



## June 2011

### CONTENTS:

[The Irish Guard](#)

[New Dublin News](#)

[Oshkosh Irish Fest June 3-5](#)

[Milwaukee President's Message](#)

[Shamrock Club Picnic](#)

[Celtic Women First Friday Lectures](#)

[Midwest School of Piping and Drumming](#)

[June Corner Cupboard](#)

[Thank You to Barry Stapleton and Jeff Ksisek](#)

[Congratulations to Raffle Winners](#)

[Milwaukee Membership News](#)

[By-Laws Vote](#)

[Easter Rising](#)

## The Irish Guard

by Brian Witt

There was a wedding in England on April, 29, 2011. The bride, Kate Middleton, wore a white, traditionally styled wedding gown. The groom, William Wales, wore the uniform of the Irish Guards, with the shamrock and the sash of St. Patrick's blue. The choice of uniform for the heir to the throne amazed some, as he is an officer in the Royal Air Force.

However, William was appointed the Colonel of the Irish Guard on February 11, 2011. Along with the Royal Irish Regiment, it is one of two Irish regiments remaining in the British Army. The Irish Guards recruit in Northern Ireland and the Irish neighborhoods of major British cities, usually the northern English cities of Liverpool and Manchester, and Glasgow in Scotland.

The Irish Guards regiment was formed on April 1, 1900, by order of Queen Victoria to commemorate the Irish people who fought in the Second Boer War for the British Empire. (Ironically, many members of the Irish Republican Brotherhood fought on the side of the Boers.) During the First World War, the Irish Guards were deployed to France and they remained on the Western Front for the duration of the war. In 1917, they participated in the Third Battle of Ypres and Cambrai. They fought up to the final days of the war. During the entire war, the Irish Guards lost over 2,300 officers and men, including John Kipling, son of Rudyard Kipling. The regiment won 406 medals including four Victoria Crosses. Among those who served in its ranks was Liam O'Flaherty, the Irish novelist.

Historically, Irish Guards officers were often drawn from British public schools, particularly those with a Roman Catholic affiliation, such as Ampleforth College, Downside School and Stonyhurst College, although this practice has lessened recently. There are a number of Irish citizens in the ranks of the Irish Guard. Restrictions in the Republic of Ireland's Defence Act make it illegal to "induce, procure or persuade enlistment of any citizen of the Republic of

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Email: [Shamrock Club](#)

[Mass](#)

[Milwaukee  
Hurling Club  
Underway](#)

[Milwaukee  
Celtic Soccer](#)

[Milwaukee  
Scottish Festival  
and Highland  
Games -- June 4](#)

[May Election  
Results](#)

[ICHC Ceilis](#)

[Milwaukee St.  
Patrick's Day  
Parade 2011](#)

[Donate to the  
Shamrock Club](#)

[Members'  
Doings](#)

[Sunshine Club](#)

[Milwaukee  
Calendar of  
Events](#)

[Wisconsin  
Calendar of  
Events](#)

Ireland into the military of another state.” However, voluntary enlistment is allowed.

This history of Irish units in the British army goes back to the 1600s, with the founding of the Royal Irish Regiment. After the end of the Irish rebellion, in 1922, a number of Irish units were disbanded. These included the Connaught Rangers; Leinster Regiment; Royal Dublin Fusiliers; Royal Irish Regiment; Royal Munster Fusiliers; and the South Irish Horse. (Interestingly, many of the Royal Munster soldiers went on to join to the IRA in the Civil War against the Free Staters.)

The regiment was almost discontinued in 1922, along with the other Irish units, as a cost cutting move by Winston Churchill. The loss of the other Irish units in the army led to a public outcry, and he backed down. During the Second World War, battalions of the regiment fought in Norway, France, North Africa and Italy and following D-Day in France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. The regiment lost over 700 men killed and was awarded 252 medals including two Victoria Crosses.

