



Dec. 2008

CONTENTS:

["Beannachtaí an tSéasúir" --
Season's
Greetings and
Irish Christmas
Traditions](#)

[South Central
Shamrock Club
News](#)

[Milwaukee
President's
Message](#)

[A Culver thank
You](#)

[Color Guard
News and Notes](#)

[First Friday
Lectures](#)

[Christmas Party
2008](#)

[Bylaws Changes](#)

[Shamrock Club
Upcoming
Meetings](#)

[50th
Anniversary
Committee](#)

[Tony Kenny at
ICHC](#)

INDEX

"Beannachtaí an tSéasúir" -- Season's Greetings and Irish Christmas Traditions

by Brian Witt

Each year, we try to tell you about the traditions of Christmas in Ireland. And each year, we try to give you recipes to try for your Christmas dinners, or for other times in the year. And this year, we promise to have all the baking or cooking instructions, and the ingredients included.

The Christmas season officially begins on December 8 in Ireland. A few days later, on December 12, some people in Ireland still carry on the old tradition of celebrating "Women's Christmas", or *Nollaig na mBan* in Irish. It was the day when Irish men would give their wives the day off and take over household duties for one day. Guys, make a nice dinner for your wives. And what could be better than a steak pie dish?

STEAK AND GUINNESS OR MURPHY'S PIE

INGREDIENTS:

- 12 inch pie pastry
- 1 or 2 pounds of round steak
- 1 tablespoon of flour
- 1 tablespoon of brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon of raisins
- 5 medium size onions
- 1 bottle of Guinness or Murphy's stout
- 8 slices of bacon
- 3 tablespoon of shortening/butter
- Some Chopped parsley

DIRECTIONS:

Dice the steak, cover with flour and brown, with the bacon, on a medium heat using the butter. Peel and chop the onions and brown

[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](#)

[Nominations for Irish Honorees](#)

[Milwaukee AOH News](#)

[Sunshine Club](#)

[Members' Doings](#)

[Milwaukee Calendar of Events](#)

[Wisconsin Calendar of Events](#)

over a good heat. Add to the meat in a casserole dish. Add raisins and brown sugar and Guinness or Murphy's. Cover the dish, simmer and cook over a low heat for 2½ hours. Add water if the gravy mixture starts to thicken excessively. Coat a pie dish with half of the pastry and bake. Add the Meat and Gravy mix when cooked and place the remaining pastry on top and bake for 10 minutes or until golden brown.

Christmas dinner is usually made up of a large selection of vegetables, roast potatoes, stuffing, ham, turkey, gravy and cranberry sauce. Dessert is usually made up of Christmas cake, mince pies and Christmas pudding which can be covered with either brandy or rum. Try a great stew for dinner.

SAVORY IRISH STEW RECIPE

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tablespoon vegetable or canola oil
- 4 large onions cut in wedges
- 5 large carrots cut in thick slices
- 1½ pound round steak or lamb
- 6 large potatoes
- 1 cup water
- salt and pepper to taste

DIRECTIONS:

Heat oil in large saucepan or skillet. Sauté onions in oil. Add carrots and cook for a few minutes. Cut steak into ¼ to ½-inch cubes and add to onions and carrots. Wash, peel and slice potatoes and add to pot. Pour in water, season to taste with salt and pepper and bring to a boil. Skim off any foam, reduce heat and simmer over low heat until meat and vegetables are tender. If desired, stew can be thickened by mixing 2 tablespoons flour with a little water and adding it to the stew. Heat through until thickened and serve piping hot.

In Dublin City the traditions of Christmas involve the lighting of the Christmas lights on O'Connell Street, Henry Street and Grafton Street. All the shops are elaborately decorated from October to celebrate the festival season. The other major tradition in Dublin is the erecting of a Christmas tree at the top of Grafton Street. After decorating the house, or whitewashing and cleaning the place, you may be tired and have a bit of a desire for a quick snack. How about a pudding?

APPLE AND BARLEY PUDDING

INGREDIENTS

- 4 tablespoons pearl barley
- 1½ pounds eating apples
- 2 ounces sugar
- ¾ tablespoon double cream
- 1 liter water

DIRECTIONS:

Apples should be peeled, cored and sliced. Put the barley in the water and bring to the boil. Add the sliced apples and continue cooking gently until the barley and apples are soft. Press through a sieve, or put through the blender, and put back in the saucepan. Add the sugar and lemon juice and bring to the boil again. Remove from the heat, allow to cool, and then chill. Serve cool with the cream stirred in.

