin – are three sisters from Inishowen in Co. Donegal, Ireland. The band’s name comes from the local family nickname, Henry. Their music is an eclectic mix of folk, blues, and traditional Irish, with “spine-tingling” three-part harmonies.

Nodlaig Brolly. Nodlaig brings a mix of Gaelic singing accompanied by her champion harp and flute. This singer/songwriter with a beautiful voice and excellent musicianship has played with the *San Diego Philharmonic Orchestra* as a special guest.

Kathleen Fitzgerald with the Screaming Orphans. Kathleen Fitzgerald is regarded as one of the finest vocalists to emerge out of the Céilí band scene, performs with her four daughters who, following in their mother’s footstep formed a band that stays true to their roots in traditional Irish music with pop and rocks strains.

Tom Sweeney. People have been singing ballads since the beginning of time; ballads of the famine, ballads of the Irish Revolution, going back hundreds and hundreds of years. Tom captures the mood and essence of this traditional music while singing and playing from the heart. He remains an instrumental figure in keeping the Makem tradition alive.

Festival Favorites

Be sure to check out all of the traditional attractions at Irish Fest that have kept fans coming back for the past 31 years. Don’t miss watching talented Irish dancers, shopping for eclectic souvenirs, viewing our children’s freckle contest and tasting the flavors of

Ireland.

Did you know?

Milwaukee Irish Fest is a year-round organization passionately committed to igniting a love of Irish culture in all people. In addition to the annual festival which takes place the third weekend each August, Irish Fest comprises a Summer School, the Ward Irish Music Archives and other programming throughout the year. [www.IrishFest.com]

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Milwaukee President's Message

Greetings, I hope you are all enjoying the arrival (finally) of summer.

Our installation dinner, at the Venice Club, on July 7th proved to be another fine event. The food was very good and the accommodations intimate. Thanks to the Honorable Judge Daniel Konkl for again presiding over the instillation ceremony. The board is now officially in place and eager to serve the membership. Thanks to Julie Smith for organizing this year's dinner.

It's August which means it's Irish Fest time again. Join us at the August 4 general meeting when Jane Anderson, executive director of Irish Fest, will update us with who is new, what is not to be missed and where we should be for this year's 31st Irish Fest. (Personal note: I'm anxious to see *The High Kings* in performance. They were all the rage in Ireland last year.)

As in the past we will again be sponsoring a booth in the cultural area. Club members will again be needed to staff the booth to provide information about the Club to prospective members. See Denis Donohoe to volunteer.

And do not forget the retail booth. Help is always needed to set up on Thursday, staff during the Fest and especially for tear down on Sunday night. Please volunteer for one or two four-hour shifts. Please see Kris Pluskota to volunteer. If you are unable to assist for a full shift at least stop by and give those working a small break. Remember that this is the largest retail event of the year and all proceeds go to the betterment of the Club.

The Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums will again be in performance and in the daily parade. They would love to see you there.

We will soon have a selection of reasonably priced Club apparel sporting the new updated logo. T-shirts, polo shirts and

windbreakers will soon be offered for purchase. Make a statement and wear them proudly.

A long time member located on the east side of Milwaukee is asking to share a ride to the general meetings. If you are able to help, please contact me and I will connect you. If anyone else needs a ride or is willing to share a ride, contact me or a board member.

See you at the next meeting and sponsor a new member.

– Josh Walton, President
joshwalton1@yahoo.com

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Shamrock Club Of New Dublin

The Shamrock Club of New Dublin recently elected new officers for 2011-2013, they are:

• President – Patrick Sullivan
• Vice-President – Judi Barrington
• Treasurer – Larry Katerzynske
• Secretary – Brook Broadbent
• Parliamentarian – Patrick Nehring
• Sergeant-at-Arms – Tom (Mooch) Barrington
• Membership Chair – Suzi Snyder

In July we enjoyed Shamrock Club night at the Legion Baseball game in New London, our very own Irish Rose Melissa Mulroy sang the National Anthem, and our Irish Man of the Year, Patrick Sullivan threw out the first pitch, with Irish music playing. It was a fun night of Irish fellowship. Also in July we hosted Sheamus Fitzpatrick and the McNally Boys at Taft Park in downtown New Dublin to a nice crowd. It was a great night of Irish entertainment in downtown New London.

