

# Shorenanigans



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE JERSEY SHORE ORDER OF  
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March 2023

## *Your President's Message*

Brother Shillelagh's,

It was an incredible honor to lead our club at the 50th Anniversary of the Belmar Lake Como St Patrick's Day parade. We had over 800 marchers in one of the busiest parades Belmar has ever had. I sincerely thank you all for the great support of our organization on Parade Day. The "sea of green" never looked better.

With the parade fundraiser on 2/26 and Parade Day on 3/5, this has been a busy and challenging time for our club. The club met these challengers and then some! I want to thank all our volunteers, kitchen crew, bartenders, security and parade adjutants for all they did. Our club rose to the occasion once again in grand fashion. We also put a lot of pressure on Mike McCormack, Mark Chadwick, Joe Kelly and Rich MacKay with all we asked of them ensuring financial accountability, proper ordering of liquor and beer, scheduling, etc and they answered the call yet again. Thanks to all!

Thanks to Kevin Giblin for leading the contingent of FSOS and Pipe Band members that marched in the North Myrtle Beach St Patrick's Day parade and Ray Barnes who led the group marching in the Asbury Park Parade. Both parades were the same weekend, so club members were split some. The North Myrtle parade saw the new FSOS of the Carolinas participate for the first time together in a parade led by the Pipes and Drums of the Jersey Shore and joined by the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh, Jersey Shore.

We have several events upcoming. On Sunday, April 2nd, we will have the Easter Bunny at the club for children and grandchildren of members. On Friday, April 7th, we will have our annual fish fry meal available for purchase.

On April 22nd, we will hold our 2nd annual Shillelagh Plunge for Autism. This event was an incredible fundraiser last year and looks to be even bigger this year. It's a great cause. Please help contribute or volunteer if able to.

On April 29th, we will honor those members who have gone above and beyond in their volunteerism for the club. In a club of so many great volunteers, it is difficult to name a select few. These individuals have raised their volunteer efforts to another level. Congratulations to Irishman of the Year, Bill Clohosey, for his extraordinary efforts in leading several key events for the club and for his great leadership over many years. Congratulations also to our Shillelagh's of the Year, Ned Barrett, Rob Coman, Rick McKenna, Paul Rockwell, and Jeff Wells. Please join us on Saturday, April 29th at the Spring Lake Manor as we honor these fine gentlemen for making a huge positive impact on our club.

Hope you all enjoyed the Irish High Holy Season!

Prayers go out to the families of Jay Levey and Mike McNally on the passing of Jay and Mike's wife, Barbara.



**Friday March 17th • St. Patrick's Day**

**Friday March 17th • Joel and Eddie Band**

**Saturday March 25th • Strictly 60's Band**

**Sunday April 2nd • Easter Bunny Visit**

**Wednesday April 5th • FSOS Monthly Meeting**

**Friday April 14th • Vinyl Band**

**Sunday April 16th • Blood Drive at FSOS Club**

**Saturday April 22nd • FSOS Polar Bear Plunge for Autism**

**Saturday April 29th • FSOS Dinner Dance**

**Wednesday May 3rd • FSOS Monthly Meeting**

**Saturday May 6th • Cinco de Derby**

**Saturday May 13th • Emilio and Son**

**Saturday May 27th • Bradley Beach Parade**

**Monday May 29th • Manasquan Memorial Day Parade**

# Irish History #102

## A Brief History of the Harp, the Irish National Flag and Their Connection

Sending best wishes to the Jersey Shore Shillelaghs and their families for a La fhéile Pádraig sona daoibh (Happy St. Patrick's Day to you). "May the blessings and love/ Of St. Patrick fall on yourself, on your home/ On your dear ones and all."

For a change of pace from reading about the civil war, this month we will look at the Harp, the Irish National Flag, and how they are connected.

Ireland is the only country that has a musical instrument - the harp - as its national symbol. Many of us are familiar with seeing a harp on a Guinness Stout bottle or can. Because the right-facing harp was trademarked by Guinness in 1876, the Irish Free State was forced to flip the design to a left-facing harp so the harp could be used as the symbol of the new state in 1922. Today, the left-facing harp is emblazoned on the cover of the Eire Ireland-European Union Passport, and it is used on other official documents. But did you know that the harp has been an emblem of Ireland for centuries, and long before the "mud of the River Liffey" (Guinness) recipe was developed.

