



## June 2007

CONTENTS:

[The  
Bloomsday  
Phenomenon](#)

[South Central  
Shamrock Club](#)

[Dane County  
President's  
Message](#)

[Milwaukee  
President's  
Message](#)

[Color Guard  
News and  
Notes](#)

[Pizza Night](#)

[Milwaukee  
Installation  
Dinner 2007](#)

[Milwaukee  
Hurling Club](#)

[Golf and  
Dinner Outing](#)

[Club Officers  
2007-08](#)

[Celtic Women  
Lecture](#)

[Parade Date  
March 8, 2008](#)

[INDEX](#)

## The Bloomsday Phenomenon

by Brian Witt

On June 16, all around the world there will be recreations of Dublin, 1904 as people celebrate Bloomsday. That was the day that author James Joyce's Ulysses takes place. In many cities, attempts are made to read the entire book out loud. People will dress up and wander the sites listed in the book in Dublin. In other places, fans will designate places to fill in for the architecture of the Irish capital. As one person noted, everywhere, alcohol is consumed in quantity. But why this interest in the novel that has caused such great consternation in English majors at the sight of it on required reading lists at any college?

Leopold Bloom, a 38 year old advertising salesman, is the protagonist of Ulysses, the 24 hours into which Joyce compressed the wanderings of a Jewish Dubliner. Like the title character in Homer's work, Bloom is not present for a good deal of the story. He is unveiled to the public with this introduction:

"Mr. Leopold Bloom ate with relish the inner organs of beasts and fowls. He liked thick giblet soup, nutty gizzards, a stuffed roast heart, liverslices fried with crustcrumbs, fried hencods' roes."

James Joyce was one of the key figures in the development of the modernist novel. Joyce was to forever encapsulate Dublin in his works, even though he was to spend the majority of his adult life out of Ireland and the city he loved to love while he disparaged it at the same time. Joyce said, "I want to give a picture of Dublin so complete that if the city one day suddenly disappeared from the earth it could be reconstructed out of my book." He used the 1904 edition of Thom's Directory that listed every residence and tenant to ensure that he had his details of the city set down correctly. It examines the dinginess and boring nature that Joyce saw when he lived there.

Joyce's life was to pour out of his work, as the recurrent character, Stephen Dedalus, was a thinly disguised copy of himself. He populated his work with the characters in his real life. The unfaithful wife, Molly Bloom, was somewhat based on the love of his life, Nora. The basis for Leopold Bloom came from his father's friend, Alfred H. Hunter, whose wife was having an

[SHAMROCK CLUB  
HOME](#)

[EMERALD  
REFLECTIONS ONLINE  
NEWSLETTER](#)

[PHOTO OF THE MONTH](#)

[MILWAUKEE  
CALENDAR](#)

[WISCONSIN  
CALENDAR](#)

[MIDWEST CALENDAR](#)

[JOIN CLUB](#)

[MILWAUKEE MARCH  
ST. PATRICK'S  
DAY EVENTS](#)

[MILWAUKEE CHAPTER](#)

[STATE CHAPTERS](#)

[COLOR GUARD](#)

[GIFT CENTER](#)

[LINKS OF  
IRISH INTEREST](#)

[VENUES](#)

[Sign My Guestbook](#)



[View My Guestbook](#)



Email:  
[Shamrock Club](#)

[Members'](#)

[Doings](#)

[Sunshine Club](#)

[Milwaukee](#)

[Calendar of](#)

[Events](#)

[Wisconsin](#)

[Calendar of](#)

[Events](#)

affair. The fleshed out version of Bloom came from his friend Ettore Schmitz, whom he met in Trieste. Buck Mulligan came from Oliver St. John Gogarty, the writer with whom Joyce had lived in the Martello Tower in Dublin, until Gogarty fired a gun into a number of pans that were hanging over the sleeping Joyce's bed.

In 1904, while working in Dublin as an editor and a book reviewer, as well as a teacher, his essay, "A Portrait of the Artist", was rejected. He then decided to re-write it as a novel, entitled "Stephen Hero", who would eventually become Stephen Dedalus. This was also the year he met Nora Barnacle, a young chambermaid from Galway. In a few short months he would move to Europe with Nora, and his time in Ireland would, except for a few visits back, be history.