Since 1945, the regiment served in many areas of conflict as well as being part of the British Army of the Rhine in Germany. They also served as the garrison of Hong Kong in the 1970s. The RIG were not posted to Northern Ireland, for a number of reasons. But a bomb blast on a bus in 1982 at the Chelsea barracks killed 23 soldiers and wounded 16 more and two passers-by were also killed. More recently, the Irish Guards were involved in the Balkan conflict and the Iraq War and Afghanistan.

Like the other Guards regiments, the “Home Service Dress” of the Irish Guards is a scarlet tunic and bearskin. Buttons are worn in two rows of four, reflecting the regiment’s position as the fourth most senior Guards regiment, and the collar is adorned with a shamrock on either side. They also sport a blue plume on the right side of the bearskin.

The regiment takes its motto, “*Quis Separabit*”, or “Who shall separate us?” from the Order of St. Patrick. The Irish Guards are known affectionately throughout the Army as “the Micks.” And the Irish wolfhound is the only mascot allowed to lead a regiment when they “Troop the Colour.”

Fresh shamrock is presented to the members of the regiment, no matter where it is stationed, on St. Patrick’s Day. This task was first performed in 1901 by HM Queen Alexandra and later by HM Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. Since the latter’s death, the presentation has been made by the Princess Royal. On the regiment’s 50th anniversary in 1950, King George VI made the presentation in person.

The Irish Guard wasn’t the only Irish aspect of the wedding. According to Irish Central, Shane Connolly from Northern Ireland was chosen as the couple’s florist. Connolly supplied the flowers for Prince Charles’ wedding to Camilla Parker-Bowles, for which

he was awarded the Royal Warrant. This means that he is an official supplier of flowers to royal events. A member of the Irish Guard, David Rodgers, from Maghera, County Derry, was handpicked to play the pipes at the couple's reception in Buckingham Palace. The Derry man served with the Irish Guards in Bosnia, Kosovo and spent six months in Iraq in 2010.

And there was one more Irish side to the affair. William's mother, Princess Diana, was from the Irish House of Fermoy.

An overall grand Irish wedding it was.

## INDEX

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## **New Dublin News**



*The Shamrock Club will sponsor Sheamus Fitzpatrick from 6:30-8 p.m., at Taft Park on Thursday evening July 21.*

The Shamrock Club of New Dublin is busy making plans for this year's summer concert in the park series in New London. Each summer the New London Tourism Commission sponsors a series of concerts in downtown New London during the months of June, July and August. This year the Shamrock Club will sponsor Sheamus Fitzpatrick from 6:30-8 p.m., at Taft Park on Thursday evening July 21. It's guaranteed to be a wonderful evening of great Irish music and song.

We're also gearing up for the Oshkosh Irish Festival June 3-5 where we'll be working in the Guinness Beer tent, stop by and say hello, and purchase one of your favorite Irish drafts and enjoy some great Irish entertainment.

Nominations for officers are still being taken through the month of June, these are two year commitments. We meet the first Monday of each month at Midtown Pub and Grill in downtown New

London. Membership is open to all.

– Carrie Katerzynske

## INDEX

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### **Oshkosh Irish Fest June 3-5**

We are very excited to announce the Third Annual Oshkosh Irish Fest coming to the Leach Amphitheater June 3-5. Come and enjoy great Celtic music, taste authentic Irish food, watch incredible Irish dancers, learn about the unique Irish Culture, shop in our Irish vendor area, participate in the Irish Fest 5K run/walk or our Trip to Ireland Raffle. Be sure to bring the wee little ones for our Little Leprechaun Land, or just sit and enjoy this beautiful park on the water. Seating is limited, so we suggest you bring your lawn chairs.

New for 2011: An authentic Irish Medieval Banquet on Friday, June 3. Dinner starts at 5 p.m. Check out the activities page for more information.

Oshkosh Irish Fest is part of Oshkosh Festivals Inc, a non-profit organization formed to showcase Oshkosh and its beautiful resources and to celebrate Irish and Celtic culture. As a young, but growing event, we are continually looking for help and support. If you are interested in being a part of the festival as a sponsor or volunteer, please let us know. Proceeds raised help support Cerebral Palsy of Midwest Wisconsin, Knights of Columbus, and many other community organizations.