December 26 is St. Stephen's Day, or Boxing Day. It is when presents are exchanged. It is also the day when the Wren Boys would go house to house and beg for food and drink, or money, in parts of Ireland. If you have people coming over, you can serve them a tasty dessert.

APPLE AND OAT CRISP

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 to 5 medium apples, peeled, cored, quartered, and thinly sliced
- ¼ cup finely chopped pecans or walnuts
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ground ginger
- 3 tablespoons apple juice concentrate
- Dash nutmeg

TOPPING:

- 1 tablespoon butter
- ¾ cup oatmeal
- ¼ cup light brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat the oven to 350° F. Combine the apples, nuts, spices, and juice concentrate in a mixing bowl and toss until the spices coat the apples evenly. Transfer to a 9-by-9-inch baking pan. Melt the butter in a skillet. Stir in the oats until evenly coated with the butter. Remove from the heat and stir in the sugar and cinnamon. Sprinkle the topping evenly over the apples. Bake for 45 minutes, or until the topping is golden brown and the apples are tender.

Irish Christmas traditions draw to a close on January 6, the Epiphany, or "Little Christmas" *Nollaig Bheag*. The 12 days of the Irish Christmas season mark the twelve days between the birth of Christ and the arrival of the Magi. The Day of the Epiphany is held sacred as a celebration of God's manifestation to us in human form. For this day, here is a quick meal.

IRISH ROAST PORK WITH STUFFING

INGREDIENTS

- 2 pounds of good quality pork tenderloin or lean pork chops
- 2 tablespoons of butter
- 2 tablespoons of apple cider or water if preferred
- Pinch of salt and pepper

DIRECTIONS:

Lightly salt and pepper the meat coating it with the butter. Place in a dish and cover with foil. Bake at 350 F for 1½ hours. Serve with stuffing and fresh cooked vegetables.

However you celebrate Christmas, American or Irish, or Irish-American, we wish you the best of holiday wishes. *Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Daoibh*. Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

INDEX

South Central Shamrock Club December News

Club Christmas Party

- Time: Noon – Hospitality Hour
- Where: Reedsburg Country Club, Reedsburg, WI
- Entertainment: Soloist Becky Peterson
- Dinner: 1 p.m.
- Menu Selections and Prices:
\$21 per person – Prime Rib with salad, potato, vegetable, roll & dessert, coffee/tea
– OR –
\$18 per person – Chicken Breast w/ white wine sauce, salad, potato, vegetable, roll & dessert, coffee/tea
- Checks payable to: South Central Shamrock Club

Please make your reservations and payment by December 9 to:
Gloria Judge; 2227 Winfield Drive; Reedsburg, WI 53959.

Any questions regarding Christmas Party please call Gloria at (608) 524-3665 or Dana at (608) 524-6821.

Holly Birthday Wishes to: Patricia McConaghy 12/1, Lynn Horkan 12/1, Derek Horkan 12/5, Jan Delmore 12/9, Kathleen Helland 12/11, Rita Bill 12/12, Vince Marchetti 12/23, Kay Scanlon – 2008 Irish Rose 12/24, Fran Malone 12/28.



BECKY PETERSON

This year's Christmas Party entertainer, Becky Peterson, graduated with a masters degree in vocal performance from Minnesota State University in 1990. After singing professionally in MN and the Twin Cities area for a number of years, she and her husband moved to Reedsburg. Operatic roles include Musetta in "La Boheme", Baby in "The Ballad of Baby Doe", Rosalinda in "The Barber of Seville". Since in Reedsburg, her occasional vocal studies have continued with Ruth Horral of Madison, she is a past member of the Madison Chamber Vocal Ensemble, and has been an area soloist in various recitals and ensembles. She is an active member of the Reedsburg Players, playing Sister Robert Anne in "Nonsense", Maria in "The Sound of Music" and most recently "Della" in Blue Plate Special. She enjoys being a church musician, participating in the St. Peter's Lutheran Church Praise Band, choir and as a soloist. Becky is currently a Vice President for Harris Bank Reedsburg. She enjoys sports, wine, and of course, good music. Her greatest joys are her police officer husband Scott and their two blessings; Jeff, 14 and Eric, 5.

Have A Blessed Christmas!

– Dana J. Horkan-Gant

INDEX

Milwaukee President's Message

Nollaig Shone Dhuit, Merry Christmas in the Irish. May this blessed time of the year be a special and wonderful time for you and all you love. I usually attempt to bring a message that is positive to all of you during this season. This year has been a difficult one for all in my family, but we are not alone in our feelings. Now we join in a celebration of the birth of the Christ Child with wonderful days to come. This year when the red candle is lit in

your window for the Holy Family to be welcomed, praise God for all under your roof and those that were. I know we will do that in our gathering, too.

