



The Irish Mummers

When one thinks of mummers, for older Americans, the annual Philadelphia parade comes to mind. Or, for many, the mummers that come to mind most often are the Wren Boys, the people who travel from house to house on St. Stephen's Day, December 26. But they aren't the only mummers.

However, the practice has been a part of Ireland since the dawn of the island's history. The masked tradition of 'mumming' in Ulster is said to date back 2500 years. In the ancient annals of Ulster, men in tall conical masks made of straw are mentioned as the court entertainers to King Conor MacNessa, who lived at the royal fort of Emain Macha, modern Navan, in Armagh.

While the origins of mumming and the Mummer's Play are unclear, it's obvious when one reads the verses of traditional Irish mumming that many of the characters, for example, St. George, are extremely closely related to England. In fact, the tradition seems to be a part of all of the British Isles, including Cornwall, England and Scotland. The word mummer is sometimes explained to derive from Middle English, mum ("silent") or Greek, mommo ("mask"), but more likely may have been from the Early New German word, mummer, or "disguised person."

In mummers' plays, the central incident is the killing and restoring to life of one of the characters. The characters may be introduced in a series of short speeches (usually in rhyming couplets) in which each personage has his own introductory announcement, or they may introduce themselves in the course of the play's action. The principal characters, presented in a wide variety of manner and style, are a Hero, his chief opponent, the Fool, and a quack Doctor. The defining feature of

mumming plays is the Doctor, and the main purpose of the fight is to provide him with a patient to cure. The hero sometimes kills and sometimes is killed by his opponent. In either case, the Doctor comes to restore the dead man to life.

The Irish variant of the play featured St. Patrick in battle with the Turkish Knight, Dick Darby the Cobbler, Slick Slack, with the wife and children on his back, Big Head, Oliver Cromwell, and the Doctor, with his bag of medicines and cures.

There was also a reference of King Henry's celebration of Christmas in Dublin in 1172 as "...the sport, and the mirth, and the continual musicke, the masking, the mumming and strange shewes, the gold, the silver, and plate, the precious ornaments, the dainty dishes...."

Irish celebrations involving mumming at Christmas, and the plays, were very popular in Irish population centers in the Middle Ages. For instance, the guilds presented a different show each day in Dublin. In one year, 1458, a different play was presented each day of Christmas week, on a stage at Hoggen Green. The tailors guild went to the beginning, and portrayed a clothed version of Adam and Eve. The carpenter's guild presented a nativity play, and the shoemakers told the story of St. Crispin, their patron saint;. Some groups went back to Greek and Roman deities. The blacksmiths presented

a story about the god of fire, Vulcan; the winemakers offered up the god of wine, (and debauchery), Bacchus; and the bakers, the goddess of grain, Ceres.

The Wren Boys were a Christmas tradition. The killing of a wren, or using a substitute in an empty coffin, and then going to beg for food, alcohol or other treats on St. Stephen's Day, December 26, hearkened to the pre-Christian era. The wren was known as the Druid's bird, and was also noted as having betrayed St. Stephen in the furze when the Roman soldiers were searching for him. It was seen in early times as being a sign of killing off the ancient practices, in honor of the birth of Christ, with the execution of the bird. The Wren Boys would wander house to house, in disguise, singing songs, occasionally acting out entire segments of the set piece. (At one point, the killing of wrens in Counties Cork and Kerry was banned, in part because so many birds were being killed in the winter.)

In much of Ireland, the practice of mumming faded away. Ulster had been a stronghold of the plays, as had the west of Ireland. However, over the years, and due to new entertainments, it ebbed away. Some areas never had the tradition die off. In Dingle today, there is still a Wren Boy parade. Marchers wend their way through the Kerry town's streets in full regalia,

continued on page 5

DECEMBER 6, 2012 • 6 P.M.