According to Irish folklore, Brian Boru, the last High King of Ireland (11th century), played the harp. In the 16th century, English King Henry VIII broke with the Pope when his request for a papal annulment was not approved. (Henry went on to have 6 wives.) He received another royal title in 1531, when he was named King of Ireland. In that role, he designated "the harp as [Ireland's] national symbol."

The harp was played for Irish kings and chieftains and at special occasions like "banquets, weddings, and victory celebrations," down through the ages. This gave the instrument a preeminent role in Irish culture. The harp appeared in the works of literary giants, like poet W.B. Yeats and writer James Joyce. Whether played as a solo instrument or accompanying Irish traditional music instruments, those who hear its beautiful musical tones cherish the experience.

During the 18th and 19th centuries, Irish nationalists adopted the harp as "a symbol of resistance against British rule." During the 1798 Irish Rebellion, known as "The Year of the French," Wolfe Tone and the United Irishmen marched under a green flag depicting a golden harp. They gave the flag a motto: "It is new strung and shall be heard." Thomas Moore wrote the melancholic melody and lyrics to "The Minstrel Boy" in

1813. In the song, the harp represents the devastation of Irish culture under British rule.

"The Minstrel-Boy to the war is gone,  
In the ranks of death you'll find him;  
His father's sword he has girded on,  
And his wild harp slung behind him.  
"Land of song!" said the warrior-bard,  
"Tho' all the world betrays thee,  
One sword, at least, thy rights shall guard,  
One faithful harp shall praise thee!"

Later, the green flag with the golden harp became the banner for the Fenians and the Irish Republican Brotherhood. When this flag was flown during the 1916 Easter Rising, it was called the Green Harp Flag.

Next month will mark the Rising's 107th anniversary.

The Green Harp Flag was prominent during the Easter Rising. It flew over Liberty Hall in Dublin. Liberty Hall served as the headquarters of James Connolly and the Irish Citizen Army, and it was where the "Proclamation of the Irish Republic" was printed. The Green Harp Flag also flew at the General Post Office during Easter week.

Another flag had a prominent role in the Rising. That was the tricolor flag of green, white, and orange. It too was flown at the General Post Office, and it flew above Padraig Pearse when he read the "Proclamation of the Irish Republic" on Easter Monday.

For a short time, it could be said that Ireland had two national flags - the Green Harp Flag and the Irish Tricolor. Both flags symbolized the Irish people's desire for freedom and independence. After the Rising, however, the tricolor flag captured the Irish people's imagination "as the banner of [a] new revolutionary Ireland." The Irish Republican Army adopted the tricolor as its flag during the Irish War of Independence.

Soon, the tricolor officially became the Irish National Flag. First, as previously stated, it was the symbol of the Irish Free State. Second, when the Irish Constitution (Bunreacht na hEireann) was passed in 1937, Article 7 stated: "The national flag of Ireland is the tricolor green, white and orange." This is the flag we see proudly flown today at the clubhouse and at many Jersey shore residences.

The green vertical strip is representative of Catholics, and the orange vertical strip is representative of

Protestants. (The color green was associated with the shamrock and St. Patrick, while orange was associated with William of Orange's 1690 victory over Catholic King James II at the Battle of the Boyne.) The white strip in the middle represents a longed-for, peaceful union between the two religions.

It is worth noting the origins of the Irish Tricolor. In 1848, French revolutionaries overthrew King Louis Phillipe I. Members of the Young Irelander nationalist groups went to France to congratulate the rebels. There, Thomas Francis Meagher, a Young Irelander leader, was "presented with an Irish tricolor woven out of French silk" as a gift. (Meagher later served in the Union Army during the U.S. Civil War as a Brigadier General. He commanded the Irish Brigade during many bloody civil war battles, including Antietam.) After he returned to Ireland, Meagher flew the flag for the first time in Waterford City. He hung it out of the second-floor window of the Wolfe Tone Club. Addressing the crowd on the street below, he said: "The white in the center signifies a lasting truce between the orange and the green, and I trust that beneath its folds the hand of the Irish Protestant and the Irish Catholic may be clasped, in generous and heroic brotherhood."