We look forward to seeing you at the Fest. Sláinte! For more information [info@OshkoshIrishFest.com]. Check out our website at [http://www.oshkoshirishfest.com].

Among the performers will be The *Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums*, *Atlantic Wave*, *Gaelic Storm*; *U2Zoo*; *Seamus Kennedy*; *Wild Irish Gerry*; *Derek Byrne*; *Glen Castle Irish Dancers*; *Ian Gould*; *Blarney*; *Atlantic Wave*; *Sheamus Fitzpatrick and the McNally Boys*; *Rising Gael*; *Kevin Flynn and the Avondale Ramblers*; *Leahy's Luck*; *Seamus Kennedy Whiskey of the Damned*; *Kathleen Keane and Jimmy Moore*; *Larkin and Moran Brothers*, and many more.

The Milwaukee Chapter of the Shamrock Club will have its sales booth at the festival. The New Dublin Chapter will be dispensing beer at the Guinness tent.

## INDEX

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### **Milwaukee President's Message**

Greetings and Happy Fathers Day,

“Roll out those lazy hazy days of summer ?those days of soda and pretzels and beer, Dust off the sun and moon and sing a song of cheer.” ?

Time to move outside and soak up some rays and what better place to start than at the Shamrock Club's Annual Picnic being held at Sacred Heart Picnic Grounds at N. 49th and Wells on Saturday June 18 from Noon till 5 p.m. rain or shine. Dawn and Peter Fleming have promised “a grand time for all” with a slate of Irish music and dancing, games for both the kids and adults, raffle baskets and plenty of other surprises. So pack your lawn chair, sunscreen and your main course and a dish to pass. Beverages will be provided. And no Brewer game that day.

Also don't forget to support the Shamrock Club sporting teams, the Griffins of the Milwaukee Hurling Club and our sponsored team in the Wisconsin Soccer Association, the Milwaukee Celtic Soccer Club.

And the Shamrock Club Color Guard and Pipes and Drums start their summer parade and performance season.

Congratulations to our news members of the board elected at the May meeting: Pam Cannon as 1st Year Trustee, Glen Nowak as Sergeant at Arms and Brian Sneed as Parliamentarian. Mary Culver was elected to the position of Secretary. A large thank you to Veronica Ceszynski, Malkin Wallace and Tom McAleese who exit the board at this time but whose service and dedication to the Club has been invaluable for the past years.

As voted on at the May meeting we will be have the Installation of Officers Dinner on July 7. Please check elsewhere in *Emerald Reflections* for more information.

The Scholarship raffle was held at the May meeting and in was nice to see so many winners in attendance. Thanks again to Sandy Quinlan and the Quinlan clan.

Kris Pluskota has put out a plea for assistance in helping her with retail sales. As can be imagined, Kris' schedule does not always allow her to set up, sell and then tear down on many of the selling events. So please lend a hand and volunteer a few hours in supporting the Club's retail operation. We hate to lose this important revenue source. Kris stepped forward to run retail when nobody else would so please step forward for her and the Club.

A committee headed by Denis Donohoe is inventorying,

cataloguing and archiving the club's history. This endeavor includes scanning of all past *Emerald Reflections*, gathering together past awards and trophies and preserving past photographs and other memorabilia. The committees' hope is to showcase the best of the best as a recruiting tool for membership at such events as Irish Fest, the Highland Games etc. using a portable booth and display case. If you have any suggestions please pass them along.

The committee is also planning on introducing new Club apparel as a way of getting our name out in the community.

How about giving someone a gift membership ?

As many of you are aware, the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center has launched a major capital campaign seeking funds to restore, preserve and improve the building. The Club has been approached to pledge \$50,000 (over five years) for naming rights to the meeting space. At this time the board has begun discussing the proposal and at a future date the boards' recommendation will be presented to the membership.

See you at the next meeting ?

