

January 2004

Member Tel: (305) 949-8400 www.emeraldsocietySFL.com

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A happy New Year to all you Emeralds basking in the Miami sunshine while your brothers and sisters edge up closer to the fireplace and reach for the hot cocoa or hot toddy! Isn't it great to be living here? Just another day in Paradise while our Northern families dig out of the snow drifts. We hope you had a joyful Christmas and that the New Year will bring you peace, happiness, and prosperity!

It's now time to turn to the year ahead. First up is another glorious celebration of St. Patrick's Day in March. Then look for news of our creative observance of the 100th Anniversary of Bloomsday in June. See stories inside.

January Social at La Palma in the Gables.

The January social will be on Wednesday, January 28 at the beautiful old La Palma restaurant in the Gables just across the street from the site of our last social at Splendido. The address is 116 Alhambra Circle and the telephone number is 305-445-8777. If the weather is good we will be in the garden behind the restaurant. Please come, meet and get to know your fellow Emeralds.

Maurice Grondin invites all Emeralds to a Superbowl Sunday open house. This is at his home, 2355 South Miami Avenue, telephone 305-858-1299. For you Emeralds who are not football fans this is the game of the year in American football. It's on February 1. Whether you're rooting for the Pats or the Cats, you're still welcome at Maurice's from 3:00 until the conclusion of the game.

Help us welcome our new members

Stephen M. James

Sponsored by Bill Gregory

Judge Carroll Kelly

Sponsored by John Cosgrove

Board Members

The monthly Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Miami Yacht Club on Watson Island. Attendance of all Board members is expected. Dinner and drinks, as usual, will be available.

Calling All Colleens!

Does your daughter, grand-daughter, sister, niece, cousin or friend want to be "Miss Colleen" at the St. Patrick's Day Festival on Saturday March 13, 2004? Yes, this is the Saturday before March 17!

Here are the qualifications:

Single female of any age. Must have some Irish blood in her veins. Will definitely attend the St. Patrick's Day Festival wearing green on Saturday, March 13, 2004 in the Fred. B. Hartnett Ponce Circle Park in Coral Gables.

Deadline for submitting information is February 1, 2004. We will have a rehearsal at the Steinway Piano Gallery at 4104 Ponce de Leon where Marge Hartnett is in sales. (Let her know if you know anyone interested in a Steinway!) Time of rehearsal will be given later.

Does the Colleen have a special talent—does she sing, dance, compose an Irish poem or limerick? Regardless of talent, all Colleens will be "Stars of the Show" when presented at the Festival by our famous Master of Ceremonies, Dan Fitzgerald.

In the meantime please send a recent clear photo showing her pretty Irish face to
Marge Hartnett—the Rose Lady
4410 Monserrate Street
Coral Gables, FL. 33146.
Telephone 305-666-8148.

Include with the photo, her age, name, home address and telephone. Photos will be in the St. Patrick's Festival Book. A beautiful "Miss Colleen" sash will be awarded to all participants who have completed the information in advance. We will meet at 1:00 p.m. in the park for this ceremony with City officials and Irish "big wigs."

The Emerald Society St.Patrick's Day Irish Festival Has Been Cancelled Due To Lack Of Interest.

I suspect that this headline will be most alarming to the faithful few who work to support the board of directors in their efforts to produce this popular event. They, along with too many Emeralds whose contribution consists of spending a few hours strolling through the park to see what the committee has accomplished, will be relieved to hear that the festival is proceeding as planned on Saturday, March 13th from noon 'til sunset.

Here's an easy way for YOU to contribute (if you can't buy an ad). Look around your house and gather up some of the items you've been shifting around from cabinet to shelf, stick a realistic price tag on them,(consider what you would pay at a yard sale), and put them in a box. Next: call Dan or Dolores Fitzgerald at (305) 665-1812 and give them an estimate of how many items you have. On Saturday, March 13th at Fred Hartnett Park 2800 Ponce De Leon Blvd. in Coral Gables bring them to the Emerald Society's "Tinker's Booth" between 1130 a.m. and noon and, if you have some time, become a traditional Irish tinker by being a part-time sales person thereby helping offset the expense of holding the festival."

