



Oct. 2011

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Irish Fest At Its Best

by Brian Sneed

This year's event was undoubtedly everything it was cracked up to be - and more! I don't remember seeing as many people in attendance at the start on Thursday night than at this one. And, of course, with 'Mother Nature' cooperating very nicely each day as she did, maximum potential was enabled.

For my family and me, this 'fest' was special for several reasons. I had planned to attend all four days (for the first time ever). In previous years, there was always something that precluded doing so - but not this year! I had decided to enter the photo contest (first time) with some of the choice shots that we took while visiting the Emerald Isle last fall. I also signed up to volunteer in the membership booth on Sunday and we planned to attend the mass at the start of the day. And? my Uncle and his wife were coming up from Chicago to stay with us and attend the fest as well. So, this year was to be 'All Irish Fest'. And it truly was.

When I came in on Thursday night, I was amazed to see how busy it was. I really thought attendance would be much lighter initially. Almost immediately, I was greeted by some of my Shamrock Club brethren. We marveled at the great 'kick off' to the event - and then someone handed me a pint?

Irish Fest 2011 was officially underway!

Throughout the fest, we made a point of experiencing as many of the cultural offerings as we could. From visiting Irish men and women that were teaching Gaelic and music, to those on stage acting out old Irish plays and presenting the histories of Derry and Donegal, it was a rich and memorable experience. I remember standing behind two ladies that had traveled up from Illinois for the event. One of them said to the other, "This has to be the best celebration of Irish heritage I have ever seen." The other woman agreed - and I chimed in. "Actually, it is," I said unabashedly. I went on to tell them about the history of the festival and how it has

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evolved over the years. They were visibly impressed and indicated they would 'definitely' return next year – as long as I could guarantee it would be as good as this year's show. I promised it would be 'even better' (not really being sure how that could be accomplished).

As of Saturday evening, we had already enjoyed so much of Irish Fest – eating, drinking and taking in massive amounts of Celtic culture and music. However, I had yet to receive even an 'honorable mention' for the photos I had submitted to the contest. I wondered if they had somehow slipped through the cracks and were lying at the bottom of a cardboard box somewhere(?). I had carefully followed the rules (and there were several of them) submitting each day's entries on each day of the contest (Fri./Sat./Sun.) Naturally, the main rule was, 'all entries had to be original photographs taken in Ireland'. Well, we have plenty of them, but I found culling out the best of the lot to be a bit more labor-intensive than I had thought. The photos had to be 4x6 (minimum) prints with a 'mini' entry form filled out and attached to the back side of each one. On Sunday afternoon, I checked and found that I hadn't won but that they had posted three (of the twelve that I had submitted) up on the board for all to see. That was enough for me. I learned a few things through the process and plan to be a much keener competitor the next time around.

The best thing that happened, however, occurred the following Monday morning. My wife and I had decided to go to breakfast downtown at The Plaza Hotel as it was our wedding anniversary. They have great food there and my wife loves the place. While waiting for a table to open up, a gentleman appeared in the doorway to the courtyard. I instantly recognized him as someone that we had met in Ireland while there! Fortunately, I remembered his name. I said, "Flan Garvey, is that you?" "Tis I," he replied. We couldn't believe our eyes!! The last time we saw him was in a pub in County Clare enjoying pints of Guinness provided by Himself! He remembered it and we had a great laugh. We all agreed that it's an incredibly small world we live in. Flan introduced us to his family that had traveled with him to Irish Fest. Before we parted, he invited us to stay with them during our next visit. We gladly accepted and said that we planned to return sometime next year (God willing) and bid them a safe journey home. "How could it have been any better?!" we exclaimed. It truly was, 'Irish Fest at its best'.

Congratulations to all that made contributions large and small. Your efforts were greatly appreciated?

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Milwaukee President's Message

Greetings,

The ICHC Request Committee met again on Tuesday, September 6. ICHC President Karen Prendagast was on hand to answer any of the concerns that the committee had. The committee has made their recommendation and it will be presented to the board at the next business meeting and presented to the general membership for consideration at the November general meeting.

