



## Ireland, the Gem of the Oceans

I was going over old issues of the Emerald Reflections, reminded of the long ago days of the Shamrock Club. The June, 1990, issue has a number of interesting articles and pieces. One that caught my eye was "Shortage Of Sailors Keeps Navy Ships In Port." It seems that poaching in Irish waters was at an all-time high, and two of its ships, the L.E. Aoife and the L.E. Emer, didn't have enough crew to patrol Irish waters. Young men had left the service at a faster rate than their replacements could be inducted and trained.

The Naval Service (Irish: an tSeirbhís Chabhlaigh) is the maritime force of Ireland and is one of the three standing branches of the Irish Defence Forces. Its base is in Haulbowline, County Cork.

All current Naval Service vessels are named with traditional Irish female names, taken from history and Celtic mythology. However, the next two ships in the fleet, the LÉ Samuel Beckett (to be commissioned in 2014) and the LÉ James Joyce (to be commissioned in 2015) are named after famous Irish literary figures. The ship prefix LÉ stands for Long Éireannach, "Irish ship" in the Irish language.

Ireland had historically been a seafaring island. They were traders, and, along with their cousins along the northern Gaullish coast, the Venetii, were the sources of much of the transfer of commerce from Northern Europe to the Mediterranean countries. Even after the Romans smashed the Venetii under Julius Caesar, the Irish continued their trading, along with slaving and piracy.

The Irish seafarers were responsible for Patrick arriving, and leaving, Ireland. The city of Wexford was long a center for piracy, even up to the 1800's. The real Zorro, Michael Lamport, the red haired and bearded city native was a pirate, until his family had him transferred to the

Spanish court. Grace O'Malley was well known as the Pirate Queen. She held sway over the western coast of Ireland.

However, after a number of actions, starting in the 1600's, the Irish access to the sea was restricted. Irish fishermen were only able to sell to English brokers, wherein before they would take their catches across to all of Europe. Also, Irish maritime trade was constrained, to the point where all foreign trade was killed off.

In the wake of such restrictions, an organized Irish navy was not allowed to develop. The Act of Union in 1800 put the defense of Ireland totally in the hands of the British.



After the establishment of the Free State, the Irish were allowed to establish a Defense Force, an army that would patrol its borders. The Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921 stipulated that the Irish Free State would be given responsibility to police its customs and fishing, while the United Kingdom would remain in control of Irish Waters. In 1923 the Coastal and Marine Service (CMS) was created, yet merely one year later it was disbanded.

The Muirchú, formerly the British armed steam yacht Helga, which had been used by the Royal Navy to shell Dublin

during the 1916 rising, was the only CMS ship during this period. The CMS ship "Muirchu" continued to patrol Irish fisheries. Muirchu was re-armed in 1936 and purchased by the Irish government on advice of members of the later named Maritime Institute of Ireland for fisheries protection.

In 1937, the Irish Free State came to an end, and the sovereign and current independent state of Ireland replaced it. The following year, the United Kingdom handed over three "treaty" ports (Cork Harbour, Bere Haven and Lough Swilly). Consequently, the Royal Navy withdrew from Cork Harbour in July 1938. The "Fort Rannoch" was added to the Irish fleet at that time.

In 1939 the Irish Government ordered two Motor Torpedo Boats (MTBs) from Vospers UK. When World War II began in September 1939 the Marine and Coastwatching Service was set up. In order for Ireland to remain neutral, it became clear that a full naval service would be required. The government consequentially ordered an additional 4 MTBs. By the end of 1940 the Irish Marine and Coastwatching Service consisted of 6 MTB's and 4 other assorted craft.

During the War the Service regulated merchant ships, protected fisheries, and laid mines off Cork and Waterford. By 1941 the Marine and Coastwatching Service consisted of 10 craft and about

*continued on page 4*

**JANUARY 2, 2014 • 7 P.M.**

**MILWAUKEE MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

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



Sandwiches at 6:30

Please bring your favorite salad, side dish or dessert to share!

## ☘ Milwaukee Calendar of Events ☘

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

### JANUARY

- 2 Shamrock Club Monthly Meeting; ICHC; 7 pm
- 3 Conference of Celtic Women; Priscilla "Pete" Kucik- Meet Robert Burns; First Friday Lecture; ICHC; 5.30 pm
- 8 Irish Emigration Library; ICHC, 12-6 pm
- 15 Irish Emigration Library; ICHC, 12-6 pm
- 18 Wisconsin Winterfeis; Olympia Resort, Oconomowoc
- 19 Dairyland Feis; Olympia Resort, Oconomowoc
- 22 Irish Emigration Library; ICHC, 12-6 pm
- 29 Irish Emigration Library; ICHC, 12-6 pm

### FEBRUARY

- 6 Shamrock Club Monthly Meeting; ICHC; 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
- 6 Shamrock Club Monthly Meeting; ICHC; 7 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 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

**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 ☘



## 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!

The January 14th meeting will be hosted by Rosemary Walsh. The topic will be *Someone*, by Alice McDermott.

