



## May 2006

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## Touring and Dancing in Ireland 2006

*by Erin Canon, Age 11*

Ta Eire go halainn! (Ireland is so beautiful!) It has a lot of interesting and surprising things, like that in the southern part of Ireland there are palm trees! Also, there are hundreds of thousands of different shades of green there. The trees and the rocks are even green, because of the moss that covers them.

When my mom, my dad and I got into Ireland, we noticed a lot of differences from the United States. For example, the steering wheels are on the other side of the car, and the houses are all brick or stone with stucco over them and painted bright colors, even pink! Almost every house has a stone fence in the rural areas, because when the people in Ireland plowed their fields, rocks came up and so they used them to make walls. The money is also very different. Instead of dollars, nickels, dimes and quarters, they have Euros. But, they still have pennies like in the United States.

In Ireland, they also call things by different names. For example, they call elevators lifts. They call ketchup tomato sauce. They call sweaters jumpers, and they call sodas minerals.

On Saturday, we arrived in Ireland. We drove up to see the Cliffs of Moher. They took our breath away because they're so beautiful. Near the Cliffs there was a little stone castle that you could take pictures by. It was awesome!

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Email:

Shamrock Club



*Cottage in Killarney, Co. Kerry.*

On Sunday, we drove around the Ring of Kerry. At the beginning of the drive there was the Muckcross House and the Killarney National Park. The Muckcross House was built by an English landowner when the potato famine was going on in Ireland. It is a mansion that you can tour and see what it looked like when Queen Victoria visited there. In the Killarney National Park we rode a horse-drawn jaunting cart around a little bit of the park. We saw Muckcross Lake and hiked up to Torc Waterfalls. Then we continued in our car until we found a ruin of a very old stone house. We went in through a window and got to climb around in it. It was kind of spooky.

While we were driving around the Ring of Kerry we saw sheep wandering in the middle of the road. They had pink paint on them so that if the farmer lost one of his sheep he would know which one was his by the color of the spot. Further on we saw sheep with other colors. Later, when we stopped in a pub to get something to eat, there was a peat-burning fire. People in Ireland cut chunks of peat out of the peat bogs and dry them to use to burn fires.

On Monday, we all attended the Oireachtas Rince na hEireann 2006 – the All Ireland Irish Dancing Championships 2006. At the All Irelands, things were done a little different than at competitions in the U.S. The announcers spoke in Gaelic first, and then repeated everything in English, because some people only spoke Gaelic and not English. Also, instead of having about five stages, they had only one stage, and because of that, some of the competitions went until 3:30 the next morning!

On Tuesday we went to Ross Castle and Muckcross Abbey near Killarney. At Ross Castle we got to climb around the castle and take tons of pictures. It is a huge castle! To get to Muckcross Abbey we took another jaunting cart around another part of Killarney National Park. At the Abbey, we got to look at lots of graves from hundreds of years ago. We also got to explore the place where the priests lived. In one of the courtyards, there was a tree with a spiral trunk growing in the middle.

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*Dingle Harbor.*

On Wednesday we went down to Dingle and drove around the Dingle Peninsula. In the Village of Dingle we did lots of shopping and took pictures of the harbor and all of the little shops. Dingle is one of the most rural areas of Ireland and is mostly Gaelic-speaking. My mom had a lot of trouble with all of the Gaelic road signs! When we drove around the peninsula, we stopped and saw the Gallarus Oratory. It is made out of stone. It used to be a church around the 400s to the 600s. It is tiny!

On Thursday we went to see Blarney Castle and the Queenstown Heritage Museum in Cobh (Cove.) At Blarney Castle we got to go through the dungeon and the Keeper's Tower. The dungeon was just a tiny room! The Keeper's Tower had about twenty windows and a small little tower at the top. In Blarney Castle we got to go through all the rooms in the castle. To get to all the rooms and to the top you had to climb stairs that were the size of my foot! They were really narrow. I thought I was going to fall. When we got to the top, we got to kiss the Blarney Stone. We had to lay down on our backs over a crack and hold two bars. It was scary because I thought I was going to fall through the crack. (No, Mr. Blaha and Mr. Moze, they didn't hang me upside-down by my ankles.)

In Cobh (Cove) at the Queenstown Heritage Museum we got to go through an exhibit about Irish immigration and about the ships including the Titanic that left from the harbor. The last harbor that the Titanic went to before its journey was the Cobh harbor. There was also a special exhibit about the Lusitania, which was hit by a torpedo by the Germans during World War I off the coast of Cobh. These exhibits were very sad.