– **Josh Walton, President** [joshwalton1@yahoo.com](mailto:joshwalton1@yahoo.com)

## INDEX

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### **Shamrock Club Picnic**

*“A Wee Bit Of Ireland”*

### **Saturday June 18**

Noon – 5 p.m.

Sacred Heart Church • 917 N. 49

Everyone Will Be Bringing Their Own Sandwiches and a Dish to Pass. Shamrock Members A-N Should Bring an Entrée and 0-Z a Dessert.

We Will Have Two Irish Bands, Fire & Police Pipes And Drums, Glencastle Irish Dancers.

We Will Have Games For Adults And Children

Come And Enjoy “A Day For The Irish”

Peter And Dawn Fleming (414) 687-2049

INDEX

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## Celtic Women First Friday Lectures



*Nicole Luepke*

**DATE:** June 3, 2011

**TOPIC:** “Celtic Women in Active Military Service”

**SPEAKER:** Nicole Luepke

The 2010-2011 lecture series will end this June with a most unusual lecture by an Army veteran who has served in Afghanistan for six years, deployed there twice. She is Nicole Luepke, safe home from the wars. Nicole will relate how she spent her spare time overseas, along with other women in the service, by visiting hospitals, women’s centers, schools, etc. Her stories and memories will surely hit home and strike a chord for anyone who has a loved one in the military service.

All lectures are held from 5:30–7 p.m. at Greene Hall, 3347 N. Downer Ave. on the UWM campus. Plenty of meter street parking at the door with a wheel chair access ramp. The public is invited as always. We offer tea and home-made snacks and promise a delightful couple of hours. \$7 admission.

INDEX

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## Midwest School Of Piping and Drumming

**June 6-10, 2011**

The Midwest School of Piping and Drumming is dedicated to the advancement of Celtic music throughout North America. Our team of world-renowned instructors has been associated with the school

(as the Milwaukee School of Pipes and Drums) since its inception in 1999. In 2011, it is again at the St. John's Northwestern Military Academy in Delafield. It will run from June 6 until the 11.

In 2011, we will feature two great evenings of music. On Wednesday, June 8, there will be a Massed Band Parade and Performance through the grounds at St. John's Northwestern Military Academy to our inaugural PubNight, featuring *Atlantic Wave*. The parade is at 7 p.m., the *ceilidh* runs 7:30-10:30 p.m. It takes place at the Welles Dining Hall at SJNMA. PubNight is the official MSOPD Scholarship Fundraiser. Admission is free, but donations encouraged.

On Thursday, June 9, there will be an Instructor's Recital – "The rest of the story..." at 7 p.m. It will be held in the Noble Victory Chapel at St. John's Northwestern Military Academy. World Famous Champion performers will provide an evening of amazing music and share the legends behind the tunes. Admission: \$10.

Please send all inquiries to Sarajane Trier, e-mail at [sjtpiper@gmail.com], [http://www.msopd.com].

## INDEX

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### **June Corner Cupboard**

Summertime and the living is easy? this month we'll feature buckets of fried and grilled chicken (thanks Colonel). We're looking for chips, salads, vegetables, desserts of any sort, all will be welcomed.

The meeting starts at 7 p.m., so come early. Social time begins at 6:15. Fill your plate and enjoy Shamrock Club friendship before the meeting.

Congratulations to Glenn Nowak, elected to the office of Sergeant at Arms at the May meeting. Thank you to Glenn and his family, Kim and Jason, for their help during the past year. His new ideas and direction will be gratefully accepted.

Thanks to all my team for your help during the past two years.

– Veronica

## INDEX

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### **Thank You**

### **To Barry Stapleton and Jeff Ksisek**

The Shamrock Club Singers went to a nursing home on St. Patrick's Day to sing some Irish songs for the residents. Barry Stapleton and Jeff Ksiazek, on very short notice, allowed me to stop in at the Irish Fest Center's Music Archives to pick up sheet music for a dozen Irish favorites. They made great suggestions and got me copies of the songs for our group. We want to give them a special recognition for their cheerful and professional help.