MILWAUKEE MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Irish Cultural and Heritage Center (2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue)



Christmas Potluck and Party, Please Bring:

A-F Deserts; G-L Main Dish; M-S Salad; T-Z Any of the Above

☘ Milwaukee Calendar of Events ☘

For More Information visit <http://shamrockclubwis.com>

DECEMBER

- 1 ICHC Celtic Christmas Boutique; Irish Cultural and Heritage Center; 6 pm
- 1 Teada; Irish Christmas in America; ICHC; 7:30 pm
- 6 Shamrock Club Monthly Meeting/Christmas Party; ICHC; 6 pm
- 7 Leahy Family Christmas; Schauer Arts & Activities Center, Hartford; 7:30 pm
- 8 Breakfast with Nick McFest; Milwaukee Irish Fest Center; 8 am
- 8 Shamrock Club Christmas Caroling; County Clare; 6:00 pm
- 8 Leahy Family Christmas; Young Auditorium; University of Wisconsin at Whitewater; 7:30 pm
- 8 Cherish the Ladies; Sharon Lynn Wilson Center for the Arts; Brookfield
- 15 Tallymoore; Milwaukee Irish Fest Center, Holiday Concert; \$10 and food donation for food pantry; 8 pm
- 29 The Almost New Years Set Dance; ICHC; Music by The Cosmic Otters; 7 pm

JANUARY

- 3 Shamrock Club Monthly Meeting; ICHC; 7 pm, Snacks at 6:30 pm
- 19 Wisconsin Winterfeis; Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport
- 20 Dairyland Feis; Crowne Plaza Milwaukee Airport
- 26 Monthly Set Dance; ICHC; Music by Ceol Cairde ; 7 pm

FEBRUARY

- 7 Shamrock Club monthly meeting; ICHC; 7 pm
- 22-24 12th Annual Midwinter Set Dance Weekend; Music by Maria Terres and Friends, Capitol Ceili Band and Cosmic Otters

ON GOING ... Set dancing at the following: Set dancing Wednesdays, 7 P.M. at O'Donoghue's ☘ Craobh Curtin Conradh na Gaeilge meeting at O'Donoghue's Pub, 7 P.M., last Tuesday each month ☘ Irish Emigration Library in ICHC open every Wednesday 2-8 P.M. ☘ Irish Sing-a-long, Irish Fest Center, First Sundays, (through May) 7 P.M. ☘ Irish Fest Song Circle, O'Donoghue's Pub, second and fourth Tuesday, 7 P.M. ☘ Irish Music Sessions at the following: ☘ Session at Ivanhoe's, Racine, 4 P.M. third Sundays ☘ Session - O'Donoghue's, Sundays 7 P.M.; Thursdays @ Paddy's 7 P.M.; and The Pub in Oconomowoc, 7:30 P.M. ☘ Thursdays: Barry Dodd; County Clare Inn; 10 P.M. ☘ Fridays – áthas and Myserk; County Clare Inn; 6 P.M. ☘ Sundays: áthas; Brocach Milwaukee ☘

Shamrock Club Goes Christmas Caroling!



Our Club will be going Christmas Caroling at local establishments on the lower eastside and downtown Milwaukee on Dec 8th from 6-10 pm. This will be a fund raiser for a food bank and individual families for the holiday season this year. There will be also prizes offered including, a free night at County Clare, Certificates by O'Donoghue's Irish Pub in Elm Grove, and a full size Christmas Tree to name a few so far.

If you are interested in caroling, please see Denis Donohoe or Ken Tehan at the meeting to sign-up or a flyer about the event. Come and have a great time !!!!

Ceili Dances

Join us at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., for family Irish dancing at its best! Beginners and all ages welcome. Instruction begins at 7:30 P.M. and continues all evening. Music and dancing begin 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.

December 2012

- Fri., Dec. 7 – áthas
- Sat., Dec. 15 – Wise Maids

Entrance is \$8.00 Adults, and \$5.00 for Students, Seniors, and Children. All proceeds benefit the work of the ICHC.

Milwaukee Set Dance has monthly dances at the ICHC, as well. Upcoming dances are:

- December 29 - The Almost New Year's Set Dance - music by The Cosmic Otters
- January 26 - music by Ceol Cairde
- February 22-24 – 12th Annual Midwinter Set Dance Weekend – music by Maria & Friends, Capitol Ceili Band and Cosmic Otters

Glenn's Snow Plowing

Glenn Nowak

Owner

414-466-8060 Home/Fax
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ganowak@wi.rr.com



Milwaukee President's Message

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving full of turkey, stuffing, pumpkin pie and many wonderful things to be thankful for.