Ireland was awesome! If I ever have another opportunity to visit Ireland, I would definitely go again!

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**Rock County**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **June, July, August** – There will not be any monthly meetings.

As in the past, there will not be any meetings during the summer. If there is anything of importance that comes up during the summer, we will have the phone committee contact you.

If you have any suggestions as to how we can increase our membership or to make our club more appealing to the people of Rock County, please present those suggestions to one of the officers of our club.

– **President Tom Kennedy**

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### **Lafayette County**

The Shamrock Club of Lafayette County wishes to congratulate our Irishman and Rose 2006, Ed and Lois Mulcahy. The Shamrock Club marched in the Darlington and Monroe St Patrick's Day celebrations. Meetings are the second Sunday of the month at Annies in Darlington, if you wish to join us.

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### **Dane County**

The Dane County Shamrock Club's Celtic Picnic will take place on June 16 at the JC's on Fish Hatchery Rd. There will be Irish food, Irish music and Irish craic. The cost is \$16 per person. Send in your reservation today to Dane County Shamrock Club, P.O. Box 70765, Madison WI 53707. Hope to see you there.

The Club will also be helping out at the Madison Feis on June 3 at the Alliant Energy Center Exhibition Hall in Madison.

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

Congratulations to all celebrants of weddings, anniversaries, and graduates. If you fall into any of these categories, or even a birthday, have a glorious event.

This beautiful month in Wisconsin makes all the bad weather in previous months worthwhile. Living in an urban area as I do, you see all the neighbors, hear the birds, and your sense of smell tells you what's cooking on every backyard grill. Get out there, and absorb the best source of vitamin D God gave us. Bear in mind your Irish skin needs a strong SPF cover of course, and enjoy summer.

I really enjoyed watching the Milwaukee Hurling Club's demonstration at our May meeting. This dedicated group of men and women, has already made their mark on the sport, and were honored in Ireland for the promotion of the sport. Milwaukee has the greatest number of hurlers in the United States. Drive out to Brown Deer Park some weekend and watch the Shamrock Club Griffins. We're fortunate to have this amazing opportunity in our area.

Please make every effort to attend our Honoree Dinner on June 11 at Serb Hall. We will have a great dinner, speeches from the honorees, and a wee amount of entertainment. Make a note now to be there, remember, we must celebrate each of our honorees, given the amount of time and talent all of them have given to the Shamrock Club. Many of you suggested this celebration be held earlier than the fall months, and we hope to see the attendance increase accordingly.

While we wind down our activities somewhat in the month of May, we enjoyed seeing you at our May meeting even if you just came to vote. Congratulations to our new president, and the other officers who were elected. I remain on the Board of Directors as the past president, and feel we will continue to grow, reorganize, and enjoy the club. We have more ideas to bring to you, and would like to see you at the Installation Dinner in July. This dinner is always a pleasant ritual, and will be held again the first Thursday in July—the 6th—at Aliota's Restaurant in Wauwatosa. We would like to think you look forward to this very nice event, and thank the officers finishing their terms, after many years. Thank you Joe Hughes, and Joe Donovan for caring about the commitment you made when elected, and considering it a privilege to serve on the board.

We have moved our annual picnic date to July 29, and moved the location to Sacred Heart Picnic Grounds on N. 49th and Wells St. This grand setting will make it easier for you to park, eat, play, and the Flemings' are already planning great surprises. Another fun filled thing for you to do. These grounds allow us a place in a quiet, shady location with indoor bathrooms, and a park adjacent to the grounds. We can also go inside if the weather is poor, so rain or shine this will work. We ask you once again to plan on bringing dishes of food to share, or fruit, vegetables, desserts etc. We will provide the burgers, hotdogs, and beverages; you will enjoy the day consisting of music, dance, and games. We are appreciative to the pastor of Sacred Heart for renting the grounds to us, and are sure you'll be glad you came.

Have you signed up a new member lately? Do you want to give a membership as a gift? Let's get busy on new member recruitment, those of you attending our events on a regular basis know we have much to offer to our members, educational speakers, Irish music or dance, poetry readings, Milwaukee Irish Arts performers, our wonderful parade, and post parade party, St. Patrick's mass, and much more. Get your family involved, and meet new friends or old friends, just sign up and be here.

By the way, see you at the next meeting.