Joyce would work as a teacher for Berlitz, scrape together a hand to mouth existence for decades, and die in Zurich in 1941 of a perforated ulcer. He would also produce a sizeable number of classics in the English language, including "Finnegan's Wake", "A Portrait of the Artist", "The Dubliners", as well as "Ulysses" during this time of self-imposed exile. In 1931, he would marry Nora, a woman who was the complete opposite of Joyce, and with whom he had a long and contentious relationship. Still, as Joyce's father noted of her surname, "She will stick with him", and she did. They had two children, George and Lucia.

But why the interest in Bloomsday and Ulysses? Joyce's work was revolutionary. Mainly, it influenced the way the novel was seen, and presented. The move from the Romantic and the Realistic novels of the 19th Century to the modernist novel of Joyce, Proust and Virginia Woolf was a huge shift in many ways, as it gave voice to a sense of pessimism in life. Modernism as a literary movement is seen as a reaction to the emergence of city life dominating society. Joyce's death is also seen as the start of the post-modernist era of literature.

There was also the rise of Irish Studies programs in the 1970s and onwards, whereupon people such as Joyce, Yeats and Beckett were viewed as heroes of a past literary Ireland. Suddenly it was cool to recreate the life of the long-ago Dublin.

There is the question as to why was June 16, 1904 so important to James Joyce. It was his first date with Nora Barnacle. This was clearly a romantic moment for the modernist writer.

[INDEX](#)

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## **The South Central Shamrock Club Members Buzzzzz....**

The Fish Family "Relay for Life" Team is selling 48"x68" Reedsburg

Throws for \$30. They are blue/green on a white background and feature many past and present Reedsburg landmarks. These include the old fire station, the fountain/bandstand at City Park, The Big Store, Cornerstone, Reedsburg Area High School, the Railway Depot/400 Trail, Baraboo River and the Gazebo/Memories Plaza at Webb Park. We have recently received a new shipment. Please contact Barbara Fish at (608) 985-7068 to purchase one for yourself or for a gift. All proceeds go to the Reedsburg Relay for Life – American Cancer Society.

Richard “Mike” Flint, Reedsburg, a representative of Modern Woodman of America, has been named to Modern Woodmen’s 2006 President’s Cabinet. This distinction recognizes Mike’s high achievement in life insurance sales and ranking among the organization’s top representatives nationwide.

Our Irish Blessings and Congratulations to John and Jane Geoghegan of Baraboo who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on April 12. The weekend celebration was spent with their children; Patrick, Seamus, Tim, Mary Katherine, Anne, Eileen and their spouses and children. A home full of love and laughter is the key to the Geoghegan’s commitment to each other, family and community.

June 16 at 10:30 a.m. The Reedsburg Butter Fest Parade will include our “Irishman” Dan Horkan and “Irish Rose” Gloria Judge.

Want to go to Ireland? Check out Father Bakke and Father Monaghan’s Ireland, St. Patrick and Our Lady of Knock Trip August 6-15, 2007. Contact Michelle Dent at 1-800-660-8359 of Burkhalter Travel, Baraboo, Wisconsin for complete details or contact Sacred Heart Church Secretaries (608) 524-2412 or St. Joseph’s Parish Office (608) 356-4773 for a brochure.

Next Meeting: June 10, 2007 at Longley’s Restaurant at 4 p.m.

### ***Father’s Day Blessing***

*May the Father of us all  
bless our oul’ fellas,  
wherever hey might be,  
at home in dear old Ireland,  
or across the shining sea.  
In heaven with the angels  
or on earth still with us,  
may God be good to the  
dear old dad,  
the one we love so much.*



*Celia (middle back row with long vibrant Red Irish Curls) with her So. Central Shamrock fans and new friends.*

CELIA, National Touring Artist, entertained our club and public on April 15 giving us an afternoon of “Everyday Goddess” brilliance. Check out Celia’s website: [celiaonline.com]. Celia has opened for notable authors: Neale Donald Walsch, Marianne Williamson, Dr. Masaru Emoto, and Sonia Choquette, provided live music for the Off-Broadway production of “Rum and Vodka”, received a “Best Storytelling CD” nomination for “Irish Tales” by the International Just Plain Folks Awards (The Grassroots of Grammys) and performs annually at Milwaukee’s Irish Fest.