You all should have signed up to be part of the annual Christmas party on December 4. This event will begin at 6 p.m. rather than our usual 7 p.m. start time. Members are asked to join in our pot luck supper by bringing either a dessert if your last name begins with the letter A-M, or a main dish if your name begins with the letter N-Z. Those members who have signed up in advance, will be first in line. Our honorees are to be the first in line. Please remember to save the date for a fun-filled evening including the Irish Fest Choir, Santa and helper, and other surprises. Our celebration will be in the lower parlors for easy access. If you plan on attending and haven't let us know, please email [info@shamrockclubwis.com] so we can prepare for your enjoyment.

If you haven't had the opportunity to visit the Holiday Folk Fair, make a note to set aside time for next year. Noreen Barclay and Linda Tuescher presented the retail items with a flair and panache that would make you proud of the heritage. Mary Culver and the food booth volunteers were an enthusiastic group with some Irish cuisine to whet any appetite. Heather Mujusiak chaired the cultural booth with some new ideas adding to the Irish cottage, and was again a crowd favorite. Long time ticket chair Muriel Crowley handles all the orders, and does this so well. This dedicated group under the direction of General Chair, Malkin Wallace, would be pleased if you would let them know how you appreciated their efforts. Our Irish Christmas tree decorators were as busy as any ethnic group to look authentic and gorgeous. Thanks go to the Cashel Dennehy Irish Dancers for their performances representing our Irish youth and the Glencastle Irish Dancers for their Adult group. Thanks to all of you for donating your time and efforts. If you haven't joined us yet, please do so. For those of you who faithfully help each year, you know none of this happens without you. The entire club as well as the Folk Fair thanks you.

Noreen Barclay has asked to step down as our Retail Chairperson. She will continue to assist the new Chairperson Linda Tuescher. Noreen has been responsible for raising thousands of dollars for the club due to her diligence, good taste, and business acumen. Noreen, you are an Irish treasure in every way, and I salute you.

Please remember to begin sending us your nominees for the 2009 honorees. The nominations are due before our board meeting in January. You may nominate any member you feel has earned the honor, and if you're not certain if that person is a member, please ask Noel Tylla the Membership Chair for verification. She's always willing to assist.

And now I wish you a most Happy New Year 2009, and want to see you at the next meeting.

– Julie Smith, President

INDEX

A Culver Thank You

Dear Shamrock Club of Wisconsin:

Thank you so much for the money you sent me in support of my Bands of America trip. I will be traveling to Pasadena, CA and on January 1, 2009, marching in the tournament of Roses Parade. I competed against other high school students around the U.S.A. but only 300 were selected. I will be playing cymbals in the drumline. My adventure will begin in Indianapolis, IN the weekend before Thanksgiving, where I will meet the rest of the drumline and learn the music. Remember the drumline is the heartbeat of the band! Thanks again for your generosity, I really appreciate it.

Keep the beat!

Hugs, Dave Culver

P.S. Remember to watch me on T.V.!

INDEX

Color Guard News and Notes

Merry Christmas Everyone!

The band wraps up the year with not one, but two Christmas parties. The Shamrock Club gathering on December 4 and the group's very own party on December 13. It's always a great time to get together with friends to reflect on the year that has passed and have a wee dram or two.

The band will take a break from mid-December to mid-January. If you're looking to join the group, that last practice is a great time to stop by and get information. It gives you a few weeks of your own to get a head start on practicing if you're learning the pipes or drums. Both the instrumental and color sections of the group would welcome new members. No experience necessary!

We're also looking at new music and parades for 2009. Believe it or not, St. Patrick's Day is a mere 12 weeks from New Year's Day! If anyone out there knows of a community in need of a pipe

band for their parade, send us an email to [richard-pfeiffer@sbcglobal.net]. All ideas are always entertained.

Before I forget, October's trip to Sister Bay was a success yet again. That community is so thankful that we take the time to do their parade, and stopped quite a few of us to tell us so. A *huge* thank you as well to the other pipers and drummers from *Zor*, *Celtic Nations*, and the *Highlanders* that joined us in going down the street. It's fun to have you with us every year...

Christmas I know is very special to everyone. For as much as I grumble when the Christmas music and decorations start in October, I love my memories of how special Christmas was being a child. How magical everything seemed. My parents even named me after a holiday season although I was born in September! As in the past few months, I wanted to end with a story. One of a Christmas miracle, of sorts. If you don't believe in them, it's ok. Every now and then the world brings on a surprise that makes you really believe in the magic that surrounds us.