– Julie Smith, President

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### **Milwaukee Elections**

Results of the recent Shamrock Club elections are as follows:

- President: Brian Witt
- Vice President: Peter Fleming
- Sergeant at Arms: Kathy Donovan
- Secretary: Dawn Fleming
- Parliamentarian: Ed Mikush
- Trustee: Noreen Barclay
- Treasurer: Marianne Fisher
- Membership: Tom Smith

Thank you to all who ran, especially Rich Pfeiffer, Mark Rosewicz and Josh Walton. We always want contested elections. It keeps the Club invigorated and active.

Other board members are: Trustees, Del Canon and Pat Fitzgibbons; and Past President, Julie Smith. Thank you to Joe Donovan, senior trustee, and Joe Hughes, Immediate Past President, for serving.

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### **Milwaukee Member News**

Congratulations to Alderman Bob Donovan for being named one of the “Laymen of the Year” for the Holy Name Societies of the Archdiocese.

Congratulations to Bobby Hamill for his academic achievement award from the W.H. Brady Corp., and his graduation from Brookfield Central High School. Bobby has been a member of the Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums for several years, and is now a fine piper. Bobby is the son of Bob and Peg Hamill. Bob also received his Eagle Scout Award this Spring.

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# Shamrock Club Milwaukee Picnic

The Shamrock Club's Milwaukee picnic will take place at Sacred Heart Church grounds, 49th and Wells Street, on Saturday, July 29, from noon until 6 p.m. There will be games for kids and adults, Pin the Tail on the Leprechaun, Irish dance exhibitions, pipers, music, and food. The Shamrock Club will provide the beverages, hamburgers and hot dogs, as well as a limited number of veggie burgers and sausages.

Last year's picnic drew about 500 people, so come early.

For information call: (414) 687-2049.

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## Milwaukee Hurling News

The Milwaukee Hurling Club gave a presentation at the Shamrock Club general meeting on May 4, with Karen and Russ Fink, and Shamrock Club Griffins co-captain Dan McAuliffe giving the membership an entertaining display on the highlights of the game. A number of Shamrock Club members joined them on stage to learn the tricks of stick and ball handling.

The Hurling Club had its official season debut on May 21 at Brown Deer Park, surrounded by dignitaries. There are eight adult teams, and four youth league teams. The Shamrock Club is again a proud sponsor of the MHC, and the Griffins are looking forward to getting to the league finals again this year.

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## Color Guard News And Notes

I've stolen the keys back from Rich once again for this month's article and have just returned from marching in New York's Tartan Day Parade – 2000 pipers down 6th Avenue in pouring rain and sleet, and then many drinks at the St. Andrew's Society afterwards! I invite all of my bandmates to join me next year... It was not as much fun without you there.

Looking ahead? Ahhh.. Summertime is finally here...

The band is gearing up for the season that started with Memorial Day parades here in Milwaukee and Menomonee Falls... and to the Milwaukee Highland Games at Old Heidelberg Park June 3rd. It seems like eons ago we were basking in the warm Savannah sun on St. Patrick's day. The band was awarded the Charles Ray Sr. award in the parade and is invited to play next

year!

We almost have all of our new music down to a tee. Look for many new arrangements to appear in our concert and parade sets. Also keep an eye out for little Cobb. He's working on a blazing mean rendition of Garryowen.

## **PARADE SCHEDULE**

- June 3, Milw. Highland Games; Heidelberg Park, Glendale; noon
- June 10, Appleton Flag Day Parade; 2 p.m.
- June 11, Waubeka Flag Day Parade; 1 p.m.
- July 1, Thiensville Parade; 10:30 a.m; to be confirmed
- July 2, Hartland Parade; 1:30 p.m.
- July 4, Oak Creek 4th of July Parade; 9 a.m.
- July 4, Cudahy 4th of July Parade; Noon
- July 15, South Shore Water Frolics; Bay View; TBA
- July 29, Milwaukee Heritage Days; So. Milwaukee; 11 a.m.
- July 30, Dousman Derby Days; TBA

Look for our most current schedule information at [[www.sccgpd.org](http://www.sccgpd.org)].

Do you know the bagpipe only has nine true notes? Written on a treble clef scale, there is one octave of notes that ranges from a low A to a high A. For those who aren't musically inclined, it is relatively easy, musically. It's everything else that goes along with it that makes it difficult – like weather, a double reed, and the various embellishments with names like tachum, taorluath, grip and birl.

Anyone who enjoys a challenge is in-vided to learn this fine instrument with us. We offer free lessons to all who are interested.

We also have quite a few members attending the Milwaukee School of Pipes and Drums June 11-16: Dan McCormack, Neil McCafferty, Nathan Cobb (little Cobb), Beth Andrews, Nic Ayotte and JJ Garsombke. We wish them luck on their quest for learning.