– Dana Horkan-Gant, Membership Chair

## INDEX

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## **Dane County Shamrock Club News**

The Dane County Shamrock Club will hold its annual picnic on Tuesday, June 12 at Lakeview Park, 6300 Mendota Ave (corner of Mendota Ave and Allen Blvd), Middleton. The shelter has been reserved so the picnic will take place regardless of the weather. A social hour begins at 5 p.m. followed by dinner at 5:45 p.m. For reservations, please contact Shannon Byrnes at (608) 273-0190. The election of officers and board members for the next year will take place at the picnic.

The Shamrock Club Lunch Bunch will meet on July 21 at 1 p.m. at the Claddagh Irish Pub at 1611 Aspen Commons, Greenway Station, Middleton. Reservations can be made by contacting Harry McCarthy at (608) 277-0394. Everyone is welcome.

The Madison Feis, an international Irish dance competition, will take place at the Alliant Energy Center, 1919 Alliant Energy Center Way, Madison, WI. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Bob Kerans at (608) 831-8508.

The board encourages all members to attend the LaCrosse Irish Fest at Southside Fest Grounds during August 10-12 and Milwaukee's Irish Fest during August 16-19 at Henry Maier Festival Park on the lakefront.

The next general meeting is planned for September 11, 2007.

– Pat McCarthy

## INDEX

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

It seems hard to believe it is already June. The flowers are up, those that survived the early spring snowstorms, anyway. Summer is redolent in the area. Ah, life is good. Bloomsday is June 16, and maybe one can see Leopold Bloom wandering the streets of Milwaukee, looking for James Joyce's 1904 Dublin.

A thank you to Nancy Walczyk for her wonderful presentation at the May meeting, where she spoke of the works of W B Yeats. It was a long meeting, at that, but much was accomplished, and decisions were made. The vote by the membership on the parade date was meaningful. Thanks to Pat Fitzgibbons and Pete Fleming from our board for expressing the two sides of the issue in a factual, albeit heartfelt manner. Organizations break up over smaller things, and it is better, in my mind, to let everyone have a say in something as big as this.

On Father's Day, stop in for pizza at Pizzeria Piccola on State Street in the Wauwatosa Village. The Color Guard is having a fundraiser there that day, after about 4 p.m. They will be back on July 1 as well, serving, playing the pipes, and more. In addition, the season is upon us for marching and there is a full agenda of parades that they will be a part of in the coming weeks.

Don't forget about the picnic on July 28 at Sacred Heart Church. Music, dancing, and food, and a leprechaun on some mighty large doses of steroids, are all to be found there. Indoor facilities are available if it rains, or, like last year, is too beastly hot.

Pat Fitzgibbons needs more door prizes for our annual golf outing on August 26. It is the easiest day of golf you can have, he promises. We will have our installation dinner on July 12 at Derry's. There is a sign up form in Reflections this month. Please join us for the dinner. It is a week later than normal, because of the July 4 holiday.

On May 5, the State Advisory board met in Green Bay to discuss things that affect all of the chapters. One thing that has come up time and again is how to get and keep new members. A suggestion was made that we have a greeter at meetings to make certain that all feel welcome. Apologies on my part if I have been negligent on this issue. The next state meeting is in August at Irish Fest. Stop in to meet members from our fellow chapters.

Our gift shop is up and running. Go to

[<http://www.mktwebdesign.com/ShamrockClub/index.html>] to find some really great values on Shamrock Club clothing. Thanks go to Club members Becky and Larry Sullivan for getting this going for us.

We are a 501 C 3 corporation, so you can donate to our Club and receive a tax write-off. Our scholarship fund is a good place to give, if you want to target a specific cause.

And the gift of a membership is a wonderful thing. If you know of someone who really wants to express their Irish heritage, what could be better than a Shamrock Club membership? Twelve months of the Emerald Reflections is one way of being able to say that you are Irish.

See you in July.

– Brian Witt,  
[briangwitt@shamrockclubwis.com](mailto:briangwitt@shamrockclubwis.com)

## INDEX

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## Color Guard News and Notes

Hello! As we're gearing up for the impending season, I'm taking a writing break this month and letting the members of our group speak for themselves. I posed the question to them last week of: Why do YOU march with the Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums?