The Honoree Dinner will be held at Klemmers Restaurant on Sunday, November 13, cash bar at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. There is no Packer game that day so there is no excuse not to be there as the Club honors Irishman of the Year Bob Towne, Irish Rose Patsy Grimes Tierne and Parade Marshal Malkin Wallace. Thanks to Mary Jo Kaufmann who stepped forward to chair the event.

The following November weekend is the Holiday Folk Fair. Volunteers are always needed for the cultural area, retail and food booths. If you can donate some time see Folk Fair General Chairperson Malkin Wallace.

Our St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held on Saturday March 10, 2012. As we partner with the Westown Association we strive to make this parade bigger, louder and more fun.

A few odds and ends.

It was great to see all of our members well represented at Irish Fest this August. Congratulations again to Brian Witt the Irish Fest Volunteer of the Year. And a huge thank you to Glenn Nowak for the enormous effort he put in on behalf of the Club.

Thanks to Ken Tehan for his donation of the sweet corn at the last meeting.

And remember to bring a prospective member to the next meeting.

**– Josh Walton, President
joshwalton1@yahoo.com**

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Five Clues

Congratulations to Mary Culver, for her correct answer of Irish born actor and IRA member George Brent, born George Brendan

Nolan, in response to the September issue's challenge. Right behind her, by minutes, was Bob Burke, also answering correctly. Now, on to October's Irish person. The answer will be revealed in the November issue.

1. I was born in Dublin, but moved to London as a child. My father was a dramatist, actor and educator in Dublin.
2. I almost lost my life in a series of duels over the woman I married, and ended up with part of the weapon sticking out of my head.
3. I wrote a number of plays and at least one opera. Eventually I would buy the theater that would showcase my work. Many of my characters were Irish.
4. When I was 29, I became a member of the British Parliament. It was said I paid my constituents five guineas apiece to represent them, and my first Parliamentary speech was in defence of bribery. I was also known for my use of puns during sessions of the body.
5. Prior to my death, I held the posts of Receiver-General of the Duchy of Cornwall, and Treasurer of the Navy. I died in poverty, however, even though the American Congress voted to provide me with \$20,000 for my past support of that country.

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Irish Word Of the Month

Péint - Paint

Irish phrase: *Fuair mé péint ghorm don seomra folctha.* (Fu are may paint gor-um don she-om-ruh folk-tha.)

English translation: I got blue paint for my bathroom.

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Wisconsin Shamrock Club State Advisory Board Meeting

August 20, 2011

The Wisconsin Shamrock Club State Advisory Board met at the Village Pub on Irish Fest Grounds, Milwaukee, WI on August 20,

2011. Members present were John and Jan Delmore (South Central), Denis Donohoe, Pam Canon, Mary Culver, Glen Nowak and Josh Walton (Milwaukee), Mooch and Judi Barrington and Peggy and Patrick Nehring (New Dublin), Harry and Pat McCarthy (Dane County), Linda Pfaff and Linda Boyle (LaCrosse).

President John Delmore called the meeting to order.

The minutes from the May 7, 2011 meeting were reviewed and approved with one correction. The last paragraph stated that Bantry Bay, Ireland donated a special bell to Dublin Square Pub & Eatery in LaCrosse. It should have stated La Crosse Bantry Friendship Association (La Crosse sister city organization twinning with Bantry Ireland) donated the bell.

The treasurer has \$60 held in the Dane County Shamrock Club account.

The election of officers for the period of September 2011 – August 2013 ended with the following results:

Out going President: John Delmore
New President: Denis Donohoe
Vice President: Jason Donohue (reelected)
Outgoing Secretary: Pat McCarthy
New Secretary: Linda Pfaff
Outgoing Treasurer: Harry McCarthy
New Treasurer: Judi Barrington

Our many thanks to the outgoing officers for their six years of service and congratulations to our new officers!

The Clubs have been busy with their activities.

Milwaukee held its annual picnic and has a new logo. Other clubs may use the logo personalized for their clubs for a \$10 fee. Contact Denis if interested. The club will participate in the Holiday Folk Fair in November and will hold its St. Pat's Parade on March 10. They currently have 367 memberships.

Dane County is working on plans for a day trip in October. The St. Pat's Parade in Madison will be March 17. They currently have 95 members.