I had an orange cat named Morris growing up? I think every little girl that age did. I adored him and he followed me everywhere I went? the best friend any 10-year old girl could ever have. One day in September, he was let outside, and sadly, never returned. Days went into weeks, weeks into months. I remember crossing off the days on my calendar each day he didn't return, crying and praying before I went to bed to just let him find his way home. Christmas approached and when asked what I wanted from Santa, I only responded with "I want Morris back home, that's all I want."

Christmas morning my parents did their best with the presents, but nothing was good enough. I went into the kitchen to prepare breakfast and looked out the snow covered window to the backyard. I saw something small in the far off distance making it's way towards the house. As it got closer and closer, I realized it was an orange cat, and it was my Morris! Beat up, missing half an ear and skinny as all get out, but purring the whole time I held him. He had come home on Christmas morning of all days after being gone for months, and made one little girl's wish come true. A miracle? Maybe not. But something magical on one of the most special days of the year. Makes you want to believe in miracles, huh?

To all of you, and yours, have a truly safe and special Holiday Season. Here's to 2009.

Happy Hogmanay!

– Noel Tylla, 5th year piper

[INDEX](#)

First Friday Lectures

The final Conference of Celtic Women was a huge success, held in early October at the Irish Fest Center. It featured native-born speakers from six of the seven Celtic nations, and a surprise Exceptional Celtic Woman award to Flora MacDonald Gammon.

The First Friday lectures will continue to be held at Greene Hall on the UWM campus. All lectures are 5:30-7 p.m. with a \$7 admission.

DECEMBER 5, 2008

Topic: "Waterford Crystal – Christmas Social"

Speakers: Lynne Grant & Karren Gervasio

Entertainment: Gina Crossley

Our Social lecture will open with Gina singing a couple of beautiful Christmas carols to get in the seasonal mood.

Waterford Crystal traces its roots to Waterford, Ireland in 1873 when businessmen George and William Penrose founded the Waterford Glass House and began to make crystal in "as fine a quality as any in Europe in the most elegant style." Hear about the history of this fine crystal, available nearby in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin. And a promise of a really special door prize for someone just before Christmas!

As usual we will have Christmas goodies provided by those who attend tonight (you). We hope to see you on December 5 to get in the Christmas holiday spirit.

[INDEX](#)

Christmas Party 2008

Our annual Christmas Party will take place on Thursday, December 4, 2008 at the ICHC at 6 p.m. We will again be using all of the lower level of the building. The Shamrock Club will be providing meat as well as beverages. We are asking members whose last names start with A to N to bring a side dish of vegetables or salads, and from O to Z to bring desserts. We will again have entertainment from Santa Claus and the Irish Fest Choir. Reservations will be needed, so please sign up in advance. For reservations and information, call Malkin Wallace at (414) 234-0653.

INDEX

Bylaws

On October 2nd the bylaws committee met and recommended the following changes to the by-laws which were approved by the Board of Directors on October 30.

ARTICLE VII BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 4 Membership Chairperson

Shall maintain a supply of membership forms approved by the board; shall issue membership cards to new members; shall receive new member applications, and shall maintain a current list of member names, addresses, all pertinent telephone numbers, date of joining the Club and areas of service potential; shall provide the president with the current membership list during the months of June and December; shall provide Activities chairpersons with a member name and telephone list, with an indication (coding) of service potential and date of joining the Club; shall perform duties associated with the office of a board member.

Shall be changed as follows;

Shall maintain a supply of membership forms approved by the board; shall issue membership cards to new members; shall receive new member applications, and shall maintain a current list of member names, addresses, E-MAIL ADDRESSES, all pertinent telephone numbers and date of joining the Club; shall provide the President with the current member list during the months of June and December; shall provide Activities chairpersons with a member name, telephone list, E-MAIL ADDRESSES and date of joining the Club; shall perform duties associated with the office of a board member.

By these changes the membership chairperson is given permission to collect e-mail address from members and given permission to distribute such to Activities Chairpersons. Remember it is optional on the member's part to give an e-mail address.

Also delete the reference to service potential.

My thanks to the by laws committee; Tom Blaha, Ed Mikush, Heather Majusiak and Mary McAndrews.

This suggested change will be voted upon at the January, 2009 meeting.

– Josh Walton, Bylaw chair and Parliamentarian

INDEX

Shamrock Club Upcoming Meetings:

The Shamrock Club meets the first Thursday of the month, usually at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center. Upcoming meetings will include the following entertainers:

December 4 – Shamrock Club Christmas Party at the ICHC; The Irish Fest Choir will perform and Santa and Mrs. Santa will make an appearance; 6 p.m.

