



May 2003

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Installation Dinner at Christy's: The Emerald Society cordially invites all members and their guests to the annual installation dinner. New officers and members of the board of directors will be installed on Wednesday, May 28 at 6:30 p.m. Where? The elegant Christy's Restaurant, renowned for its excellent food. Sincere thanks to board member Judi Sherry for securing this fine establishment for our May social event. Reservations are a MUST.

Remember last year's sell-out at the David William.

Call Judi now (305-271-2750) or email her at

judiretired@aol.com. The cost is \$30 per person and reservations must be made by Friday May 23.

Board Members: The monthly Board Meeting will take place on Thursday, June 5th at the Miami Yacht Club on Watson Island at 6:30 P.M. Attendance is expected of all Board members. Dinner and drinks, as usual, are available at the club. Stick around for a while after the meeting and enjoy good company by the water's edge under the stars. These spring evenings are great out there.

The Jeanie Johnston was here and is now in

Savanna: April 15 last, a lovely Spring day, found your editors heading into Peanut Island in the Port of Palm Beach hot on the trail of the Jeanie Johnston, a replica of an original 19th century Irish famine ship (see photo inside—in color if you have email). Completed in Ireland in 2002 it was funded by the Irish government, the European Union, and local businesses in Ireland and the United States. The crew of 17 includes young people from Northern Ireland (both Unionist and Nationalist traditions) and the Republic of Ireland.

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars, make your plans!
The following events are in the planning stages and more information will be forthcoming in next month's newsletter:

The Acting Irish International Theatre Festival will be held at the Crest Theatre in Delray Beach From May 11-17. If interested in going with a group this week contact Mary Ann Fierro at 305-251-6208 or maryannfierro@aol.com

Bloomsday Celebration. We are planning a Bloomsday celebration with a special Bloomsday dinner at John Martins on Monday, June 16, the 99th anniversary of the day that Leopold Bloom set out on his odyssey through the streets of Dublin. The evening will begin with a brief dramatic reading of an excerpt from Ulysses at 6:30 at Books and Books, just behind John Martins. Then a musical march will take us to the pub for the dinner, followed by a romantic rendition of Molly Bloom's famous soliloquy. A fun night, indeed! Yes. . .Yes . . . Yes!

Reservations are a must for the dinner! Payment for dinner will be made individually to the restaurant. Please call Oliver Kerr at 305-662-6744.

Christmas Party

Tom Dunn has announced the date of the Christmas Party—Thursday, December 4, 2003. Our focus now is finding spectacular raffle prizes. Send your ideas and leads to Tom at trfdunn@prodigy.net or 954-989-5054.

We roamed the decks through a web of lines. Some 3,280 feet of rope are used to set the 18 sails on three tall masts. We even ventured below where wax figures and taped sound depicted the hardships endured by the famine emigrants on this type of ship for the 46-day crossing. It was difficult to imagine how so many survived that perilous trip but not a life was lost on the Jeanie Johnston's 16 transatlantic trips.

Although saddened by its reality we were glad that we had the opportunity to visit. If you missed it, you can catch it in New York harbor on July 4th this year.

Irish Toasts

*May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
The sun shine warm upon your face,
The rain fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the hollow of His hand.*

----o----

*May you be in heaven half an hour before
the devil knows you're dead.*

----o----

Contributed by John Doherty.

Thank you John! We'll publish some Irish toasts and proverbs each month. A note to other Emeralds: if you come across poems, jokes, articles, cartoons, etc., connected to our Irish heritage, we will gladly accept them.

Poetry Corner

Each month the Shamrock News will present a poem by an Irish poet. Here's one of Seamus Heaney's best short poems. It's one of our favorites. He was born in Northern Ireland in 1939 and received the Nobel Prize for poetry in 1995. He lives in Dublin and teaches regularly at Harvard University.

The Railway Children

When we climbed the slopes of the cutting
We were eye-level with the white cups
Of the telegraph poles and the sizzling
wires.

Like lovely long freehand they curved for
miles
East and miles west beyond us, sagging
Under their burden of swallows.

We were small and thought we knew
nothing
Worth knowing. We thought words traveled
the wires
In the shiny pouches of raindrops,

Each one seeded full with the light
Of the sky, the gleam of the lines, and
ourselves
So infinitesimally scaled

We could stream through the eye of a
needle.

New Members

We extend a warm Irish welcome to our new members this month and hope that they join us for the installation dinner at Christy's.

Lawrence M. Furlong....

Sponsored by Billy Cameron

Ron Henry...

Sponsored by Ed Cooke

James D Wilkinson...

Sponsored by Ed Cooke

Cultural Series...The Sunday afternoon Cultural Series held at John Martin's Restaurant will not meet during the summer months (June through September).

Editors' Note

This newsletter is being emailed to members with email addresses on file with The Emerald Society. There's color in this edition and you can see on the Emerald Society website. The mailed copies will continue to be in black and white. Please send us your email address so that we can reach you easily and promptly. It will also save us approximately ten dollars per member annually. Your suggestions and literary and graphic contributions are warmly welcomed. The editors, of course, retain their prerogative to edit all work to meet time and space requirements.



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