



St. Brigid of Ireland

I first met St. Brigid's holy wells and shrines during my first trip to Ireland, way back in 1989. We had a meandering method of traveling, driving to someplace, arriving somewhere, stay for the night, and go someplace else the next day.

After leaving Newgrange, we decided to drive to Drogheda, to possibly see the king's sword. (William of Orange's mace and sword were displayed for decades.) However, with a spike in the tire, we had to wait for the repair at the shop when Mary saw the notice of the shrine to St. Brigid outside Dundalk. It was another side trip in a fortnight of side trips.

We drove up to a glass shrine, with an aluminum St. Brigid's Cross adorning the top. Around the perimeter, along the barb wire fence, were the ephemera of those looking for intercession from Mary of the Gaels. This was only two weeks after her feast day, February 1, so the shrine would have been visited quite extensively at that time. This was the birthplace of Brigid, the fantastical figure of Irish hagiography.

Brigid may have been born in Dundalk, County Louth, Ireland. Because of the fabulous and legendary quality of the earliest accounts of her life, there is much debate among many secular scholars and even faithful Christians as to the authenticity of her biographies. According to her biographers her parents were Dubhthach, a Pagan chieftain of Leinster, and Brocca, a Christian Pict and slave who had been baptized by Saint Patrick.

From the start, it is clear that Brigid is holy. Before a name had been given to the infant, Dubhthach dreams of three clerics baptizing her. One of the clerics told her father, "Let Brigid be your name for the girl." When the druid tries to feed her, she

vomits because he is impure. Dubhthach recognized his impurity and finds a white cow with red ears to sustain her instead. Brigid was cited for a number of miracles, including healing and feeding the poor. According to one tale, as a child, she once gave away her mother's entire store of butter. The butter was then replenished in answer to Brigid's prayers. Another time, not quite as miraculous, she gave away all of her father's armor from his chariot to help the poor, thus teaching the man not to leave her alone in the chariot when he went visiting.

As a young woman, she entered the religious life. The ceremony was performed by St. Mel, in modern Co. Westmeath. Mel also granted her abbatial powers. She followed Saint Mel into the Kingdom of Teathbha, which is made up of sections of modern Meath, Westmeath and Longford. This occurred about 468. According to legend, Brigid was ordained bishop by Bishop Mel at Mag Tulach, and her successors have always been given Episcopal honor.

Brigid's small oratory at Cill-Dara (Kildare) became a center of religion and learning, and developed into a cathedral city. She founded two monastic institutions, one for men, and the other for women, and appointed Saint Conleth as spiritual pastor of them. It has been

frequently stated that she gave canonical jurisdiction to Saint Conleth, Bishop of Kildare, but, as Archbishop Healy points out, she simply "selected the person to whom the Church gave this jurisdiction," and her biographer tells us distinctly that she chose Saint Conleth "to govern the church along with herself." Thus, for centuries, Kildare was ruled by a double line of abbot-bishops and of abbesses, the Abbess of Kildare being regarded as superior general of the monasteries in Ireland.

Brigid also founded a school of art, including metal work and illumination, over which Conleth presided. The Kildare scriptorium produced the Book of Kildare, which elicited high praise from Giraldus Cambrensis, but which has disappeared since the Reformation. According to Giraldus, nothing that he had ever seen was at all comparable to the book, every page of which was gorgeously illuminated, and he concludes by saying that the interlaced work and the harmony of the colors left the impression that "all this is the work of angelic, and not human skill."

There is evidence in the Trias Thaumaturga for Brigid's stay in Connacht, especially in County Roscommon and also

continued on page 5

FEBRUARY 6, 2014 • 7 P.M.

MILWAUKEE MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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



Chili Cook-Off at 6:30. There is still time to enter your chili!

Everyone please bring a side dish or dessert to share!

