

April, 2004
Mi Aibreain

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The Best St. Patrick's Festival Ever!

Were you there in Hartnett Park on that bright sunny Saturday in March when hundreds of Irish gathered to honor St. Patrick in traditional Irish fashion? If you missed it you missed a wonderful day. It was a day of Irish music, Irish food and drink, and Irish folk from Miami—all wearing their green and enjoying a day of fun with their families and friends. There were pipers and step dancers, fiddlers and harpists, singers and story tellers, all of it coordinated by our mellifluous master of ceremonies, Dan Fitzgerald. Ah, it was a great day for the Irish in Miami and for all their honorary Irish-for-a-day friends! Sure, it's now a happy memory to sustain us during the eleven long months till next year's celebration. Congratulations and thanks to the members of the St. Patrick's Day Committee and all who contributed to this memorable occasion!

April Social at Grand Bay Hotel in the Grove

The Social will be on Wednesday, April 28th at the Grand Bay Hotel 2690 South Bayshore Drive at 6:30 p.m. Look for Bice restaurant. Valet parking is at the front (have your ticket stamped) and self-parking at the side, off 27th Avenue. Reduced price drinks and free champagne for the ladies in a very elegant setting. See you there.

Emerald Society Irish Cultural Series

The Cultural Series May presentation will be a very special session with professional Irish storytellers straight from the Emerald Isle courtesy of the Miami-Dade Public Library system. Liz Weir and her friends will entertain and enthrall you with magical stories from their creative minds.

Liz is a native of County Antrim and has told stories all over Ireland, Scotland, the United States, Canada, Israel, and Australia. She has been the featured storyteller at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee, the Northern Appalachian Festival, the Bay Area Festival, the Toronto Storytelling Festival, and others too numerous to list. Don't miss this one. It's upstairs at John Martin's Irish Pub and Restaurant on Miracle Mile at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 16, 2004.

Our thanks go to Dan Fitzgerald who took one of the largest Irish Cultural Series audiences on a trip down the Emerald Society's memory lane on April 4 last. Dan's wonderful stories provoked still more from a large group of older Emeralds who were drawn to this warm and funny review of the ups and downs of the South Florida Emerald Society for more than 50 years.

The Series is establishing a small lending library in the upstairs room at John Martin's and is acquiring videos of Irish movies, both oldie goldies and more recent productions of merit that you may not have seen.

Congratulations, New Officers

Congratulations to Tom Dunn, the new president of the Society and to the new vice-presidents, William O'Brien, First Vice-president, and James Cooney, Second Vice-president. Our thanks go to our Past President, Michael O'Connor. Michael is the legendary quiet man who is unassuming but who knows how to get the job done. Thanks for a wonderful year, Michael! Our thanks also go to Dan Fitzgerald who yielded his Historian's scrolls and quill pens to John Kane with his digital cameras and computers. Congratulations, John, our new Historian.

Installation Dinner

Judi Sherry announced that the Installation Dinner, planned for May 26, 2004 at the Treetop Restaurant at the Parrot Jungle is moving ahead as planned. Judge Carroll Kelly will preside over the installation of officers. Mark your calendars now. The price will be \$35.00. Look for your invitation in the mail shortly.

Poetry Corner

Here's a lovely little poem by Belfast-born Joseph Campbell who immigrated to the United States in 1925 and introduced Irish Studies to the American education system as a lecturer at Fordham University. He returned to Ireland in 1938 and lived in Wicklow until his death in 1944.

I Will Go With My Father

**I will go with my father a-ploughing
To the green field by the sea,
And the rooks and the crows and the seagulls
Will come flocking after me.
I will sing to the patient horses
With the lark in the white of the air,**

**And my father will sing the plough-song
That blesses the cleaving share.**

**I will go with my father a-sowing
To the red field by the sea,
And the rooks and the gulls and the starlings
Will come flocking after me.
I will sing to the striding sowers
With the finch on the flowering sloe,
And my father will sing the seed-song
That only the wise men know.**

**I will go with my father a-reaping
To the brown field by the sea,
And the geese and the crows and the children
Will come flocking after me.
I will sing to the weary reapers
With the wren in the heat of the sun,
And my father will sing the scythe-song
That joys for the harvest done.**

Joseph Campbell

Young Emeralds??

At the last Irish Cultural Series meeting the buzz was “Why not start a young Emeralds group? An affiliate of the Emerald Society!” In the midst of the discussion a young former St. Patrick’s Day colleen said that there were many university students in town of Irish origin who would love to have a social group. Why not? A planning meeting will be held at John Martins in early June. The young people would set their own rules, schedules, and dues and formalize their relationship with the Emerald Society. Look for a special email and letter on this in May. Meantime, let your sons and daughters know what’s cooking.

Now is the time to renew your membership.

You should have received your membership renewal notice by now. Please renew your membership now. We need your membership and active participation in our Celtic Corner here in South Florida. Don’t delay. Renew now. Thanks!

Join us in welcoming our new members.

Our plea for more new members two months ago is still working. This month, we welcome people in the worlds of insurance, law, and banking. Greet them at the next social meeting and find out who is who.

1. Sheila Dowd, sponsored by Jim Cooney.
2. Joseph Hackney, sponsored by Carmen and Henry Kissane.
3. Constance Kuehn, sponsored by Mike O'Connor.

Welcome, ladies and gentleman! Failte!

Congratulations Oliver Kerr!

Congratulations to co-editor Oliver Kerr who was recently tapped to become a Fellow of the prestigious American Institute of Certified Planners. Induction ceremonies will take place later this month in Washington, D.C. Oliver joins four others from the State of Florida and about 40 nationwide for this well-deserved honor.

Submitted by Judi Sherry

Board Members Meeting

The monthly Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the Miami Yacht Club on Watson Island. Attendance of all Board members is expected. All Emerald members are invited to attend. Dinner and drinks, as usual, will be available.

Editors' Note

If you got a printed copy of this newsletter it's because we do not have your email address. If you have an email address please let us know. It will save time and money in our distribution. An added bonus will be your ability to see the photos and pictures in color that we hope to add in future editions. The printed copies will be black and white only for now.

We welcome your comments, questions, literary submissions, and praises or complaints. Letters of praise will be framed and hung on the wall. Complaints? Well . . .

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