– **Rand Harteau**

### INDEX

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## **Congratulations To Raffle Winners**

- Grand: Nancy Vose, \$ 1000
- 1st: Ellen Sweeney, golf package
- 2nd: Sharon Walsh, ICHC tix water crystal
- 3rd: Suzanne Sullivan, Waterford glasses
- 4th: Julie Smith, Irish Cottage Galena, Illinois
- 5th: Mary Jo Hughes, Ambassador Hotel Milwaukee
- 6th: Tammy Wolfe, County Clare Milwaukee
- 7th: Kevin Quinlan, St. Brendan's Green Bay

### INDEX

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## **Milwaukee Membership News**

Please welcome the following new members joining in April of this year; Brook Thomson, Gene and Victoria McKiernan. Please be sure to extend some warm conversations with them when you see them. We also had 34 membership renewals in the Milwaukee chapter during April.

As of March 31 the Milwaukee Chapter has 375 members with 172 families, 184 single, and 19 complimentary (libraries, businesses, etc.) memberships. Statewide our membership totals 489 members where the others receive a copy of our *Emerald Reflections* newsletter with a reduced fee of \$14.

As we approach summer and finally the warm weather, 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 and come to our annual picnic on June 18.

Please be sure to have your memberships renewals in before June 30 for those who's expire on or before 6/30/2011.

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

– Denis Donohoe, Membership Chair

## INDEX

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### **By-laws Vote**

By a vote of the membership at the May meeting, the by-law revisions were adopted by a vote of the membership. When the changes are made to the present by-laws, copies of the by-laws will be given to the general membership. They will also be posted online on the Shamrock Club website. Amendments to the present by-laws were printed in the April, 2011 *Emerald Reflections*, and are available online in the archived April edition.

These changes included: changes to ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP; ARTICLE VI OFFICERS; and ARTICLE VIII ACTIVITY CHAIRS.

Respectfully submitted,

– Tom McAleese, Parliamentarian

## INDEX

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### **Easter Rising Mass**

The 41st Annual Easter Rising Mass was well attended. Attendance was a bit lower this year than last. We had a head count of approximately 185 for the Mass. We made some changes to the Mass, including the addition of the second reading in Irish and English. I added a bit of the history of the Mass in the booklet. The addition of a cantor and a music minster made a difference. Thanks to Mary Jo Kaufmann and Diana Stroud for their work.

Joe Hughes and Derek Byrne do a great job in the intro and the history of why we show up to honor the Rising each year. Thanks also to Rory Modlinski for taking care of sound, and for sister Molly for assisting him.

Betty Mikush secured our Eucharistic ministers. The Color Guard did a great job with the piping and the colors. Prior to the Mass, Julie Smith, Kathy Donovan, and Dawn Fleming did a fantastic job in decorating the sacred space. Bob Towne and Josh Walton fell into the ushering job with their usual elan and competence. Marianne Mikush did the Mass booklet template, and Denis Donohoe printed the booklet.

Over \$300 was collected during the Mass. It was donated to St. Rose of Lima parish.

– **Brian Witt, Mass Coordinator**

## INDEX

---

### **Milwaukee Hurling Club Underway**

The Milwaukee Hurling Club was supposed to have had its opening day on Sunday, May 15. Festivities were planned. The Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums were to have brought out the colors for the opening. But Mother Nature had a two pronged attack. First the rain, then the wind. We got the adult coed matches in, but our opener was delayed until May 22.

Well, the Shamrock Club Griffins got their first win that day, over the Milwaukee Ale House.

Stop by any Sunday in June and cheer on the Griffins. We play at Brown Deer Park, picnic area #4.

– **Dave Goelz and Brian Leonard, Griffins coaches**

## INDEX

---

### **Milwaukee Celtic Soccer**

The 2011 outdoor season has been a challenge for the Celtics. Rain has washed away two of our game day matches for both the Reserve and First teams.

But we persevere. Stop by for either team. First plays all its matches on Sundays at Polonia, 110 and Loomis Road, at 12:30 p.m. Reserve matches are at various Milwaukee area fields.

