

March 2004

Mi na Marta

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A grand and glorious **St. Patrick's Day** to each and every one of you sons and daughters of Ireland! Beannachta Na Feile Padraig agaibh! It's a great day for the Irish in South Florida and in many other parts of the United States. On March 13 from noon to 6:00 p.m. join us at our **St. Patrick's Day Festival** at Fred B. Hartnett Ponce Circle Park at 2800 Ponce De Leon Boulevard in the Gables.

There will be entertainment provided by Irish singers and a harpist. Avalon, featuring Tricianne Garrihy, will play traditional and contemporary Irish music. Celtic Cros, with Paddy Kelleghan will also join us. Topsy Laird will play Irish ballads, and the St. Andrews Pipe Band will stir your blood with rousing Celtic marches. Come and see the beautiful Irish Colleen participants on stage. And watch the fleet-footed, ramrod straight Irish dancers from the Breffni School of Irish dancers.

Directors

Billy Cameron

Carroll Cameron

James Cooney

John Cosgrove

Mary Ann Fierro

John Kane

Oliver Kerr

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Joseph McManus

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David Russell

Judi Sherry

The festival combines family-oriented entertainment and homemade Irish culinary delights from Miami's best kitchens. There'll be corned beef and cabbage, authentic Irish soda bread, and spirited Irish whiskey cake to die for. John Martin's Irish Pub and Restaurant, Hooligan's Pub and Oyster Bar, and other local establishments will offer delectable dishes. There'll be Irish stout and lager and maybe even a wee drap of Irish whiskey to keep you warm on a brisk day in Spring. A slice of soda bread, slathered in butter, and washed down with a mug of Irish coffee, will carry you through the whole day! And you'll be able to buy Emerald Society ties, stickers and polo shirts (to be personalized later).

For the children, and the child in each of us, there will be face painting, clowns, a giant slide and a rock-climbing wall. A variety of Irish crafts and trinkets will be available for sale at the Copper Kettle booth.

Editors

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And don't forget the giant Tinkers' Booth with all those wonderful items that you simply can't live without. You may find some hidden treasures in this booth. Some very exclusive closets have been ransacked for this day. And it's still not too late to donate some of your own old treasures. Put a reasonable price on your donations and bring 'em to the booth on Saturday morning.

Board Members Meeting

The monthly Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 8 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.

Emerald Society Cultural Series

The Cultural Series March presentation will be a lively talk by Brian Gillis on the Boston Irish. Brian is a veteran city planner with Miami-Dade County but grew up in Boston and went to college there. This promises to be a witty, funny, and eye-opening review of the Irish and their rise to power in Beantown. Be there on Sunday, March 14 at 4:00 p.m. It's the day after the festival and a good opportunity to relax with your friends, swap festival stories. Join us and listen to Brian's stories about the Boston Irish, saints and sinners alike.

In May, look for a professional Irish storyteller straight from Dublin, compliments of the Miami-Dade County Public Library. The April presentation will be announced later.

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.

Pub Crawl on March 10

The annual pre-St. Patrick's Day pub-crawl will take place on Wednesday, March 10 beginning in Joe Healey's Hurricane Bar and Grill, 365 N. Royal Poinciana Blvd. in Miami Springs. Call Joe at 305-884-5077 to let him know that you are coming. The cost of the bus is \$10.00.

The pub-crawl is not about drinking a lot of alcohol although alcohol is consumed. It's about going out with your friends and a bag-piper to lead you into several congenial pubs and bars in the Miami area for a night of fun and frivolity.

Poetry Corner

Last month we gave you Samuel Ferguson's old romantic love-song, *The Lark in the Clear Air*, out Valentine's gift to all you wonderful Emeralds. For March and St. Patrick's Day we bring you a traditional Irish street song, author unknown.

The Wearing of the Green

O Paddy dear, and did you hear the news that's going round?
The shamrock is forbid by law to grow on Irish ground.
St. Patrick's Day no more we'll keep, his colors can't be seen,
For there's a bloody law again the wearing of the green.
I met with Napper Tandy and he took my by the hand,
And he said, "How's dear old Ireland, and how does she stand?"
She's the most disgraceful county that ever yet was seen,
They are hanging men and women for the wearing of the green.

Then since the color we must wear if England's cruel red,
Sure Ireland's sons will ne'er forget the blood that they have shed.
You may take the shamrock from your hat and cast it on the sod,
But 'twill take root and flourish there, though under foot 'tis trod.
When law can stop the blades of grass from growing as they grow,
And when the leaves in summer time their verdure dare not show,
Then I will change the color that I wear in my caubeen,
But 'till that day, please God, I'll stick to wearing of the green.

But if at last our color should be torn from Ireland's heart,
Her sons with shame and sorrow from the dear old isle will part;
I've heard a whisper of a country that lies beyond the sea,

Where rich and poor stand equal in the light of freedom's day.

O Erin, must we leave you, driven by the tyrant's hand?

Must we ask a mother's blessing from a strange and distant land?

Where the cruel cross of England shall nevermore be seen,

And where, please God, we'll live and die still wearing of the green.

Street Ballad 1798

Now, a prize will go to the first person who contacts the editors with the answer to this question: "Who was Napper Tandy?" And your bonus question is, "What is a caubeen?"

Board and Officer Ballots now due!

There are only a few days left to submit your ballot for the new Emerald Society Officers and Board members. Get them in the mail by March 10, 2004.

A word from our old friend, Stu Robinson.

In a letter to Billy Cameron, Stu Robinson, editor of this newsletter for many years and now living with family in California, sent his greetings to the South Florida Emeralds. Stu said that some of his happiest memories of his stay in South Florida was his association with "the ladies and gentlemen of the Emeralds." He sends his "heartiest appreciation." Thanks, Stu, it was great to hear from you. Please keep in touch.

Now is the time to renew your membership.

You should have received your membership renewal notice by now. Please renew your membership now. You can do it at the St. Patrick's Day festival if you wish. 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 last month must have worked. This month, we welcome five:

1. Bella Kelly, nominated by Phil Gallagher.
2. Maria Rosa Higgins-Fallon,
3. Enid J. Maguez, and
4. Pamela Tommenz, all nominated by Marge Hartnett; and
5. Kathleen Vasquez, nominated by Judi Sherry.

A final word on the St. Patrick's Day festival.

It's still not too late to bring a few things to the Tinker's booth at the Festival. Be sure to price your items and bring them with to the Festival. Dan Fitzgerald and his lovely wife, Dolores, will be pleased to see you and may even try to interest you in buying some one else's discarded treasures. Remember, while you're there you could renew your membership in the Emerald Society. See you on Saturday in Ponce Circle!

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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