☘ Milwaukee Calendar of Events ☘

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

FEBRUARY

- 3 Irish Genealogical Society of Wis.; Shorewood Library; Reach Out Ireland; 7 pm
- 6 **Shamrock Club Monthly Meeting**; ICHC; 7 pm
- 7 ICHC Ceili; Music by Ceol Cairde; ICHC, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave; 7:30 pm
- 15 Valentine Concert to Benefit the ICHC; Tallymoore, The Differentials and The Siegerly Brothers; ICHC, 2133 W Wisconsin Ave; 7 pm
- 28 Goitse; Irish Cultural and Heritage Center; 7:30 pm

MARCH

- 1 Irish Music Archives Green Tie Event - Puttin' On The Green; Tripoli Temple, 3000 West Wisconsin; 6 pm
- 2 Emerald Society Fundraiser to benefit C.O.P.S.; Burke's Irish Castle; 5328 W. Bluemound Road; noon
- 3 Irish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin Meeting; Shorewood Library; 7 pm
- 6 **Shamrock Club Monthly Meeting**; ICHC; 7 pm
- 7 Ulster Project Family Fun Night; Mount Mary College; 5:00 pm
- 7 ICHC Ceili; Music by Wise Maids; ICHC, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave; 7:30 pm
- 13-15 Cherish The Ladies; With the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra; Uihlein Hall; Marcus Center for the Performing Arts
- 13-15 Eileen Ivers; Sharon Lynne Wilson Center, Brookfield; 7:30 pm
- 14 SHAM-Rock the Avenue; Milwaukee Hilton, 5th and Wisconsin; 5:30 pm
- 15 **Shamrock Club Mass In Honor of St. Patrick**; St. Patrick Church, 7th and Washington; 8:30 am
- 15 **Milwaukee St. Patrick's Day Parade**; Downtown Milwaukee; noon
- 15 **Shamrock Club Post Parade Party**; ICHC, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave; 1- 6 pm
- 21 Solas; ICHC, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave; 7:30 pm

APRIL

- 3 **Shamrock Club Monthly Meeting**; ICHC; 7 pm
- 4 Conference of Celtic Women; First Friday Lecture; Music of Ceol Cairde; ICHC, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave; 5:30 pm
- 4 ICHC Ceili; Music by Frogwater; ICHC, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave; 7.30 pm

ON GOING ... Set dancing at the following: Set dancing Wednesdays, 7 PM at O'Donoghue's ☘ Craobh Curtin Conradh na Gaeilge meeting at O'Donoghue's Pub, 7 PM, last Tuesday each month ☘ Irish Emigration Library in ICHC open every Wednesday 12-6 PM ☘ Irish Sing-a-long, Irish Fest Center, First Sundays, (through May) 7 PM ☘ Irish Fest Sing-a-long: O'Donoghue's Pub, First Sundays, second and fourth Tuesdays, 7 PM ☘ Irish Music Sessions at the following: ☘ Session - O'Donoghue's, Sundays 7 PM; Thursdays @ Paddy's 7 PM; and The Pub in Oconomowoc, 7:30 PM ☘ Thursdays: Barry Dodd; County Clare Inn; 10 PM ☘ Fridays: áthas and Myserk; County Clare Inn; 6 PM ☘ Sundays: áthas; Brocach Milwaukee ☘

Ulster Project Family Fun Night Friday March 7, 2014

Join us on Friday, March 7th for the Ulster Project Family Fun Night. It will be held at Mount Mary College, just south of 92nd and Burleigh. The fun begins at 5 pm and ends at 10 pm. Delicious fish fry suppers are available for purchase. Great Irish dancing, opportunity tables, and drawings for our wonderful raffle prizes will be held throughout the evening. For a nominal fee, you may also purchase a variety of beverages and desserts.

Many thanks to all the volunteers, dancers, musicians and attendees who worked behind the scenes to make the 2013 Ulster Project Family Fun Night a huge success. Dance schools for 2014 include: Beglan, Kinsella, McMenamin, Trinity, Cashel Dennehy and Glencastle.

For more information, visit our website, <https://sites.google.com/site/upmilwaukee/funnight>

Shamrock Club Parade Day Breakfast March 15, 2014

The Shamrock Club will again be hosting breakfast upstairs at the ICHC immediately following the Mass in honor of St. Patrick. Cost for the breakfast is \$7.00 in advance and \$8.00 at the door.