South Central has four meetings that are fairly attended per year and four to five board meetings. The general meetings are not too successful. The teaching scholarship in the special-education field has been very positive.

LaCrosse held their board elections in May and has placed their calendar on the website. The club held a golf outing and pot luck in July. They have been busy fundraising with a Brat Barn and sale of cookbooks. They will hold a fun night for one of their general meetings and will combine three floats into one for Oktoberfest and will participate in the Rotary Lights again this year. They have 200 members. Their St. Pat's Dinner will be March 10 and the parade

the 17th. Irish Fest keeps growing and was very successful this year.

New Dublin held their board elections. Judi is vice-president. They will have a half-way Ceili on Sept 17. Their parade will be March 17. It was Mooch's birthday on the day of the meeting so another big *Happy Birthday!!*

The next meeting will be held in New London on Saturday, November 5, 2011. The Barrington's will host the meeting and will announce the location and time at a later date.

Many thanks to Denis Donohoe for co-ordinating the meeting and for our passes to enter the grounds for the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

– Pat McCarthy, Secretary
September 6, 2011

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Shamrock Club Honoree Dinner

The Honoree dinner will be held at Klemmers Restaurant on Sunday, November 13, cash bar at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Meal choices will be: Sirloin Steak, Herbed Chicken, or Cod Almondine. Cost is \$25 per person or \$45 per couple.

There is no Packer game that day so please be there as the Club honors Irishman of the Year Bob Towne, Irish Rose Patsy Grimes Tierne and Parade Marshal Malkin Wallace.

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All-Ireland Champions Perform at the ICHC Oct. 21

Echoes of Ireland, featuring 14 champion All-Ireland musicians and dancers, will take place at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, on Friday, Oct. 21 at 7:30 p.m. The show is presented by Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann (CCE), the world's largest cultural group involved in the preservation and promotion of Irish traditional music. Milwaukee is one of only 11 cities chosen to host the 39th annual tour of North

America, which also celebrates CCE's 60th anniversary.

Pre-concert music will be performed in the ICHC's Quinlan's Pub from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. by *Cuil A'Lin*. The four young musicians are siblings who have played for many area events including Milwaukee Irish Fest.

The Comhaltas show, which is sponsored by the Milwaukee Irish Fest Foundation, will entertain as well as provide an insight into Ireland's rich cultural traditions. CCE runs the definitive system of competitions for Irish music called the Fleadh Cheoil (feast of music), culminating in the annual All-Ireland Fleadh Ceoil na hÉireann. The 14 entertainers on the tour represent the top winners in their respective categories from all over Ireland.

Reserved seat tickets are \$19 in advance and \$25 on concert day. Tickets for students with ID are \$10. To order tickets and also view the full Hallamòr concert series, visit [www.ichc.net]. Tickets may also be ordered by calling (414) 345-8800.

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Glenn's Corner Cupboard

The Shamrock Club dinner before meeting continues this year. Here is October's Oktoberfest-themed menu item: sliced roast pork. Bring your favorite German side to compliment the pork, i.e. red cabbage, sauerkraut, rye bread, etc.

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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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

- 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 and Heritage Center.

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Volunteers Needed For Holiday Folk Fair

We will need 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 Chairwomen: (General) Malkin Wallace, (414) 234-0653, or [Malkin218@aol.com]; (Food) Mary Culver at [redheadgardener@hotmail.com]; (Sales) Kris Pluskota, at (414) 345-8800 or [director@ichc.net]; or (Cultural) Denis Donohoe, (262) 309-0723 or [djvdonohoe@sbcglobal.net]. Or contact us at our e-mail address, [volunters@shamrockclubwis.com]. You will receive the annual Folk Fair participant pin, plus admission for Folk Fair for all three days. Our Dance School Coordinator is Bridget Jaskulski. She can be reached at [Bridget@GlencastleIrishDancers.com]

Admission is as follows: Adults \$10 at the door, \$8 in advance. Tickets will be available for sale at the November membership meeting. 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.

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Holiday Folk Fair November 18-20, 2011

Celebrate Culture Without Borders

Holiday Folk Fair International will be held Fri., Nov. 18 – Sun., Nov. 20, 2011 at the Wisconsin Exposition Center at State Fair Park in West Allis, Wisconsin.