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

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

- Rosemary Walsh  
[rowalsh@wi.rr.com](mailto:rowalsh@wi.rr.com)



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### *Irish Blessing*

*Let brooks and trees and singing hills  
Join in the chorus too.*

*And every gentle wind that blows  
Send happiness to you.*

## Milwaukee President's Message

Happy New Year to all. It is my hope that everyone had a joyous Christmas and will have a healthy and prosperous New Year. As we start a new year we have a lot to look forward to the future of our club.

Our January 2nd general meeting is a very important one. It is your opportunity to discuss and to vote on our proposed Bi-Laws. The committee, who has served this club for numerous years and has held various positions on the board of directors, has worked long hours researching changes that they feel will better serve our club both responsibly and fiscally. I know the Board of Directors have voted against the Bi-Laws so you will all have the opportunity to hear both sides. There will be a period of questions and answers for the committee, and then the vote will be yours. To help the evening to run smoothly please submit your questions in writing by the end of this month, you can e-mail your questions to me at [kay\\_dee@live.com](mailto:kay_dee@live.com). So please join us Jan. 2nd, the FINAL VOTE IS YOURS. One final note as President I do support the proposed changes to the Bi-Laws.

I hope everyone who attended our Christmas Party had a wonderful time. Thanks to Kim Nowak and all members who brought a dish to pass. The buffet was delicious as always. Thanks to Dan and Patti Stotmeister, and Rand Harteau for a evening of music, they were terrific. A very special Thank You to our visitors who flew in all the way from the North Pole. Santa brought his very special sidekick Mrs. Tree and as always they brought that very special touch of holiday cheer to all.

St. Patrick's Day is fast approaching. It is as always a very busy time of the year for us. Nominations are now being accepted for this years Honorees. Nominations must be in writing (e-mails okay) by the January 30th board meeting. Members must be current and in good standing to be accepted as a candidate.

This years parade will be held on Saturday, March 15th in partnership with Westtown Association. Josh Walton is stepping in as our Parade Production Manager. We will once again have a Raffle and Silent Auction at our Post Parade Party. Donations are welcome to help make this a big success.

See you at our next meeting,  
God Bless,  
- Kathy Donovan, President

## St. Patrick's Mass Donations

The Shamrock Club will start accepting donations for the March 15, 2014 St. Patrick's Day Mass Book Memorials on January 1, 2014. 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](mailto: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



## Milwaukee Membership News

Just a reminder to please keep the club updated if you move, change phone numbers or email addresses. This is the only way we can inform you of club news and events.

As of December 15th, we have 39 complimentary memberships, 129 single, and 134 family memberships.

- Glenn Nowak  
Membership Chair, Milwaukee Chapter



## Nominations For Irish Honorees

Nominations for the 2014 Irish Rose, Irishman of the Year, and Parade Marshal are currently being accepted. All nominations must be received by 6 pm January 30, 2014, 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 any board member.



## Board of Directors Statement Regarding the Proposed Bylaws Revisions

The Board of Directors believes that the proposed bylaws revisions are not in the best interest of the Club and therefore the Board of Directors DOES NOT RECOMMEND the bylaws revisions for approval.

The Board of Directors voted unanimously  
**AGAINST** the proposed bylaws revisions.

## Emerald Reflections Copy Deadline

Content for Emerald Reflections is due on the 15th of the month (next deadline: Jan. 15th to appear in the February 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

**Pam Canon, Publisher**

## 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

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MILWAUKEE . . . . . Member: Chair Glenn Nowak  
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NEW DUBLIN . . . . . Suzi Snyder,  
313 W. Beacon Ave., New London 54961

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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.

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During the War the Service regulated merchant ships, protected fisheries, and laid mines off Cork and Waterford. By 1941 the Marine and Coastwatching Service consisted of 10 craft and about 300 all ranks. In 1942 the Service was renamed the Marine Service.

In September 1946, the Marine Service was formally disbanded and the Naval Service established as a permanent component of the Irish Defence Forces. The Naval Service purchased three Corvettes from the United Kingdom in 1946 and 1947. The tradition of naming Irish Naval Ships after figures in Celtic Mythology began, and the ships were named Cliona, Maev and Macha. These three ships were to become a key part of the Naval Service in the 1950s and 1960s. The first formal training of Irish naval cadets took place at the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, UK in 1947. In 1970, the Cliona and Macha were withdrawn from service and scrapped, leaving the Maev as the sole ship in the Naval Service. The Maev was withdrawn from service in 1972. In 1971, the Naval Service commissioned three armed minesweepers: Grainne, Banba and Fola.