Menu: Eggs, Bangers, Rashers, Soda Bread and Brown Bread, Oatmeal, Corned Beef Hash, Juice, Coffee.

This year breakfast will be served by members of the Pilot Club, supporting Special Olympics of Wisconsin.



Shamrock Club Post Parade Party March 15, 2014

The Shamrock Club's annual Post Parade Party will take place at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 West Wisconsin, Milwaukee, on Saturday, March 15, 2014. It will run from 1 pm until 6 pm. This is the largest family day event of the St. Patrick's season. For over forty years, the Shamrock Club has presented Milwaukee with the best in Irish entertainment, always geared towards families. There are four stages, including a children's area and silent auction/raffle to support the scholarship fund. For more information, go to:

<http://shamrockclubwis.com/PPPparty.html>

VOLUNTEER

Great events such as our St. Patrick's Parade, breakfast and Post Parade Party take many people to put on. We hope that YOU will consider volunteering with us this year. It's a lot of fun, and a great way to get involved!

29th annual mass in honor of

SAINT PATRICK

Saturday, March 15, 2014

8:30 AM at St. Patrick's Church

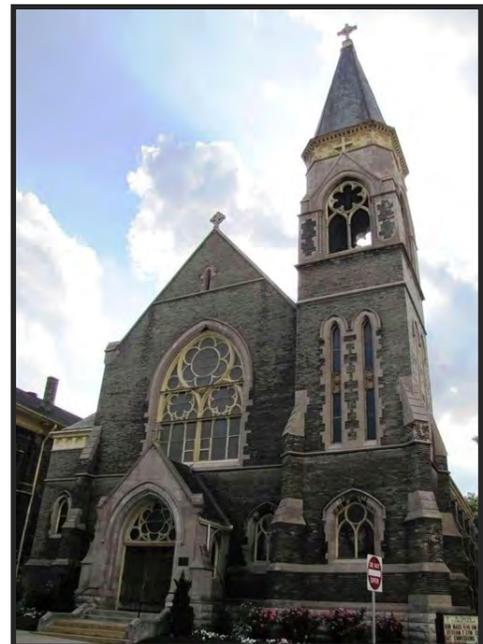
723 South 7th Street

Milwaukee



- Liturgy Sung by the Shamrock Club Choir
- Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes & Drums
- Songs and Readings in Irish and English
- Sign Reader for the Hearing Impaired

For more information, please contact Chuck McLaughlin
at (414) 771-0458, or at cmclaughlin3@wi.rr.com



Emerald Reflections Copy Deadline

Content for Emerald Reflections is due on the 15th of the month (next deadline: February 15th to appear in the March issue.) Copy received after that date will not appear due to deadlines. While we try to include every submission possible, due to space limitations, we cannot guarantee that every submission will be included immediately. E-mail submissions preferred, send to:

Brian Witt, Editor
emeraldreflections@shamrockclubwis.com

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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.

Milwaukee President's Message

Happy February! I hope everyone is staying warm on these frigid winter days.

For those who were not able to attend the January general meeting, the revised bylaws did not pass. I would like to take this time to thank Julie Smith, Jean Bills and Ed Mikush for their numerous hours of research and hard work revising these bylaws.

Moving forward we have exciting months ahead of us. Our February general meeting will be our Chili Cook-Off. Please contact Kim Nowak if you would like to participate. We will also be introducing our 2014 Honorees to the membership. Be there to congratulate last year's honorees for an outstanding job that Judge Dan and Maureen Konkol Parade Marshals, Gail McAleese Irish Rose and Rand Harteau Irishman of the Year for their outstanding job representing the club this past year.