Produced by the International Institute of Wisconsin, Holiday Folk Fair International celebrates the cultural heritage of the people living in southeastern Wisconsin. This year's theme, "Celebrate Cultures Without Borders," will allow Fair-goers the opportunity to explore the ways in which music, food, dance, and art enhance racial, cultural, and ethnic cooperation.

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2011 HOLIDAY FOLK FAIR

State Fair Park • November 18, 19, 20, 2011

HELP US MEET OUR GOAL! The Shamrock Club must sell 125 Holiday Folk Fair Tickets

Any unsold tickets must be purchased by the club at full value.

Tickets are \$8 in advance and must be purchased by Monday, November 14, 2011. (Ticket price at the door is \$10)

For Information contact Karen Donohoe at (262) 787-1956 or e-mail: [mnmcats@sbcglobal.net]

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

If you are a teacher, please contact us on advance tickets.

SAVE NOW ON ADVANCE SALE FOLK FAIR TICKETS

Please send me _____ advance sale Holiday Folk Fair Tickets at \$8 each.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____

Zip: _____

Make your ticket request to:
Karen Donohoe, c/o ICHC
2133 W. Wisconsin Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53233

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
SHAMROCK CLUB OF WISCONSIN**

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Begley and O'Raghallaigh At Milwaukee Irish Fest October 15

Join us for a special night of Irish traditional music at the Milwaukee Irish Fest Center on Saturday, October 15. Come hear what Earl Hitchner of the *Irish Echo* calls “the most maddeningly nourishing, elevating, and mesmerizing Irish traditional music you’ll hear today.”

Brendan Begley: A genial giant from the Dingle peninsula in County Kerry, Breannán is a well known and accomplished performer of Irish traditional music on the button accordion, touring at home and in Estonia, Finland, Sweden and France. He is a member of the ‘Boys of the Lough’, first touring with the band as a guest in the 1980s in the USA, and full-time member since 1997.

Brendan’s exciting dance music, sensitive emotional playing of slow airs on accordion, and his singing in his native Irish make him a great favourite. He is acclaimed in Ireland for his TV presentations of traditional music on the Irish language channel TG4.

Caoimhín Ó Raghallaigh: The Dublin-born fiddler is rapidly becoming known as one of the most interesting and creative musicians in traditional music. Since the widespread success of his 2003 ‘Kitty Lie Over’ album with Mick O’Brien, he has performed in the United States, Canada, Alaska, Asia and all over Europe. Irish performances in 2006 included Farmleigh House, West Cork Music in Bantry, the National Concert Hall, the Kilkenny Arts Festival, Liberty Hall, and a tour for the Improvised Music Company.

Saturday, October 15, 2011, at 8 p.m., doors open at 7:30 p.m., at the Milwaukee Irish Fest Center, 1532 North Wauwatosa Avenue. For more information, call (414) 476-3378.

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Milwaukee Membership News

As we head into our fall season, we have extended our membership survey deadline until our November meeting. If you

have not had a chance to fill one out and/or have one to turn in, please bring it back to the next meeting, thanks.

Please welcome our new members in August: Kathy Headson, Royal Curey, Jessijane Lukas, Jason Young, Pat Hewett, Lillian Cheesman, Shane and Sheila Bagen, Dan and Margaret Zitzer, Briann Murphy and Tyler Frost, Kurt and Bernice Carwardine, Michael Povolò, Michael Moloney, and Albert and Christine Schaubel.

For August, we had 18 membership renewals and 0 membership drops from non-renewals in the Milwaukee chapter. The Milwaukee Chapter, as of August 31, has 375 memberships with 182 families, 174 single, and 19 complimentary (libraries, businesses, etc.) memberships. Statewide our membership totals 461 memberships where the others receive a copy of Emerald Reflections newsletter.

Please be sure to have your membership renewals in before October 31 for those who's expire on or before 10/31/2011.

We hope you can attend our October meeting and see you soon and check out the new Club apparel we have for sale.