The tricolor flies at Gaelic Athletic Association events in all four provinces, including Ulster. Nationalists on both sides of the border view it as the island's national flag. How this impacts the peaceful union of orange and green in the north, where flags and emblems are weighty components of community heritage, is unclear. But let us continue to fervently hope that we get to see Meagher's eloquent plea - for Irish Protestant and Irish Catholic hands to clasp in brotherhood - become a reality in a united Ireland. There's lots more work to do to make that happen.

Main Sources: "The National Flag," Department of the Taoiseach (Nov. 1, 2018); Irish Central Staff, "The story behind Ireland's national flag," Irish Central News (Dec. 29, 2022); Irish Central Staff, "What makes Ireland's national symbol the harp so special?" Irish Central News (Jan. 25, 2023); Irish Studies Group Website, "The Green Harp Flag," State University New York Geneseo.

Slainte, EMN

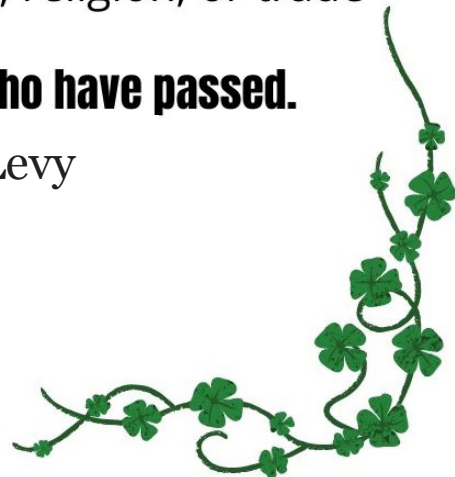


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an association, society, or community of people linked by a common interest, religion, or trade

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James "Jay" Levy





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The Foundation of the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh, Inc., is a charitable organization established and operated to benefit the public interest and is the club's only IRS designated 501C(3) charity and donations are tax deductible. Please help us help individuals in need. If you have any questions, please feel free to email us at [Info.fsosbelmar@gmail.com](mailto:Info.fsosbelmar@gmail.com).

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FSOS Foundation

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# The Pipes and Drums of the Jersey Shore - March 2023!!

I had a column ready to email in when we received very sad news that our brother, one of our band family, Jay Levey passed. We are heartbroken over the news.

Just a few words about Jay as I know for a fact, he would not want us to dwell on his passing.

Jay played snare drum for the NYPD Pipes and Drums for decades and retired NYPD policeman. Jay joined our band a number of years ago bringing a wealth of experience and helped our band by teaching people to learn to play. Jay was a good person with a heart of gold. Before long, many of us were calling him Uncle Jay. Not long after Uncle Jay joined the band, he became a club member. I am proud to say he was the first person I sponsored to become a club member. Uncle Jay was proud and honored to be a Shillelagh! He loved both pipe bands and our club!

Uncle Jay seemed to know everyone at the club and if he didn't know you, he'd find his way over to introduce himself to you and before long, you felt like you've known him all your life. You could not help listening intently to his stories about life. No matter what ailed him, he would always quickly turn the conversation away from himself. When he asked "how are ya?" he expected an answer because he genuinely wanted to know. I am sure everyone that knows Jay has so many good memories with Jay, just as I do.

Uncle Jay made quite an impact on us. Our brother will be missed.

We love you Uncle Jay, Rest in Peace.

As I mentioned, Uncle Jay would not want us to dwell on his passing so the rest of the monthly band column, as written, is below:

What a month it has been for the band! We celebrated the wedding for Aileen and Joe! Performances at polar bear plunges and fundraisers while holding rehearsals twice a week has been a lot of fun!