On Saturday, March 15th our annual Mass in honor of St Patrick will be held 8:30 a.m. at St. Patrick's Church. Following the mass a breakfast will be served at the ICHC. Details in the Reflections to follow. The 48th St. Patrick's Day Parade will kick-off at noon from 3rd and Wisconsin. The Shamrock Club in conjunction with Westown Association will have updates for us in our upcoming newsletters. Following the parade join us of live entertainment food, beverages, raffles and silent auction at the ICHC. Mark your calendars and join us for a full day of events.

Come join us at our February 6th general meeting and bring a new member.

**God Bless,
- Kathy Donovan, President**

Kim's Corner Cupboard



We will spice things up for February with the 4th annual Chili Cook-Off. Members are asked to bring their favorite chili to be judged by our panel of "expert judges" or a dish to pass. We will set up at 6:30 with judging to start at 6:45.

ICHC Benefit Concert February 15, 2014, 7-10 PM

The Irish Cultural and Heritage Center is partnering with Irish Fest to jointly sponsor a benefit concert featuring three local groups, Tallymoore, an Irish group, The Differentials, a vocal group, and special guests John and Mike Sieger who will perform a special tribute to The Everly Brothers. This fundraising event will be held at the ICHC, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave.

The ICHC was established in 1992 and the Irish community center created is housed in the former Grand Ave. Congregational Church. It is home to five organizations and host to many others, including: Avenues West Association, St. Andrew Society, and Ancient Order of Hibernians. It houses two libraries: The ICHC Irish Library and The Irish Emigration Library. Funds from this benefit will be used to replace carpeting in the Hallamor, in place since the 1930's.

Tallymoore is a four-piece Milwaukee-based group which plays both traditional and contemporary Irish and Americana folk. Tallymoore combines fiddle, piano, guitar and mandolin along with intricate multi-part harmonies to craft its modern adaptations of classic Irish popular tunes. The Differentials is a seasoned crew of Milwaukee musicians re-interpreting chestnuts from the golden book of 60's and 70's singer-songwriters. The Diffs remember the first time around for these songs and enjoy presenting tunes with an emphasis on precise vocal harmonies and imaginative arrangements; sparking memories for those familiar and introducing classic pop treasures to new audiences. John Sieger has been an integral part of the popular music scene for decades, and Milwaukee music lovers are familiar with his well-known roster of groups, including The R&B Cadets, El Supremo, The Subcontinentals, and Semi-Twang. John and his brother Mike have been joined at the hip since they first hit the floorboards in their hometown of Kenosha---their vocal harmony stylings are the distinctive and supremely matched pairing that only siblings might attain. John and Mike have a soft spot in their hearts for The Everlys, and will perform a tribute to the brothers-- a perfect topper for your Valentine's weekend.

General admission tickets are \$15, available in advance by calling the ICHC at 414.345.8800, or by purchase at The Irish Fest Center or O'Donoghue's Pub. Tickets are also available at the ICHC Box Office the night of the event; doors open at 6:15 PM.

I wish I had a great lake of ale for the King of kings, and the family of heaven to drink it through time eternal. I wish I had the meats of belief and genuine piety, the flails of penance, and the men of heaven in my house. I would like keys of peace to be at their disposal, vessels of charity for distribution, caves of mercy for their company, and cheerfulness to be in their drinking.



I would want Jesus also to be in their midst, together with the three Marys of illustrious renown, and the people of heaven from all parts. I would like to be a tenant to the Lord, so if I should suffer distress, He would confer on me a blessing. Amen.

**PRAYER OF SAINT BRIGID OF KILDARE
For A Heavenly Feast**

continued from page 1

in the many churches founded by her in the Diocese of Elphin. Her friendship with Saint Patrick is attested by the following paragraph from the Book of Armagh: "inter sanctum Patricium Brigitanque Hibernesium columpnas amicitia caritatis inerat tanta, ut unum cor consiliumque haberent unum. Christus per illum illamque virtutes multas peregit." (Between St. Patrick and Brigid, the pillars of the Irish people, there was so great a friendship of charity that they had but one heart and one mind. Through him and through her Christ performed many great works.)

As for the acquisition of Kildare, the story is amazing. After asking the King of Leinster for land on the plains of the Curragh, he told her that all of the land covered by her cloak would be given to her for the convent. She prayed, and her covering grew to cover the entirety of this fertile and flat section. The king then asked to be baptized.