"I'm in it for the continuation of a Celtic/Gaelic tradition. (pipes and drums) I enjoy parading and sharing of Scots/Irish music played on a traditional instrument... It is the sense of family that makes this unit special." – Rock

"I wanted to represent my Celtic Heritage and after I got out of high school wanted to stay active. I found the best way to do that was to learn the bagpipes, a traditional instrument and a challenge at the same time." – Holly

"I wanted to join an organization in order to meet people and get involved in the community. And since I'm of Irish descent, the Shamrock Club seemed like the logical organization to join... I love the group and love participation in all the functions." – Malkin

"... I'm here and with what has happened, I feel it was a calling. The friends I have met and the places we have gone to, I would not change it for anything." – Rich

"One – the people are great and a lot of fun and, two, I feel with the band at the level it is and the direction that everyone strives towards, it's exciting to be a part of a musical unit that is becoming something great, and will become something really great." – Neil

"I'm a member ... in memory and appreciation for the sacrifices made by my ancestors. My great, great grandfather, Samuel Johnston, immigrated from Ireland even though he was from Scotland... He fought in three wars

including the Civil War, but through it all, he never forgot or turned his back on his heritage... for his teachings, his strength, his endurance and his love of country and family, I put on a kilt and carry proudly the flags that represent all that he was... When I hear the pipes, their beautiful voices singing, I wonder if he felt the same shivers that I do in my spine. Would Amazing Grace always have brought a tear to his eye, as it does to mine?" – Mart

"Having babies and life itself took all my time and attention for 14 years. Joining an Irish or German group was always on hold. When my friends, sons and I went to Irish Fest for the first time last year, we stopped to watch the parade pass by. The SCCGPD was the first group we saw in the very Irish Green kilts and Dave, being the drummer said "I want to join them... Mom, I want to wear that cool kilt." Dave said he had a good feeling about the Shamrock Club compared to all the other bands we had watched that day. The club welcomed us with open arms..." – Mary

"Top Ten reasons we are in the Color Guard"-

10. Work Hard – Play Hard

9. Rich's glowing personality

8. Positive Crowd Recognition

7. Guinness has medicinal benefits

6. Love of wearing a kilt

5. Mysticque of bagpipe music

4. Kinship of the group

3. Carrying of the colors

2. Pride of Celtic Heritage

and the number one reason... drum roll please!

1. ANNA SAYS SO!!!!" – Bill

Wow. It seems like we all have a lot in common, doesn't it? I joined the group after a terrible breakup and needed to be part of a group again after a 15 year absence from the marching band and drum corps scene. I missed being musical. So I got this crazy idea that I could learn the bagpipes and did! I was welcomed into a group that was just getting its bearings and has only continued to evolve into something that I'm very proud to be a part of. So even though my roots come from my Scottish and Danish background, I am honored to be a part of a proud Irish tradition. Slainte!

Watch for us this month! Check out [[www.sccgpd.org](http://www.sccgpd.org)] for up to date information.

June 2nd Milwaukee Highland Games; June 9 in Appleton; June 10 in Waubeka; June 30 Thiensville.

And as always, we're looking for banner carriers, water bearers, and others that love wearing a kilt. It's not too late! Until July my friends;

INDEX

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## Pizza Night

It is Pizza Night for the Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums on Sunday, June 17 and July 1 at Batolotta's Pizzeria Piccola, 7606 W State Street. Eat in or take out between 4–9:30 p.m. and a portion of all food sold will benefit the Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums. It is part of the Ristorante Bartolottas Society Sundays fundraisers.

INDEX

---

## Installation Dinner 2007

**Thursday July 12, 2007**

Cocktails (Cash Bar) 5:30–6:30 pm

Dinner 6:30 pm

Buffet Dinner: Cost \$16.50 Per person

For information call Tom and Julie Smith (414) 384-4119

### Installation Dinner Reservation Form

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

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

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

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

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

Price: \$16.50 @ TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

INDEX

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## Milwaukee Hurling Club

The Milwaukee Hurling Club is well into the season. The Shamrock Club Griffins, under the leadership of captains Mike Larsen and Dan McAullife, will help to guide the team into the playoffs for a fifth consecutive year. Stop by Brown Deer Park each Sunday for the matches. The pitch is 150 by 100 yards, so you will have plenty of room to view the fastest game on grass.