In 1971 the Naval Service commissioned Verlome Cork Dockyard to build an offshore patrol ship. Named the LÉ Deirdre, it was the first naval vessel purpose-built in Ireland to patrol its waters. The Economic Exclusion Zone of Ireland was increased in 1976 from 12 to 200 miles. The subsequent strain put on the Naval Service prompted funding from the European Economic Community to build five further ships, four of which were eventually built. Meanwhile the former Irish Lights vessel Isolda was purchased to act as a

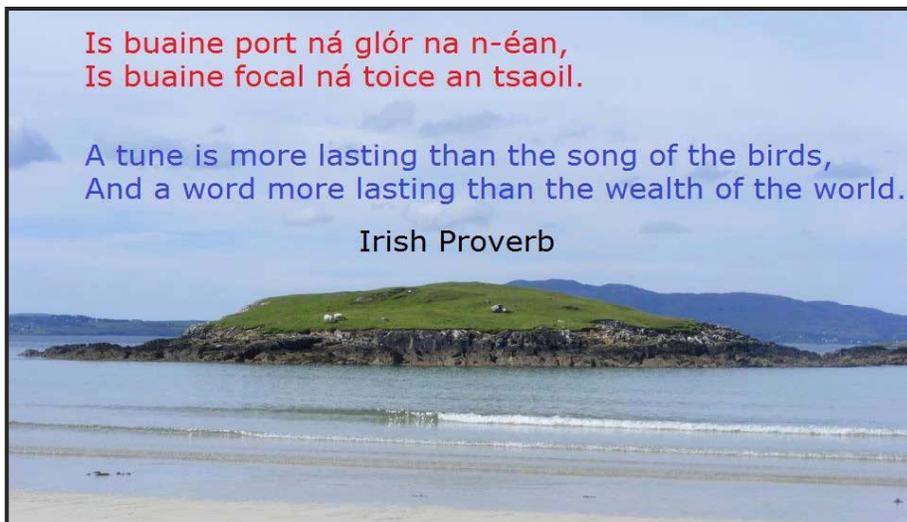
training ship, and renamed LÉ Setanta. It served until being sold for scrap in 1984.

The 50th anniversary of the Naval Service took place in 1996. Celebrations included a fleet review by President Mary Robinson. In 1999, a new ship LÉ Róisín was delivered to the Navy, marking the beginning of a new class of larger patrol vessels. The most recent addition to the fleet has been LÉ Niamh, commissioned in September 2001.

While most missions undertaken by the Naval Service are in Irish waters, on occasion longer missions are undertaken in support of Irish Peacekeepers serving with the United Nations, representing Ireland, or in support of Irish trade missions. In 2002, LÉ Niamh delivered supplies to Irish troops in Eritrea, then continued on a trade promotional tour to India, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, China, Korea, and Japan, becoming the first Irish naval vessel to cross the Equator. In 2006 LÉ Eithne travelled to Argentina, attending ceremonies connected with the 149th anniversary of the death of Irish-born Admiral William Brown, founder of the Argentine Navy, and also visited ports in Uruguay and Brazil. In 2010, the Niamh travelled to the Americas, visiting Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Mexico and the United States. An exciting history packed into sixty-plus years.

As for the Aoife and the Emer, from 1990? The Emer was decommissioned this year, replaced by the LÉ Samuel Beckett. The Aoife will be retired next year, and replaced by the James Joyce in 2015. And those 100 sailors were trained and aboard ships within the promised six months.

- Brian Witt



# Club Christmas Party 2013



Photos by  
Michele McCormack  
and Pam Canon

# Retail Report

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped at Holiday Folk Fair. We had a terrific weekend. We will publish a complete report in February's Reflections.

We are in a slow period until March. So it will be a time of counting, organizing and ordering new product for the next season.

- Glenn & Kim Nowak  
Sue Dushek  
Retail Co- Chairs

## Kim's Corner Cupboard



After eating our way through the holidays we will do a simple meal of sandwiches at the January meeting. Members are asked to bring something to share - a salad, side dish or dessert. We will be serving promptly at 6:30 as we anticipate a longer meeting.

## Pete Fleming



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**Shamrock Club Member**



## SHAMROCK CLUB OF WISCONSIN

2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue  
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For Information: <http://shamrockclubwis.com>  
or: [www.saintpatricksparade.org](http://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



Co. Kerry, Ireland

- Photo by Pam Canon