Brigid had a brewer, loving her beer. She also had her religious sell blueberry jam, which became popular across all of Ireland, and then led to the eating of blueberry jam on her feast day. The community of men and women became a self-sustaining operation of thousands.

In liturgical iconography and statuary Saint Brigid is often depicted holding a reed cross, a crozier of the sort used by abbots or bishops, and a lamp (called a "lamp of learning and wisdom," as lamps and fire were regarded sacred to the Celts and druids). Early hagiographers portray Saint Brigid's life and ministry as touched with fire. According to P.W. Joyce, tradition holds that nuns at her monastery kept a sacred eternal flame burning there.

Her death found Brigid being interred at the right of the high altar of Kildare Cathedral, and an expensive, jewel festooned tomb was built over her. The shrine was a stop and a place for pilgrims, especially on her feast day. However, due to Viking incursions, she was moved to Downpatrick, where they were interred in the tomb of Patrick and Columba. The relics of the three saints were discovered in 1185, and on 9 June of the following year were reinterred in Down Cathedral.

The trip itself turned out to be one of discovery, in many ways. One was utterly ironic. After arriving at home, and finally getting the developed pictures back, we were shocked to find how many of the quaint wells we photographed had statues of Brigid in them. It was though we were guided across the island by this woman. Maybe it was Brigid herself that put that nail in my tire that rainy night in Drogheda.

- Brian Witt

Color Guard Pipes and Drums

After a flurry of holiday parties and practices hampered by snow and ice, the Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums is gearing up for the busy season. Our pipers and drummers are learning new tricks with the continued collaboration with other pipe groups in the area. If anyone is interested in donning a kilt and marching along, feel free to contact our Pipe Major Noel Tylla, or stop by the ICHC on a Tuesday night to meet the group. We're looking forward to new members and a great kick off to the Irish season!

- Christine Krzyzewski

From the Parliamentarian

This goes out as a grand thanks to everyone who attended and participated in January's monthly meeting during the debate and vote on proposed bylaws changes. Submitted as a whole, the proposed bylaws changes were not approved; gaining 35 percent of the vote where a two-thirds vote is needed. The discussions, then, and in earlier reviews by the Committee, the Board and separately by the Trustees, indicate that there is broader support for some fewer changes to be made in the near future. So, another 'thank you' is due to members of the Committee who spent many hours reviewing policies and procedures and ways to update our core operations, while also streamlining bylaws language. Their work should form an important reference point, along with the various meeting notes and the club members' discussion points in January. The latter certainly included many points made, for and against, with real emotion and intensity. That we got through it with a modicum of interruptions and no procedural 'brouhahas' speaks to the extent of our support for the more common purposes we share as members of the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin. That is the Brilliant thing!

- Dan Stotmeister



Rent the ICHC for your next

Party
Meeting
Recital
Wedding

Spaces available for large
or small events

Email: director@ichc.net
or call (414) 345-8800

St. Patrick's Mass Donations

The Shamrock Club is accepting donations for the March 15, 2014 St. Patrick's Day Mass Book Memorials. You may give Gail Neville donations at the monthly club meeting or -

Phone - 414-354-1355 (leave a message with your name and phone number if Gail does not answer)

Email - gailtacht@aol.com (include your name, phone number, and any short message you would like used)

Address for mail orders - Gail Neville, 9011 N. 70th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53223

THE LAST DAY TO ACCEPT DONATIONS IS MARCH 8, 2014



Celtic Women International

The CWI Book Club meetings begin at 1:00 pm at the ICHC and include discussion, tea, and treats. New members and guests are always welcome to join us!

On February 11th we will be showing a film, *The Shamrock and the Rose*. The hostess for the meeting will be Francine Fosselman.

Jeanette Haien's book, *The All of It*, will be discussed at the March 11th meeting. The hostess for the meeting will be Pat Powers.