There are a few additions to the parade schedule for March. Here is the schedule:

Belmar/Lake Como March 5

North Myrtle Beach March 11

Annual School Tour March 16

St Patrick's Day - performance at the club and other local establishments at times to be determined

March 25 Keyport

March 26 Keansburg

As I stated last month, we all know that our club is

approximately 1400 strong and it would be quite the site to see 1200+ marching down Main Street, standing tall, representing the club! Of course that would mean the band would play Amazing grace 39 times as we split to have the entire club march past! It would be quite the sea of green to see in the parade!

I received some positive feedback for the faq's from past columns so here are a few more answers to questions asked:

1. What makes up the band uniform?

A kilt, belt, sporran (we have 2 different we utilize), two pairs of socks (off white and black), flashes,

ghillies (aka shoes), spats (aka shoe cover), glengarrys (aka hats) and dress shirts/sweaters make up the

bulk of the band uniform.

2. I hear the band has an e-board, why is there one needed?

The band board has a few elected positions and the band votes annually for those offices to be filled.

We are non-profit and just as the club needs to do, there are certain rules need to be followed to maintain that status. Any money made goes to the band for equipment, not to the members.

Band Manager (president) - Mark Mastowski - in charge of everything :) To name a few things Marko is responsible for: band bookings, band meetings, enforcing bylaws, signing contracts for events and other back of house stuff that needs to be done.

Pipe Major - Ray Spengler - basically responsible for the music operation of the band for all performances, determines music and supervises student instruction.

Pipe Sergeants and Drum Sergeants - John Giblin (Pipe Sgt), Jim Conti (Drum Sgt) and Pat Giblin (Drum Sgt) - assists the Pipe Major with performances and student instruction.

Quartermaster - Don Darlington - maintains band equipment and property, tracks our band property and assists Drum Major with overall presentation of the band at performances/events.

Treasurer - Lauren Kolar - handles all financials for the band and the overall financial health of the band.

Secretary - Scott MacDonald - handles meeting minutes, maintains band corporate seal, tracks attendance and other band related paperwork.

Drum Major - Mark Mastowski - assists the Pipe Major in overall presentation of the band at performances/events. An appointed position by the E-board. The Drum Major leads the band in parades.

Do you have a question to ask? Let me know and your question can be featured right here!

Learning to play an instrument is one of the most rewarding, frustrating at times, fun thing I have ever done. I am always learning and having a lot of fun along the way.

YOU CAN TOO!! Yes YOU!! All you need to do is show up to see what it's all about and give it a try!!!

Tuesday nights - 6:30 upstairs at the club.

Growth is key for the band's future. The club is around 1400 strong..... it would be great to see more of you (and your families) join the band! The band is not just for club members and .....lessons are FREE!!!

All you need to do is show up on Tuesday evening and/or contact me 732-685-9232 so you can get started to become a bagpiper or drummer in the band!

If you already know how to play bagpipes or drums & want to join the band, just head over to practice on a Tuesday evening and check us out. Our email is band@jspipesanddrums.com which can be accessed by visiting our updated website [www.jspipesanddrums.com](http://www.jspipesanddrums.com) or talk to any band member for information.

Want to have a bagpiper, small group or the band to celebrate a promotion, a backyard bbq or birthday party? We perform for all kinds of events: weddings, funerals, parties, grand openings, ceremonies, graduations, backyard bbq's and more!

For more info, please contact our Band Manager, Mark Mastowski (732-233-6136)

We always try to accommodate all requests. Remember that we, just like you, have family, job and other commitments/obligations (some beyond our control).

Anyone with pictures or video of the band, please send them along to me [pdjspiper@hotmail.com](mailto:pdjspiper@hotmail.com)

Thank you!

As always, we want to thank you all and we appreciate the continued support from all of you!!

Slainte,

Ray Spengler



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# Upcoming Meetings

## Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### 7:30pm

Not receiving email or have contact  
information to update?

Contact Ned Barrett at  
njbarrett63@gmail.com

Have information on bereavement?

Contact Dan Reilly at  
Irish0361@aol.com

or

Ray Spengler at  
PDJSpiper@hotmail.com

**Have news to share in the newsletter? Contact [info.fsosBelmar@gmail.com](mailto:info.fsosBelmar@gmail.com)**

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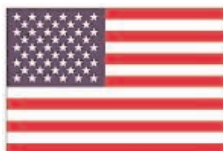
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