We're gearing up for our second annual Half-Way to St. Pat's Ceili in September as well as our own Half-Way party for the Shamrock Club. Details on the Ceili will be posted on our Facebook page and in *Emerald Reflections* next month.

The Shamrock Club of New Dublin meets the first Monday of each month at the Midtown Pub and Grill in downtown New London at 7:30 p.m. New members are always welcome.

– Carrie Katerzynske
[http://www.newdublin.com]

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Milwaukee July Membership News

Hi there and I hope you are having a great summer so far as the best part is soon coming with Irish Fest. Please welcome our new members in June, Charles and Louise Quigley, and Paul B. Wall. For June, we had 20 membership renewals and 9 membership drops from no-renewals in the Milwaukee chapter. As of June 30, the Milwaukee Chapter has 361 Members with 167 families, 175 single, and 19 complimentary (libraries, businesses, etc.) memberships. Statewide our Membership totals 467 members where the others receive a copy of our *Emerald Reflections* newsletter.

As we approach Irish Fest, please contact friends and other family members and tell them of the mission and fun that the Shamrock Club has and get them to join. If you are attending Irish Fest this year please stop by our tables either at the Retail or Cultural Tent as we would like all members to fill out a membership survey that will help our Chapter update our demographics and better serve our group going forward. Your participation will be greatly appreciated.

Please be sure to have your membership renewals in before August 31 for those who's expire on or before 8/31/2011.

We hope you can attend our August meeting and see you soon.

– Denis Donohoe, Membership Chair

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Glenn's Corner Cupboard

The Shamrock Club dinner before meeting continues this year. Here are the upcoming months menu items:

August: sandwiches provided. Bring a dish to pass made with something from your garden or a dessert.

September: picnic time, brats and burgers provided. Bring a picnic side to pass, baked beans, potato salad, fresh fruit, chips, etc.

October: Oktoberfest, sliced roast pork, Bring your favorite

German themed side to compliment the pork. red cabbage, sauerkraut, rye bread, etc.

November: Thanksgiving, roast turkey. Bring your favorite Thanksgiving dinner side.

If you have any ideas you think we should try, contact me at [gnowak4@wi.rr.com] or (414) 466-8060.

– Glenn Nowak

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Milwaukee Celtic Soccer

Well, the spring season has drawn to a close for the teams. Our Reserve League team did a great job overall, where we came in third in league standings, with an 11-5-3 record. Ah, those three ties, if turned to wins, would have garnered us a share of first place with the Croatian Eagles and Milwaukee Kickers, two of the oldest teams, and strongest organizations, in Wisconsin. We lost our last match to the Kickers on July 17, 4-0.

Our First division team is more or less a developmental team. They played well, but many of the team members are still getting to know each other. Still it was a respectable showing of 3-8-2. The numerous rainouts at the beginning of the season stopped a lot of the early momentum we had shown. Dan Della is to be commended for his work with the team.

We want to thank the Shamrock Club for its support, but we would really like to see more people at the matches.

We will be updating you on our Fall season next month.

– Kevin Hooley

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Milwaukee Hurling Club

The Milwaukee Hurling Club is winding down its season as we enter the days of Lughnasa. And the Shamrock Club Griffins are in the thick of the fight. We are currently in third place, with a 5-2 record through mid July. The team is a great mix of veterans and rookies.

Make plans for the August matches. Our playoffs start on August 7, at 11 a.m. On August 14, the semi-finals take place, and the finals are set for August 28.