Our annual Honoree Dinner was held November 11th at Klemmers. The food was outstanding and we had a wonderful time. Thanks to Mary Jo Kaufmann for organizing this event, we appreciate it. Please remember to send your nominations for our 2013 honorees. We will need their names in writing or e-mail them to me no later than our Jan. 31st board meeting.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered at this year's Holiday Folk Fair. The theme was The Culture of the Story. It was an opportunity to share our Irish stories and culture to the rest of our community. Special thank you to Holiday Folk Fair coordinator and food booth chair Mary Culver, cultural booth chair Pam Canon, and retail chairs Glenn and Kim Nowak. An extra big thank you to Sue Dushek and our boys Clay, Jacob, Eric and Ryan for their endless hours they each put in.

December 6th is our annual Christmas Party held during our general meeting. This event begins at 6 p.m. with dinner being served at 6:30 p.m. Please bring a dish to pass, the club will provide the main course. Our retail will be set-up that evening, so bring your pennies and do a little Christmas shopping. Glenn and Kim have done a wonderful job in buying and we surely have some beautiful items. We might even have a visit from a special guest straight from the North Pole. Come join us on the evening of Dec. 8th. We'll be Christmas caroling at some of our local establishments and it is a fundraiser for a local food pantry and individual families. See details in this month's *Reflections*. Come share some Christmas Spirit with us. See you at our events.

Nollaig Shona Duit. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from our family to yours,

God Bless,
- Kathy Donovan, President
kay_dee@live.com



Milwaukee Membership News

Well, I hope everyone enjoyed a great fall season and Folk Fair. If you did not go, you certainly missed a wonderful time. As we look ahead to our celebrations of Christmas and New Years, remember that burning that Yuletide Log can come with unpredictable results as I found out last month burning down my garage. But everyone is safe, the cats have 8 lives left, and we did save all of the holiday spirits of course, which my wife appreciated very much. Thanks from my family to all of you for your support and jokes, they were great!!

Please welcome our new members Joan Kenney and Dr. Dale Riebesehl. At present, the Milwaukee Chapter as of Sept 18 has 350 Memberships with 145 Families, 173 single, and 32 complimentary (libraries, businesses, etc.) memberships.

Please be sure to have your memberships renewals in before November 30 for those who expire on or before 11/30/2012 and have not renewed yet.

We hope you can attend our December Christmas Party/meeting and see you soon and check out the Club apparel we have for sale, see Glenn Nowak.

- Denis Donohoe
Membership Chair



**DISCOVER IRELAND
WITH JOHN GLEESON**

To celebrate the year of The Gathering, John Gleeson will be leading a special tour to Ireland in 2013. This will be John's first tour for the community in some-time and he is looking forward to taking old and new friends to favorite landscapes in his native land and introducing them to his many auld segotias there—charming characters all!

The itinerary includes the cultural cities of Dublin, Kilkenny, Galway, and Sligo, and the glorious scenery of the Dingle Peninsula, the Cliffs of Moher, and the Aran Islands. There will be visits to many places of historical interest including Kilkenny Castle, the Rock of Cashel, Gallarus Oratory, and Kilmainham Gaol. Evenings will be filled with Celtic theatre, music and storytelling.

The dates are May 26 - June 4 and the cost is \$2700.

The trip is being run by Hart Park Senior Center in Wauwatosa and a complete itinerary with terms and conditions may be had by calling Merry at the Center at 414-471-8495, email - mjohanson@ymcamke.org.

Nominations For Irish Honorees

Nominations for the 2013 Irish Rose, Irishman of the Year, and Parade Marshal, must be received by 6 pm January 31, before the start of the Shamrock Club Board Meeting. Nominations must be in writing, or e-mailed, and be made by members in good standing. Nominations can be mailed to Shamrock Club, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53233, or e-mailed to Kathy Donovan at kay_dee@live.com.

Word of the Month

Eilifint - (ele-fint) - Elephant
Ní dhéanann eilifint dearmad ar rud ar bith.
(Ní jean-an ele-fint jermad are rud ar beth)
An elephant never forgets.