January 8 – Barry Stapleton, director of the Ward Irish Music Archives, will speak. Irish Fest Center, 1532 Wauwatosa Avenue; 7 p.m.

February 5 – TBA; Irish Honorees to be introduced; 7 p.m.; ICHC.

March 5 – Shamrock Club's 49th birthday party. Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums will present a concert.

April 2 – Irish Fest School of Music; Irish Fest Center; 7 p.m. – Sandy Quinlan, VP.

INDEX

50th Anniversary Committee

The 50th anniversary committee is looking for ideas for the Shamrock Club's celebration. Planned so far are a trip to Ireland, a dinner dance in September 2010, and a commemorative book. If you have any suggestions, or would wish to join the committee, please contact Josh Walton at [joshwalton1@yahoo.com].

INDEX

Tony Kenny at ICHC

The enchantment, joy and warmth of the holidays in Ireland will be celebrated closer to home when Tony Kenny, Ireland's premier

entertainer, brings a holiday extravaganza to the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, on Wednesday, Dec. 17, at 7:30 p.m. "Christmas Time in Ireland" is a family show that wraps traditional Yuletide favorites along with classic Irish holiday songs, dance, wit and wisdom into a beautiful package.

An award-winning vocalist and internationally acclaimed star of Jury's Irish Cabaret in Dublin, Kenny will be accompanied by an outstanding ensemble of some of Ireland's leading entertainers. Kenny has recorded 12 albums including "The Very Best of Tony Kenny's Ireland," which gained platinum status.

Also appearing with Kenny are:

- Comedian Joe Cuddy, who is regarded as one of Ireland's top comics.
- Kenny's 20-year-old daughter Victoria, who has sung in many of Ireland's major theaters and with her father in Branson, Mo.
- Kathy Durbin, who is a leading entertainer and recording artist in Ireland.
- The Dublin City Dancers, which includes performers from prestigious productions such as *Riverdance* and *Lord of the Dance*.

Tickets for the show are \$19 in advance and \$21 at the door with discounts for students and groups. To order online, visit [www.ihc.net]. Tickets may also be ordered by calling (414) 345-8800.

– **Kathy Schultz**

[INDEX](#)

Nominations For Irish Honorees

Nominations for the Irishman of the Year, Irish Rose, and Parade Marshal will be taken in December and January. Nominations must be in by the January board meeting. Each nominee must be a club member to be eligible. Send nominations to Shamrock Club, 2133 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53233.

[INDEX](#)

Milwaukee AOH News

On Wednesday, December 10, The Milwaukee Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians will have its New Member Initiation and Christmas Party at the ICHC at 6 p.m. It opens with Mass and initiation at 6 p.m., and is followed by our Christmas party. Contact Tim O'Brien about tickets for the dinner at (414) 444-1989. Spouses are welcome. Our next meeting will take place January 14, 2009, at Derry's Pub at 7:15 p.m.

Roger Walsh advises that our 2008 Spaghetti Dinner is history and it was a great affair. The turnout was one of our largest. Our program book ad sales and donations were only slightly below our record 2007 year; our raffle/silent auction proceeds exceeded our previous high. The fundraiser is for scholarships for the Jesuit Nativity School, Notre Dame Middle School, and St Rose of Lima Academy.

– Doug Smith, President

INDEX

Sunshine Club

James Liddy recently died. James served as head of the Shamrock Club's Scholarship committee for many years.

Tom Callen recently had a kidney transplant. Bonnie McLaughlin recently had surgery. Ruth Wenzel, the mother of Bob Towne, died recently. Judge Robert Cannon, the father of Mary Cannon, died recently. Mary Hiller underwent chemotherapy again recently. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Pat Sadowski died in October. She was the longtime membership chair for the Shamrock Club. She served as the Shamrock Club's dance coordinator for Folk Fair, and was also selected as Irish Rose. She was volunteer of the year for Milwaukee Irish Fest, and ran the Irish Fest Summer School's sales booth at the festival, and was also a longtime volunteer for the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center. Her husband Gene was a founding member of the Shamrock Club Color Guard.

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

INDEX

Members Doings

Erin Hughes and Andy Rinderle tied the knot on November 8. Kyran Hamill recently got engaged. He is the son of Bob and Peg Hamill. Bobby Hamill recently went to George Mason University as a part of Freedom Week. Mary Beth Holloway went to Phoenix on vacation. Cynthia Nazario recently spent weekends in San Francisco and Seattle.

[INDEX](#)