We will also be holding down our usual spot at Milwaukee Irish Fest, August 18-21. We will have our tent and kid's pitch in the Cultural Village. We will also be playing a number of matches at Urban Park on the north end of the festival grounds. You can also pick up your "Who Rocks – Shamrocks!" MHC tee shirt at the festival.

In September, our traveling teams will be heading off to San Francisco for the North American GAA hurling championships. Our teams did great last year, and our Camogie team placed.

And don't forget our Party at the Pitch on Sunday, August 14. Music, food, and hurling; a Sunday doesn't get any better. Members of the Shamrock Club are encouraged to come down, sample the food and the friendship. It all starts at 11 a.m. at Brown Deer Park.

– Dave Goelz

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The Tossers
In Concert Sept. 24 at ICHC

Melding traditional Irish music with punk rock roots. Chicago's *Tossers* will kick off the fall Hallamor Concert Series on Saturday, Sept. 24, at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, starting at 8:30 p.m.

Hailing from Chicago's South Side, the six-member band is a staple in the Celtic, punk and folk scenes and have performed with and been compared to the *Pogues, Dropkick Murphys, Black 47* and *Flogging Molly*. Combining traditional instrumentation including fiddle, whistles, button box and mandolin with guitar, bass and drums, the *Tossers* play with a furious edge that teeters between rage and raucousness but also finds room for pensive Irish ballads.

Named irreverently for the derogatory meaning of "throw away," the band has been serious about expanding the boundaries of contemporary Irish music since the early 1990s. In contrast to their fiery live shows, their five albums are dedicated to "elegance and provocation" according to the band. *The Emerald City*, their sixth recording, is scheduled for a 2011 release.

"The *Tossers*? have been labeled as the truest modern folk band in

years?with a wondrous array of early folk roots, yet taking interest with just a small bit of a rock drive. This sound is best left for ears only, instead of words." – Sputnik Music.

Tickets for the show are $19 in advance and $25 on concert day with a $10 price for students with ID. There are also discounts for groups. The package price for all four concerts in the fall season is $70. To order online, visit [www.ichc.net]. Tickets may also be ordered by calling (414) 345-8800.

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Color Guard News and Notes

Hello, my darling readers and fans.

Here we are, in August, and at Irish Fest. I can't believe the year has sped by this quickly. It has been a year of growth for us, and it will be one of change once all of our high schoolers head off to college and the service. It seems like just yesterday they were fresh-faced and raw. And today, they are among our best musicians.

Before Irish Fest, and if you get this before the start of August, we have two late July events that will be fun. Friday, July 29 finds us giving bike riders encouragement and new life at the Riverwest 24-Hour Bike Race. It runs from Keefe to Commerce on Humboldt and Booth. Our place will be announced on our website, [http://www.sccgpd.com]. And on Sunday July 31, we will be marching in the Random Lake Parade.

In August, we will be at the Muskegofest on Sunday, the 8th. Then we will be at Irish Fest daily. We will be bringing the colors out for the Mass, as we have for so many years.

Ah, August. The heat is welcome after freezing on St. Patrick's Day. But still?.

Until next month?.

– Noel Tylla, 8th year piper

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Join the Shamrock Club

You can enjoy your Irish roots, or love of Ireland's culture, all year

long with a membership in the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin. We really would like you to help us in our celebration of Irish life. You will be a part of one of the most historied and distinguished Irish organizations in this country. But we don't want to rest on our laurels. After a half century, we are just getting started. And we really want you to help us make the next half even better. Join. You know you have been putting it off. So now is the time to take the step – for the first time, or again.

___ Family $25 ___ Single $20

___ New ___ Rejoin

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: (_____)_____

E-mail: _____

Chapter: _____

Note: This membership form for the Shamrock Club is for Milwaukee and New Dublin chapters at the $20/$25 rate. Other chapters have higher dues structures and must be contacted seperately.