Emerald Reflections Copy Deadline

Content for Emerald Reflections is due on the fifteenth of the month (next deadline: December 15th to appear in the January issue.) Copy received after the fifteenth of the month will not appear. E-mail submissions preferred, send to:

Brian Witt, Editor

emeraldreflections@shamrockclubwis.com



Christmas Party - Nollaig Shona Daoibh!

Join us for the Shamrock Club's Christmas Party

Thursday, December 6, 2012

Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 6:00 PM

Potluck -

Entertainment includes Patti and Dan Stotmeister with Rand Harteau, Caroling, Irish Dancing by Erin Canon and more!!

See you there!

Membership Chairs

DANE COUNTY Pat McCarthy
P.O. Box 70765, Madison 53707-0765
pmmccarthy@charter.net; (608) 277-0394

FOX CITIES P.O. Box 1632, Appleton 54912

LA CROSSE Linda O. Pfaff,
1702 Jackson St., LaCrosse 54601

LAFAYETTE CO. Beverly Mulcahy,
504 E. Mary, Apt. A, Darlington 54530

MILWAUKEE Member. Chair Denis Donohoe
2133 West Wisconsin Avenue,
Milwaukee, WI 53233
(262) 309-0723, email: djvdonohoe@sbcglobal.net

NEW DUBLIN Suzi Snyder,
313 W. Beacon Ave., New London 54961

NORTHEAST WISC. Judy Brehm,
2577 Oakwood Ave., Green Bay 54301

SOUTH CENTRAL Dana Horkan-Gant,
610 Vine St., Reedsburg 53959; (608) 524-6821;
email: willardana@yahoo.com

E-mail: club@shamrockclubwis.com

Web site: http://shamrockclubwis.com

To become a member of the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin contact the membership chair of the chapter you would like to join. **MILWAUKEE ONLY:** Family membership (includes both parents and all children under eighteen) - \$25.00. Single membership - \$20.00. Membership is renewable annually on the anniversary month of the original membership. Please send all new and renewal Milwaukee club membership dues to Membership Chair, 2133 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53233. Be sure to send change of address notification to Membership Chair, also. The post office will NOT forward copies of Reflections.

A chara, Dear friend of Celtic Studies,

Whether you are a new or returning student, I want to let you know that there is still room in the following exciting classes for Spring 2013. We are particularly delighted to be able to offer some special courses for the first time. These include: McKayla Sutton's course on Irish revolutions, and our new and unique Irish Dance History and Practice. The latter is taught in two sessions. One session takes the form of lectures on the history and culture of Irish dance. The second session is practical instruction in the dance itself and is divided into two components, one for absolute beginners, and the other for students with prior experience with Irish dance. Apart from immersing yourself in the brilliant tradition that gave us Riverdance, the course provides a pleasant way to stay fit and receive credit at the same time.

If you enjoy watching films from a variety of genres and discussing them with your peers, then our Green Screen: Images of Ireland in Film which meets once a week on Wednesday evenings is for you.

A note to students working on their Certificate in Celtic Studies: 9 credits from upper level (300 or above) courses are a requirement for the certificate. Our Spring offerings provide many opportunities to meet these requirements. The classes in the English, History and Dance departments are also an excellent way to fulfill GER requirements or requirements within majors and minors.

Looking to the future, please keep in mind the opportunities we offer to study abroad in Ireland. Our Oideas Gael summer program will be open for registration in early Spring 2013. This affordable (scholarships and grants available) 6 credit three week course offers you the opportunity to experience the joys of Irish culture and

language in a very beautiful and welcoming part of Ireland.