And last but not least, we would like to welcome the new members of our group including Katie Franklin (and her mom), Greg Long, Kate Stein, Kari Quinlan and new piper Mike (keep up the good work, it does get easier). Apologies to anyone I may have forgotten as there is a new face every week!

We invite you to join us this summer as a band member, color guard or as a parade supporter. You'll see an impressive band this year, we can guarantee it!

Until July, my celtic friends,

– Noel Tylla, 3rd year piper and guest columnist

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## **Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Honoree**

# Dinner

**Sunday, June 11, 2006**

*Please join us in honoring the Irishman of the Year John G. Maher, Irish Rose Kristine Carrigg Pluskota, and Parade Marshals Joe and Catherine Donovan.*

Serb Hall, 5101 West Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee, WI

Cost: \$25 includes tax and tip

Cocktails 5 pm (Cash Bar) • Dinner 6 pm

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Sit down dinner choices:

\_\_\_\_\_ Stuffed Pork Chops

\_\_\_\_\_ Lemon Chicken

\_\_\_\_\_ Beef Stroganoff

Make checks payable to the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin and mail to:

Tom and Julie Smith  
1107 South 26th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53204

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## Installation Dinner 2006

**Thursday July 6, 2006**

Alioto's (Mayfair Rd. and Burleigh St.)

Cocktails (Cash Bar) 6:00 pm

Dinner 6:30 pm

Ceremony / Swearing in of Officers 8:00 pm

Dinner Choice: Beef Tips over Noodles or Chicken Normandy

Cost: \$18 Per person

Reservation Deadline: June 30, 2006

### Installation Dinner Reservation Form

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Price: \$18 @ TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity of each dinner choice:

\_\_\_\_\_ Beef Tips over Noodles

\_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Normandy

Make checks payable to the  
Shamrock Club of Wisconsin and mail to:

Tom and Julie Smith  
1107 South 26th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53204

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# **Celtic Women First Friday Lectures**

**JUNE 2, 2006**

**TOPIC:** Threaded Metaphors – Part II.

**SPREAKERS:** Six poets and six fiber artists collaborate.

A bringing together of the arts of textile weaving and poetry by local artisans is very special. In December, 2004 the audience was riveted by these twelve women who blended their work and thoughts in new dimensions and metaphors. It was a special treat for everyone, so unexpected and reaching the soul. Their art collaborations will remain on exhibit in Parlor B for several weeks. This evening will feature a wine and cheese offering as each poet and fiber artist explains her work.

July and August: No lectures during these summer months.

Admission for the lecture is \$5 for all. The lectures are held at the Irish Cultural & Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee. Questions at (414) 345-8800.

– **Jean Bills**

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# **Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Annual Family Best Ball Golf**

# and Dinner Outing

Mark Your Calendars:

**SUNDAY AUGUST 27, 2006**

**EDGEWATER GOLF CLUB**

There will be golf, great food, prizes, and exciting events.

**SIGN UP SHEETS IN NEXT MONTH'S REFLECTIONS**

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## **RTE News Items**

### **DECK CHAIR FROM TITANIC UP FOR AUCTION**

A deck chair from the Titanic was expected to earn around €70,000 when it was auctioned in the United States in early May. It is part of a collection of items from steam liners that sailed in the early part of the last century.

The deckchair was given to a photographer from The Cork Examiner newspaper before the Titanic left Cobh in 1912.

### **DORAN CALLS FOR MORE EFFORT ON VOCATIONS**

The Director of the Dublin Diocesan Vocations Centre has called for greater efforts to be made to attract prospective priests to the Catholic Church, as the number of entrants decline. Speaking on the World day of Prayer for Vocations, Fr. Kevin Doran said vocations must be actively presented to people who have so many other opportunities available to them. He said bishops and congregational leaders must devote adequate resources to the vocations ministry. There are 14 men currently in formation for the priesthood for the Dublin Diocese.

### **RTÉ DOCUMENTARY TAKES RADHARC AWARD**

An RTÉ television documentary on a Dublin doctor's quarter-century of development work in Kenya has won the prestigious Radharc Award.

'When You Say Four Thousand Goodbyes' features Dr Mike Meegan, who has spent the past 25 years fighting poverty and disease in African villages.

The documentary, which tells the inspirational story of Meegan's work in areas devastated by AIDS, malaria and TB, was produced by Caroline Bleahen and presented by Jim Fahy, RTÉ's Western correspondent. It has raised €800,000 in Ireland alone for Meegan's work since it was screened twelve months ago.