The April 8th meeting will be hosted by Rosemary Baumann. The topic will be *buried in the bog*, by Sheila Connolly.

At our meetings on May 13th and June 10th we will be discussing *The Outlander*, by Diana Gabaldon. The hostesses for these meetings are TBA.

- Rosemary Walsh
rowalsh@wi.rr.com



Sunshine Report

Christine Krzyzewski and Justin Kierzek became formally engaged at Christmas. Their wedding will be held in the fall. The Club extends our congratulations to the happy couple!

Addie O'Malley had a terrible accident in her home on January 2nd and is in a neck brace for the next ten weeks, unable to move her head. It would really be great if people could send her get well cards.

Bob and Judie Towne's grandson, Greg Von Rueden passed away from cancer. We offer our deepest condolences.

Bob Burke is still plugging along, grateful for every day and for everyone who has been so helpful to him.

Milwaukee Membership News

As of January 2014 we have: 39 complimentary memberships, 118 single memberships and 112 family memberships

All membership cards for renewals received by January 15, 2014 have been mailed.

- Glenn Nowak

Membership Chair, Milwaukee Chapter

Pete Fleming



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Shamrock Club Member

Goitse at the ICHC February 23rd

Goitse, one of Ireland's most celebrated and exciting new bands, will kick-off the Spring Hallamora Concert Series at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 28.

Pronounced gwi-cha meaning "come here" in Gaelic, Goitse is a five-piece band forged in the white-hot creative crucible of the University of Limerick's Irish World Academy of Music and Dance. The internationally recognized young group melds their own compositions and modern rhythms with traditional melodies and synthesizes them into a style of music uniquely their own. In concert, singer/fiddle player Áine McGeeney's sweet and charismatic voice draws audiences into the music while Colm Phelan's rhythmic bodhrán sets a breath-taking pace. They are joined by guitarist Conal O'Kane, banjo/mandolin player James Harvey and Tadhg Ó Meachair on piano and piano accordion.



One of Irish music's busiest bands, Goitse performs extensively across North America and Europe and will complete a seven-week tour of China shortly before their Milwaukee show. A previous tour brought them to Malawi in Africa where they swapped music with local performers.

They are working on a third album scheduled for a spring release. Irish American News called their Dónal Lunny-produced second album, *Transformed*, "seamless, flawless and powerful, full of the humor and energy...(they) are famous for."

Goitse made a return visit to Milwaukee Irish Fest in 2013 and was chosen to lead the fest's finale known as the Scattering

"Simply Terrific" - *The Irish Post*

Tickets are \$21 in advance, \$25 on concert day and \$10 for students with ID. To order online, visit www.ichc.net or call (414) 345-8800.

ANNUAL SHAMROCK CLUB

POST PARADE PARTY



SATURDAY, MARCH 15TH, 2014

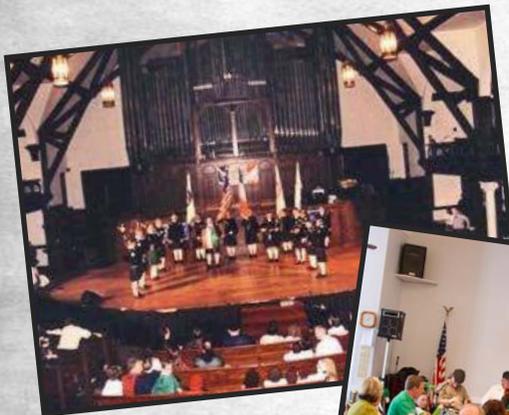
1 - 6 PM • ICHC

ENTERTAINMENT:

☘ SHAMROCK CLUB
COLOR GUARD PIPES &
DRUMS

☘ TRINITY IRISH DANCERS

☘ MUSICAL GROUPS
TBA



Serving: Beer, Soda, Water.
Hot Dogs, Chips, Reubens,
Potato Soup, Cookies.

Admission: \$2.00 person, \$10.00 Family Maximum. Under 5 Free.



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



Cashel Dennehy Irish Dancers leaping during the 2013 St. Patrick's Day Parade