For information contact coaches Dan Della and Kevin Hooley, at

[hooley11@hotmail.com], or (414) 702-7665.

## INDEX

---

### **Milwaukee Scottish Festival and Highland Games – June 4**

On June 4, the Milwaukee Scottish Fest and Highland Games will take place at Hart Park, 70th and State Streets, Wauwatosa. They start at 9 a.m. and run until 10 p.m. Admission is Adults: \$10; children 12 and under: Free. Active Military in Uniform: Free. In addition, \$3 off before 10 a.m. with a per person donation of non-perishable food item to the Second Harvest Food Bank of Milwaukee. (Collection container at admission gate.)

The Highland Games will include the heavy games as well as a number of cultural and fun events during the course of the day. Among the activities will be a Throwing Demonstration; Longbow Demonstration; Children's Area; Solo Piping; Dancing Competition; Athletic Competition; Parade of Tartans; Sheepdog Demonstration; Band Competition; History of Ancient Weapons; a Haggis Taco Eating Contest; and a Kilt Demo.

In addition, we will have a large variety of vendors.

NOTICE: All events will be held rain or shine. Schedule subject to change. There will be NO REFUNDS on ticket sales. No pets are allowed at the Games. No coolers or food may be brought into the park. A *ceilidh* will take place after the Massed Bands complete the games, starting at 6 p.m. *Dublin O'Shea*, *Steel Bonnets*, and *The Finn MacCools* will be performing.

For more information, contact Scottish Festivals, Inc., W167 S6827 Oakhill Dr., Muskego, WI 53150, or call Tom Cobb at (414) 422-9235. [<http://www.milwaukee.scottishfest.com>]

## INDEX

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### **May Elections**

The 2011 Elections for the Milwaukee chapter took place on Thursday, May 5. There were two contested offices. Pam Canon won the three year post of trustee. Brian Sneed won the office of Parliamentarian. Here are the Milwaukee Shamrock Club officers

for 2011-12.

- President: Josh Walton
- Vice President: Kathy Donovan
- Treasurer: John Fisher
- Trustee: Pam Canon,
- Parliamentarian: Brian Sneed
- Secretary: Mary Culver
- Membership: Denis Donohoe
- Sergeant At Arms: Glenn Nowak

The Installation dinner will take place on July 7. More details are coming on the dinner.

[INDEX](#)

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## ICHC Ceilis

The Irish Cultural and Heritage Center has released its list of Ceilis for winter/spring. Entrance fee is \$8 Adults; \$5 Students / Seniors / Children. All proceeds benefit the ICHC. For more information please call Julie Clark at (414) 489-1110.

- June 3 – Nancy Maio & Jim McVeigh

[INDEX](#)

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## Milwaukee St. Patrick's Day Parade 2011





## INDEX

---

### **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!

## INDEX

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### **Members' Doings**

Cathy Ward recently took a trip to the Badlands. Holly, Jason and Chase Heiden recently went to the San Antonio, TX, Fiesta, with her father Rich and brother Rick. Tammy Wolfe spent Easter in Dublin.

Erin Canon recently traveled to Dublin, Ireland to compete in the World Championships of Irish Dance. Her team won second place

in the Under 19 Ladies Ceili. Erin dances with Cashel Dennehy.

2009 Shamrock Club scholarship winner Kenton Farmer and wife Noel recently moved to Nashville, where Kenton will continue his education at Vanderbilt University.

Al and Charlene Moss are awaiting the arrival of their third child in June. Al also recently took a job in New Orleans.

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

## INDEX

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### **Sunshine Club**

Former Shamrock Club Irishman of the Year and president Derry Hegarty died on his 76th birthday in April. Please keep his brother Joe and other family members in your prayers. Bob Jaskulski, father and father in law of Bill and Bridget Jaskulski, died recently. Longtime Shamrock Club member Betty Murray Gaynor passed away in April. Please keep them in your thoughts.

Maggie Blaha had hip replacement surgery on June 6. Pray for her quick recovery.

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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TOP