### **06/03/07**

11:00 County Clare vs. Packy's  
12:30 Club Garibaldi vs. Tracks  
2:00 Shamrock Club vs. Ale House  
3:30 McBob's vs. Wolski's

### **06/10/07**

11:00 Shamrock Club vs. County Clare  
12:30 Club Garibaldi vs. McBob's  
2:00 Ale House vs. Packy's  
3:30 Tracks vs Wolski's

### **06/17/07**

11:00 Tracks vs. Ale House  
12:30 Wolski's vs Packy's  
2:00 Club Garibaldi vs Shamrock Club  
3:30 McBob's vs County Clare

### **06/24/07**

11:00 Wolski's vs. County Clare  
2:30 McBob's vs. Ale House  
2:00 Tracks vs. Shamrock Club  
3:30 Club Garibaldi vs. Packy's

### [INDEX](#)

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## **Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Annual Family Best Ball Golf and Dinner Outing**

Mark Your Calendars:

**SUNDAY AUGUST 26, 2007**

Edgewood Country Club Grafton

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

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

## INDEX

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### **Club Officers 2007-08**

At the yearly elections on May 3, the following officers were elected: President, Brian Witt; Vice President, Peter Fleming; Secretary, Dawn Fleming; Trustee, Kathy Donovan; Sergeant at Arms, Malkin Wallace; Treasurer, Marianne Fisher; Membership Chair, Tom Smith; Parliamentarian, Josh Walton; The following are in mid-term as Trustee: Noreen Barclay and Pat Fitzgibbons. Julie Smith continues as Past President. The following had reached their term limits: Ed Mikush and Del Canon.

In other voting, a motion from the floor was made to change the voting times from 6 until 8 p.m. to 6 until 7:30 p.m., starting with the 2008 elections. The motion passed. Pizza Night

It is Pizza Night for the Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums on Sunday, June 17 and July 1 at Batolotta's Pizzeria Piccola, 7606 W State Street. Eat in or take out between 4–9:30 p.m. and a portion of all food sold will benefit the Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums. It is part of the Ristorante Bartolotta's Society Sundays fundraisers.

## INDEX

---

### **Celtic Women Lecture**

**Date: June 1, 2007**

**Topic: "Self-Defense for Women"**

**Speaker: Sgt. Katie Higgins**

Marquette University's Department of Public Safety presents a very popular safety awareness class that gives tips and tools on personal safety in conjunction with easy-to-understand physical and verbal techniques. The program allows participants at all levels of physical ability to feel confident in avoiding and escaping potentially dangerous situations. In her "other life", Katie Higgins is familiar to us as a bagpiper with the Milwaukee Fire and Police Pipe Band.

Join the Celtic Women in June for the last lecture before summer. We will have the usual tea and cookies for you to enjoy. Admission \$5 for all. Everyone welcome.

– Jean Bills

## INDEX

---

### **Parade Date March 8, 2008**

A vote was taken at the May 3 meeting as to what day to hold the 2008 St. Patrick's Day Parade. An overwhelming majority of the membership chose March 8 as the date to hold the parade and other events. A variety of reasons were given to change to a week earlier than normal, or hold it on March 15, the usual parade date. One overriding factor seemed to be that Easter is on March 23 in 2008.

## INDEX

---

### **Members' Doings**

Erin, Del and Pam Canon recently traveled to Glasgow, Scotland where Erin competed in the 2007 World Championships of Irish Dance. Erin competed with the Trinity Academy of Irish Dance in the U13 Minor Girls Ceili and the U13 Minor Girls Figure Choreography competitions. Both teams won 2nd Place!

Michael Tierney is on the first part of his tour of foreign countries with his band Beatallica. He will be in Japan later this summer.

The Casimir Pulaski Council of Milwaukee County selected Judge Daniel Konkol as the recipient of its 2007 Heritage Award. In 2002, he was awarded the Polish-American Heritage Appreciation Award from the Woodrow Wilson Post #11 of the Polish Legion of American Veterans. And in early May, Dan and Maureen went to Columbus, OH, to view the graduation of son Greg from the Columbus College of Art and Design.

Danny and Helen O'Donoghue recently visited Florida.

Maggie and Tom Blaha recently celebrated 35 years of marriage. They met through the Shamrock Club.

## INDEX

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### **Sunshine Club**

Mary Jane Ward, mother of Ed and Chuck Ward, and Colleen Kennedy, died recently. Our condolences to the Ward and Kennedy families.

If you have any information about members, please contact me, Joe Donovan, (414) 259-8040.

INDEX