CELTIC

- 104: Second Semester Gaelic
001: MW 9:30am-10:45am, John Gleeson
- 204: Fourth Semester Gaelic
001: MW 11:00am-12:15pm, Bairbre Ní Chiardha
- 250: Selected Topics in Celtic Studies
001: Irish Folk Beliefs & Religious Practice
TR 4:00pm-5:15pm, John Gleeson
- 002: The Green Screen: Images of Ireland in Film
W 6:00pm-8:40pm, John Gleeson
- 350: Advanced Topics in Celtic Studies
001: Irish Revolutions: Past and Present
TR 12:30pm-1:45pm, McKayla Sutton
- 202: The Archaeology of Ireland
Online Course, Christine Hamlin

ENGLISH

- 285: Modern Irish Language and Literature in Translation
001: TR 1:00pm-2:15pm, Sandra Hofmann
- 306: Survey of Irish Literature
001: T 3:30pm-6:10pm, Josepha Lanters
- 325: The Art of Fiction
001: The Irish Short Story
TR 9:30am-10:45am, Andrew Kincaid

HISTORY

- 371: Topics in European History
003: Christianity in Early England & Ireland
MW 12:30pm-1:45pm, Judith Beall

DANCE

- 370: World Movement Tradition: Irish Dance History and Practice
801 (Beginners) M 2:30pm-3:45pm,
4:00pm-5:15pm, David Meyer
- 811 (Advanced) M 4:00pm-5:15pm,
5:30pm-6:45pm, David Meyer

If you have any questions about these classes or meeting any of the Certificate requirements please contact me at gleeson@uwm.edu.

Slán, - John Gleeson

continued from page 1

straw conical shaped hats and straw costumes, singing, playing, and often begging, on St Stephen's Day each year.

The Armagh Rhymers were leaders in the revival of mumming in Ulster and Ireland. Milwaukee favorites since the late 1980's, they have appeared at the Milwaukee Irish Fest, the Shamrock Club's Post Parade Party, and the St. Patrick Day Parade in Milwaukee. In Ireland, they resurrected the folk-theatre art, and also revived the straw costuming of years gone by. The Armagh Rhymers are one of Northern Ireland's most celebrated folk theatre ensembles. They have delighted audiences all over the world with their unique blend of music, drama, song and dance. Their work with school children ensured a new audience, and they have also drawn the young into the ranks of the second generation of the Rhymers.

In Ireland today, there has been a greater revival of mumming in other areas, notably in south Co, Wexford, where competitions between groups are held annually. These groups have performed in Dublin and elsewhere, have appeared on television, and have gone abroad to participate in international folk festivals.

In a Wexford Mummer's play, composed about the beginning of the 20th century, all of the characters are from Irish history - Colmcille, Brian Boru, Art MacMorrrough, Owen Roe O'Neill, Sarsfield, Wolf Tone. Lord Edward, Lelly of Killane, Michael Dwyer, Robert Emmet and Fr. John Murphy, all led by a captain who calls on each to speak his lines. Other places finding a resurgence in mumming are Sligo and Mayo.

Wexford mumming differs from all others in that the highlight of the performance is an intricate sword dance performed by 12 players, each with a wooden sword. Six players line up and the other six form a line opposite them. When the music begins, the players sway left and right and then, with their swords held above their heads, they make the outline of an upright figure eight. At a designated point in the ritual, the men commence a rhythmic "swordfight" - the sounds of the swords adding a dramatic accompaniment to the music. Apparently, it was a stirring and exciting spectacle, especially when the music was well done and the combatants kept good time.

Besides the name Mummers, players are also known as Christmas Rhymers and Hogmanay Men. Traditionally they performed during the twelve days of Christmas, although more recently groups have travelled about at any time between mid-December and the end of the year. You may find them at your door, with this refrain:

*"Here we stand before your door,
As we stood the year before;
Give us whiskey; give us gin,
Open the door and let us in."*

Milwaukee had a troupe of Wren Boys back in the early 1990's. On Stephen's Day, they would go from house to house, entertaining the inhabitants with Slick-Slack, Dick Darby, and others. (I was a member of the group for a bit, usually as Slick-Slack, with my wife and family on my back.) If they appear at your door, singing, "The Wren, the Wren, the King of the Birds..." let them in, knowing you are partaking in a ceremony that goes back to the start the Irish story. You may need to feed them. Here are a couple of recipes for Christmas that are easy to prepare:

Quick Irish Stew

Ingredients:

4 cups cooked, cubed chicken breast meat
1 cup chopped onion, sauteed in butter
1-1/2 cups chopped carrots
6 cups chicken stock
1 teaspoon dried sage
1 teaspoon dried basil leaves
1 teaspoon garlic salt
1 teaspoon dried parsley
1 (10 ounce) package frozen mixed vegetables, thawed
3 cups cooked, diced red potatoes
1/2 cup chopped celery
1/8 cup all-purpose flour

Cooking Instructions:

1. Combine chicken, mushrooms, onion, carrots and stock in a large saucepan over medium heat. Simmer until carrots are tender, about 10 minutes.
2. Stir in sage, basil, garlic salt, parsley, mixed vegetables, potatoes and celery and cook until heated through. Stir in flour to thicken sauce, then serve.