– Denis Donohoe, Membership Chair

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AOH Mass and Dinner

The Milwaukee chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians will hold its annual Mass of Remembrance and William Ryan Drew Scholarship dinner at St. Rose of Lima Church, 30th and Michigan, on Saturday, October 1. The Remembrance and Mass start at 4 p.m. The Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums will be presenting the colors, and the Irish Fest Choir for Peace and Justice, and the Knights of Columbus will also be present. The dinner will be in the St. Rose school hall. It will feature a raffle, as well as dinner. The scholarships benefit students at St. Rose Catholic Urban Academy, Nativity Jesuit Middle School, Notre Dame Middle School and local Irish cultural activities.

The William F. O'Donnell Civic Achievement Award will also be given at the mass.

Following the mass all are invited to the William Ryan Drew Spaghetti Dinner. Doors open at 5 p.m. in the St. Rose Gym adjacent to the church. Tickets are \$7 (half price for kids) and can be purchased at the door or through AOH members.

Names of loved ones may be entered in the Book of

Remembrance located in the back of the church before mass or by printing their name on a piece of paper and sending to the Ancient Order of the Hibernians, c/o ICHC, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53233. A call can also be placed to Cary Merkl (414) 453-1960.

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Milwaukee Celtic Soccer

The fall season of the Milwaukee Celtic Soccer team is underway. We field teams in the Reserve and First division. Many of our matches are at Polonia Field, 111 and Loomis Road in Franklin. If you need a start to your football Sundays, we can fill it. Two teams, lots of action.

Reserve Schedules

- Oct 2 12:30 p.m. Milwaukee Brewers v Celtics at Alverno, 43 and Morgan
- Oct 9 12:30 p.m. Celtics v Milwaukee Kickers at Uihlein, 74 and Good Hope
- Oct 16 12:30 p.m. Celtics v Croatian Eagles at Croatian Park, 76 and Puetz
- Oct 23 12:30 p.m. Milwaukee Kickers Serbian SC at Milwaukee Uihlein
- Oct 23 12:30 p.m. Celtics: v 3 United Serbian at Alverno
- Oct 23 12:30 p.m. Celtics v Polonia at Polonia
- Oct 30 12:30 p.m. Milwaukee Sport Club v Celtics at Milwaukee Sports Club
- Nov 6 11:30 a.m. Verdi v Celtics at Polonia

First Division

- Oct 9 12:30 p.m. Club Latino v Celtics at Polonia
- Oct 16 3 p.m. Celtics v Highpoint FC at Polonia
- Oct 23 3 p.m. Celtics v Lincoln FC at Polonia
- Oct 30 2 p.m. Celtics v Polonia at Polonia

– Kevin Hooley

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Dublin Author At Boswell Books October 1

Dublin-born Sebastian Barry is author of numerous plays, poetry collections, and novels, including *Annie Dunne*, *The Secret Scripture* and *A Long Long Way*, the latter short-listed for the Man Booker Prize. His awards include the Irish-America Fund Literary Award, the London Critics Circle Award, The Kerry Group Irish Fiction Prize, and Costa Awards for Best Novel and Book of the Year.

He will appear at Boswell Books on October 1 at 3 p.m, talking about his book *On Canaan's Side*.

A lyrical writer of Irish novels often based on his own family's history, Barry's work steadily receives glowing critical praise and he has twice been nominated for the Man Booker Prize. A fictionalized account of Barry's own great-aunt's life, *On Canaan's Side* is no exception. Mike Fischer, in a recent *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* review, calls it "gorgeously written."

Carl, one of Boswell's own booksellers, describes and praises *On Canaan's Side*:

"After her grandson dies by his own hand, a grief-stricken elderly woman chronicles her life in exile in the U.S. while trying to decide if she can go on. Lily Bere's journal of events and emotions thrillingly carries the reader through the different eras of 20th-century America, with all the accompanying details of language and mores. In a style that's both personal and inclusive, Lily's account also vividly captures her life in Revolutionary Ireland before being forced to flee for her life with her husband. This great novel is the best book I've read by the gifted Sebastian Barry, which is saying quite a lot."

Boswell Books is located at 2559 N. Downer Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53211.

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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

Jacqueline Konkol recently visited Maine.

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

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Sunshine Club

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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