Mail to:
Denis Donohoe
Milwaukee Membership Chair
Shamrock Club of Wisconsin
2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53233

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State Advisory Board August 20 Meeting In Milwaukee

The Shamrock Club State Advisory Board will be meeting on Saturday, August 20 at the Irish Fest grounds at 10 a.m. Please contact Denis Donohoe about details if you wish to attend. Denis can be reached at [djvdonohoe@sbcglobal.net] or (262) 309-0723.

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Shamrock Club Scholarship Winners

The 2011 winners of the Shamrock Club's Irish Studies Scholarship have been announced. They are: Brian Barnes, Anna Holcomb and Darius Madison, all of Mil-waukee, and all students at UW-Milwaukee. All used their awards to study the Irish language at Glencolmcille, County Donegal.

The trio will be giving a report on their trip and their studies at the September meeting. Congratulations!

Since 1974, the Shamrock Club has given almost $30,000 in scholarships.

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Ceili Dances

Join us at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., for family Irish dancing at its best! Our ceili dances are back, starting in September. Beginners and all ages welcome. Instruction begins at 7:30 p.m. and continues all evening. Music and dancing begin at at 8 p.m.

The dances are called, and direction is given, by two of the Midwest's best ceili instructors, Gail McElroy on Fridays and Julie Clark on Saturdays.

September – December 2011

• Sat., September 17 – *Wise Maids*
• Fri., October 7 – *Ceol Cairde*
• Sat., October 15 – *Myserk*
• Fri., November 4 – *Frogwater*
• Sat., November 19 – *RíRá*
• Fri., December 2 – *Cream City Ceili*
• Sat., December 17 – *áthas*

Entrance is $8 Adults, and $5 for Students, Seniors, and Children. All proceeds benefit the work of the Irish Cultural & Heritage Center.

To receive a monthly email with ICHC events, please sign up at: [www.ichc.net].

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Five Clues

Here is a bit of fun for you. This is an Irish person, and you have five clues to discover the identity of said person. The first person to identify this person will win two tickets at the August Shamrock Club meeting to the 2011 Milwaukee Irish Fest meeting. For the rest, you will find out in the September issue.

1. I was born on the Aran Islands.

2. I fought in World War One in the British Army, and was wounded at the Western Front.

3. My cousin John made my novel into a Hollywood movie.

4. I wrote in both the English and Irish languages.

5. I did a spoken language version of one of my books in the 1970s.

Stay tuned for next month's mystery person and the answer to this month's challenge.

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Irish Word Of the Month

Seaclaid - [shok-law-id] Chocolate

Irish phrase: *Bhí cáca seacláide aici don mhilseog*. [vee kaw-ka shok-law-id-eh ak-i dum vil-shoe-g]

English translation: She had a chocolate cake for dessert.

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Scenes from
Annual Shamrock Club Picnic

Picnic photos by Denis Donohoe

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Donate to the Shamrock Club

The Shamrock Club is a 501(C) (3) corporation. If you donate to us, you can write this off on your taxes. Donate to our Scholarship fund, our general fund, or to the parade. Thank you!

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Members' Doings

Josh Walton recently spent a week in Boston. Cathy Ward toured the Badlands recently.

Lori and Mike Dahm are the proud grandparents of Gracely Marie Hundley, daughter of daughter Katie and Ryan Hundley.

If you have done anything you want us to know about, send it to [Membersdoings @shamrockclubwis.com].

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Sunshine Club

Bob Harrold, Shamrock Club's choir director and St. Patrick Mass Coordinator for many years, passed away recently. Bob was also the Milwaukee Irish Fest Mass Coordinator, along with wife Paula, for many years. Tom McCormick, long time *Emerald Reflections* advertiser and Shamrock Club member, passed away in July. Don Towne, brother of Irishman of the Year Bob Towne, died recently. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

If you have any news for the Sunshine Club, please call me at (414) 344-0688. I have a new email address. Please note: [slainte4142-shamrock@yahoo.com].

– Maggie Blaha

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