Shepherd's pie is a hearty one-dish meal that has a topping of mashed potatoes over a rich meat filling. Thanks to instant mashed potatoes and a jar of gravy, this version is streamlined to the point where you can have it on the dinner table in an hour. All you need to serve with it is a tossed green salad.

Shepherd's Pie

Ingredients:

2 large carrots, peeled & chopped (about 1 cup)
1/2 small onion, chopped fine
2 tablespoons olive oil
1-1/4 pounds lean ground beef
Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
1/2 cup frozen corn kernels
1 cup purchased beef gravy
2-1/2 to 3 cups mashed potatoes from a mix (follow the directions for 6 servings)
1 egg
2 tablespoons milk

Cooking Instructions:

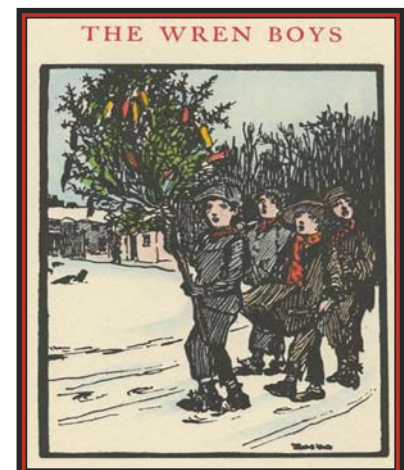
Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Spray a 2-quart baking dish with cooking spray. In a large skillet, saute the carrots and onion in the olive oil for about 5 minutes, or until soft. Add the ground beef and cook for 10 minutes or until it is done, breaking it up with a large spoon as it browns. Drain any accumulated fat from the beef mixture. Season with salt and pepper. Stir in the frozen corn kernels. Spoon the mixture into the baking dish. Pour the gravy over the ground beef mixture. Bake, uncovered, for 20 minutes.

While the beef mixture bakes, prepare the potatoes according to the directions on the box. Spoon the mashed potato topping over the meat mixture, spreading it out so that it is even.

In a small bowl, beat the egg with the milk. Brush the egg-milk mixture evenly over the mashed potato topping.

Return the dish to the oven and bake it for 10 minutes. Remove and set oven to broil. Broil the shepherd's pie for 5 minutes, or until the mashed potatoes are golden brown.

**And, Nollaig Shona Daoibh.
Happy Christmas to All!
- Brian Witt**





Mystic Ireland

Open House Day
December 8th, 10am-4pm

FREE Irish Soda, Irish Cheese, Biscuits & Treats, Prizes and much more!

Special showing of Irish Wools & Capes and New Jewelry

One Time Specials & Discounts

Mystic Ireland Gift Shop
Elm Grove
262-784-5880

15% off any ONE item with ad

Retail Report

At the December general meeting we will have many of our products set up for your last minute Christmas shopping, we will be offering a clearance table, as well as offering the "New" products we have ordered during the Celtic Marketplace in September.

In January we are scheduled to sell at the Winter Feis, watch for more details to follow.

- Glenn and Kim Nowak
Retail Chairs



Glenn's Corner Cupboard

- December: Christmas Pot Luck/Party: A-F please bring a dessert, G-L bring a main dish, M-S salad, and T-Z any of the above.
- January: Your Favorite Hors d'oeuvres
- February: Chili Cook-Off!

-Glenn

Celtic Women International

The CWI Book Club is continuing to meet at the ICHC. In October the group discussed Patricia Falvey's *The Yellow House* and enjoyed the reports of members who attended Chicago's IBAM. November's meeting featured Anthony Bailey's *A Walk Through Wales*, an insightful view of the country.

The Club welcomes new members as well as suggestions of titles for future selections.