Meegan went to work among Kenya's Masai people in 1979 and has devoted his life to developing new scientific techniques to fight tropical diseases and empowering local people to tackle Africa's problems. ICROSS, the aid agency which he founded, is involved in providing clinics and medical services for up to 200,000 people in Kenya and Tanzania.

The programme was first broadcast on RTÉ One in May 2005. Since then it has won the top award at the Intercom Film Festival in Chicago and a Silver Angel Award from the Excellence in Media Foundation.

Accepting the award in Dublin's Burlington Hotel, the programme's presenter Jim Fahy said Meegan was a man whose passion, action and intensity would have appealed to the late Fr Joe Dunn.

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### **Donn's Poetry Corner**

#### **Today I saw the Sea again**

*The water crashed over the rocks,  
Chasing seaweed into crevices.,  
The Kerry coast, roughhewn,,  
full of beauty, alive, stark.*

*The mist kissed my face.,  
The waves danced across my feet.,  
The sand formed pools in my prints,,  
Erasing my instant touch.*

– Martain O'Flaherty  
Kerry, 2004

#### **Top Up Time Again**

*Ah, the days of no phones,  
To the days of all phones.,  
The mobile is down,,  
Pop into the grocer,,  
Get the top up.*

*You called me again from home,  
Cost to America for an hour?,  
Twenty euro, more or less,,  
more than less, and more,  
tomorrow, as you miss me*

*The days of gathering for the  
phone box, a rare call  
overseas. Now, we are all  
in touch, always. Everywhere.*

*Nowhere to hide. The pity.*

– Martain O’Flaherty  
Westport, 2004

## **The Land**

*It’s  
the land  
that people  
love in Ireland  
coarse and rugged  
as it is  
yet softened  
by the cool green glens  
and  
lakes of crystal blue  
the land  
that’s fed  
by rain and sun  
for it’s  
the land  
to which life itself  
is one.*

– Kathy Mallon,  
© 2004 from Irish Tweed

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## **Finance Committee Milwaukee**

The Finance Committee met in May to discuss the budget for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. When it is completed, the highlights of it will be printed in upcoming copies of Reflections. The committee is headed by Treasurer Marianne Fisher.

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## **Bylaws Update**

The Bylaws are being printed within Reflections this month in order for members to read them. The Bylaw committee is required to review them every two years, and suggest changes. Parliamentarian Ed Mikush heads the committee, and suggested that the bylaws be given to members for the review, and that any changes made be printed and highlighted in later issues of Emerald Reflections. [Read Bylaws here.](#)

## Time to Join the Shamrock Club?

Are you ready to become a part of the oldest Irish membership organization in Wisconsin? Do you want to make a difference in the world, and in the Irish community of Wisconsin? And, if you are a current member, do you know anyone who has expressed interest in joining the Shamrock Club? If you aren't a member, join today. If you are, and want to give a gift of membership, please do so. We have made it easy for you. Just clip the following application form, or make a copy, if you wish to preserve your issue of Reflections, and send it in. You, or the recipient of your gift, will have the knowledge that they are becoming a part of Wisconsin's Irish history, while blazing new pathways into the future.

Join today. For the first time, or for the fifth time. We are always happy to have you as a part of us.

### **Yes, I want to join the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin!!**

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, Rock County and New Dublin chapters at the \$20/\$25 rate. Other chapters have higher dues structures and must be contacted separately.

Mail to: Milwaukee Membership Chair

Tom Smith  
1107 S. 26th Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53204

# Milwaukee Parade Day 2006



The smile says it all



UWM Celtic Studies award winning float



Ancient Order of Hibernians



Opening Banner



Dave and Maureen Modlinski



Milwaukee Hurling Club with Shamrock Griffins



Color Guard



Mike Boyle at review



New Dublin Irish Rose  
Judi Barington



Katie and Bridget, Glencastle



The Hecks celebrated



Shamrock Club Past Presidents



Cashel Dennehy



Westown leprechaun



Kinsella dancers and musicians

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## New Members

NOTE: Please send your dues to your Membership Chairperson in your chapter. All names and addresses are listed in Emerald Reflections.

Milwaukee– Steve and Linda Braley; Mrs. Thelma M. Domier; Mrs. Patricia Hewett; Michael and Julie Neilsen (referred by Richard Pfeiffer); Malkin Vinson (referred by Richard Pfeiffer).

- March: 87 memberships up for renewal, 53 paid, 34 due.
- April: 47 memberships up for renewal, 30 paid, 17 due.
- May: 33 memberships up for renewal, 5 paid, 28 due.

– **Tom Smith**

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