We'd like to have our "ducks in a row" by Feb. 28th, so please help us prove that there are caring Emeralds who are willing to contribute. Start looking today and call us soon. No item is too small but only originally packaged clothing, please. Trying on clothing is too difficult to deal with. Let's have a great festival!
{Submitted by Dan Fitzgerald.}

We are currently looking for many more volunteers for our annual St. Patrick's Day Festival. We need greeters, setup people, staff for the ticket and raffle booth, the Irish Coffee and soda bread booth, the Tinkers' booth, etc. High school students can earn community service hours.

Members, do you know or patronize any businesses that would like to sponsor an ad in our Festival book? Or do you want to advertise yourself? Put in a memorial for someone? For information, contact Bill O'Brien at 305-854-1330.

Festival organizational meetings are held every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at the office of John Thompson, 370 Minorca Ave, Suite 1, Coral Gables. Any member can just show up and ALL are welcome.

Emerald Society Cultural Series

The 2004 Cultural Series was inaugurated on January 11, 2004 at 4:00 p.m. in John Martin's Restaurant and Irish Pub on Miracle Mile. Joe and Barbara McManus have taken the reins from Ed Cooke and are off to a good start. They are asking for suggestions and volunteer speakers as they plan for the year ahead. Any ideas? Contact Joe at 305-375-4907.

On February 8 at 4:00 p.m. come and hear "Ireland—off the Beaten Track," the adventures of your editors on a recent winter visit to the Emerald Isle. The Series will establish a small lending library in the upstairs room at John Martin's and is planning to acquire videos of Irish movies, both oldie goldies and more recent productions of merit that you may not have seen.

Do you have musical or theatrical talent?

We have had requests for Irish tenors, pipers, and others to perform at various celebrations and occasions across South Florida. If you have such a talent or know of someone who does please inform John Doherty so that he can make a list on our web site and help meet some of these requests.

Email John at dohertyjohn@bellsouth.net.

Nominating Committee is looking for members who are willing to serve the Society as Board Members or Officers. Give it some thought and contact Carroll Cameron at 305-232-2015. We need your help.

This month we take a break from modern Irish poets and go back 250 years, to a period just prior to the American Revolution. Then, Irish-born Oliver Goldsmith, whose statue graces the entrance to Trinity College in Dublin, was writing in London¹. He was a member of Samuel Johnson's literary circle. He is best known for this poem, sometimes called "The Deserted Village." He also wrote a good novel, "The Vicar of Wakefield" (1776) and a well-known play, "She Stoops to Conquer" (1778). He was born in 1728 in Pallasmore, Co. Longford, the son of the local curate and was educated by a hedge schoolmaster.

The Village

Sweet was the sound, when oft at evening's close
Up yonder hill the village murmur rose;
There, as I passed with careless steps and slow,
The mingling notes came softn'd from below:
The swain responsive as the milkmaid sung,
The sober herd that low'd to meet their young;
The noisy geese that gabbled o'er the pool,
The playful children just let loose from school;
The watchdog's voice that bay'd the whisp'ring
wind,
And the loud laugh that spoke the vacant mind;
These all in sweet confusion sought the shade,
And fill'd each pause the nightingale had made.
But now the sounds of population fail,
No cheerful murmurs fluctuate in the gale,
No busy steps the grass-grown footway tread,
For all the bloomy flush of life is fled.
All but yon widow'd, solitary thing,
That feebly bends beside the plashy spring;
She, wretched matron, forc'd in age, for bread,
To strip the brook with mantling cresses spread,
To strip her wintry faggot from the thorn,
To seek her nightly shed, and weep till morn;
She only left of all the harmless train,
The sad historian of the pensive plain.

Oliver Goldsmith

¹ Do you know the name of the other literary light whose statue graces the other side of the main entrance to Trinity College? For a prize and special recognition submit your answer to the editors.

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 and 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 . . .

Emerald Stickers Available

We now have car window stickers available thanks to the diligent work of our tireless secretary, Carroll Cameron. The transparent stickers display our South Florida Emerald Society logo. These are available from the Membership Committee for a nominal fee.

Emerald Society Ties and Polo Shirts

Remember to get your Emerald Society Tie! Cost \$10, a great price for a silk-blend tie. Call Billy Cameron at 305-233-0989. He will be happy to help you.

Emerald Society polo shirts with the new Emerald culture logo (a benefit of your membership) are now available at new member Gordon Arora's shop, On the Shore, in the Cutler Ridge Mall. New members may go there for their shirts that will be charged to the Emerald Society.

**The South Florida Emerald Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 144844
Coral Gables, FL. 33134.**

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