- Rosemary Walsh
rowalsh@wi.rr.com

Donn Goodwin's Poetry Corner



Christmas Eve in Galway by Martain O'Flaherty

I stood on the shore,
Wind off the Atlantic,
Connemara Bens roll behind me.
The stars hang, sharp, bright.
Is one the Christmas light?



Five Clues

Here is our Irish person of mystery for December:

1. I was born to a Protestant Dublin family.
2. Early on, I joined the Abbey theatre.
3. An ardent Irish nationalist, I fought the Easter Rising of 1916, and was imprisoned.
4. I was discovered by John Ford, and performed in a number of his movies.
5. I died in Santa Barbara, California, and was interred in Ireland.

If you know the answer, please email it to: info@shamrockclubwis.com.

Dane County Shamrock Club

The Shamrock Club Christmas Party is scheduled for December 2 at the Coliseum Bar. A social hour will begin at noon and dinner will be served at 1:00 pm. If you haven't sent in your reservation, I urge you to do so at this time. A form can be found in this newsletter. Entertainment will be provided by Diane Robinson who I am sure everyone in attendance will enjoy. As usual, the club will have its raffle with lots of great prizes. Donated raffle prizes are always welcome and should be brought to the party.

Help the food pantry! All attendees at the Christmas party are invited to bring non-perishable food products or a cash donation which will be donated to a local food pantry.

We are looking for nominations for Irish Person of the Year. Nominations must be in writing and submitted by January 4, 2013. Each member can submit one nomination. The Board of Directors will meet and select the person to receive this award and they will be honored at the St. Patrick's Day activities.

- Harry McCarthy

Pete Fleming



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Shamrock Club Member

Holiday Folk Fair 2012

To all our fantastic volunteers...You Rock! This year's Folk Fair was a huge success. Our call to Club members and families for time and talent was answered with a resounding Yes! Glenn, Kim, Pam and I can't thank you enough. Yes, the hours were long, but the food was flowing, and the camaraderie and team spirit made me forget my tired feet and sore back. We had special helpers this year, Michelle McCormack was a beautiful addition hawking food at the Irish Cafe. Mike Malloy's granddaughter came to hang out with grandpa and help serve food all the way from Oklahoma. Bob Towne brought 2 granddaughters and his daughter along this year. Our newest member of the SCCGPD drum line, Christine had 3 fabulous students of hers help at the Cafe and receive credit for 4 hours of service. Plus, bonus - one of her students, Kim, had so much fun serving at the Cafe and learning about the Club from Clay Culver and Jacob Nowak that she and her twin brother Joe are joining the SCCGPD drum line! Kim plays snare and Joe plays bass on their drum line at school. Wow! Glenn and Kim Nowak had 2 young women from church come and help at the Marketplace, also receiving service hours. This incredible enthusiasm and spirit of giving is what makes our Club so special.

But I cannot bring this year's Folk Fair to an end without thanking Sue Dushek and her sons Eric and Ryan for all their hard work and time, talent and ENTHUSIASM! I know I could not have done it without you! To Glenn, Kim, Nick and Jacob Nowak I'm so grateful for all you do! To Pam and Del Canon for providing a great Cultural experience and making our cottage beautiful. Finally, to my son Clay and friend Maddie Gibbs, I am so proud to call you my family! Please take the time to thank these members as they are at Folk Fair from set-up to breakdown, with smiles hello and hugs goodbye. If I missed thanking you, please know you are appreciated, as our Irish spirit is what makes us moving forward for generations to come. Next up... Christmas Caroling... See you there!

- Mary Culver 2012 Holiday Folk Fair General Chair



Photos by
Ron Danielson and
Mary Culver



SHAMROCK CLUB OF WISCONSIN

2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53223

For Information: <http://shamrockclubwis.com>
or: www.saintpatricksparade.org

An Old Gaelic Prayer

May the Road Rise to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
till the rains fall soft upon your fields.
And, until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hands.

Shamrock Club Mission Statement -

To promote, preserve and participate in Irish Culture of the arts, education and athletics in our community and all that is Irish.



EMERALD REFLECTIONS PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Retail Booth at the 2012 International Holiday Folk Fair

- Photo by Mary Culver