

“Shannon Revisited”

The original four square miles and spirit of Dublin
Has stretched in all directions now,
Touching neighbors in San Ramon, Pleasanton and Livermore.
We are one city among cities.

When we circle around the center of Dublin
From Old St Raymond's and three historical landmarks nearby,
Weaving our way through neighborhoods
And across from another St Raymond's,
We find a new Center.

In the season when cold claims us cell by cell,
The morning mists have cleared
Exposing a long-forgotten faerie ring,
Freed from a past gazebo.
The circle opens to admit us
Allowing us to rebuild, repurpose
And refocus on community.

Welcome and mingle with the spirits
As we join them in the faerie ring
We have received an invitation to the dance,
It is our time to dance and sing!
We are one spirit among spirits.

Sing the praise of permits, of math, of construction,
Praise of plumbers, painters, of architects and artisans,
of electricians, designers, and landscapers.
We celebrate their craft today.

In our world, alphabet blocks come to life
And tumble off the pre-school tower wall.
Community soup for the soul simmers in the grand kitchen,
in the offices and classrooms,
Windows to our world of green hills, Donlon Point and Mount Diablo.
Recalling we are but one, recent species
Residing in Dublin's former watery marshes.
We walk between the worlds
Of fossils and fish, wildflowers and oaks,
Growing our strengths and myths.
We are one species among species.

We stand together as one community,
Stabilizing past into future,
Embodied in the grand old oak tree,
Mirrored in the art panel hiding our cosmic center
Deep in the grooves of the sacred tree.

Whenever you come here in the freezing fog or searing sun,
Past the fountain where blue and white swans meet in their yin/yang
embrace,
And cross the bridge under the giant oak,
To celebrate a birthday, wedding or just to be,
Give thanks to the spirits who join you with glee.
Cross the threshold to other worlds
And know that we are One.

*By Ronnie Holland, written and presented for Grand Opening of Shannon
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