

October 2004
Mi Deireadh Fomhair

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What, no hurricanes for several weeks? And a brief cold snap this past weekend?

It must really be fall in South Florida. The green and orange hurricanes are still winning and the Dolphins are languishing. Yes, it's surely fall here in our home town. The first fall social at Bice's last month was a great beginning to the year with more than 30 members and guests in attendance. Look for a list of attendees inside.

October Social at Coral Gables Country Club.

Bill O'Brien has lined up another exciting evening at the newly renovated Coral Gables Country Club, the site of our Christmas in Ireland party in December. Meet at 6:30 on Wednesday, October 27 at the Country Club lounge, 1007 S Greenway Drive. Come and meet your fellow Emeralds, old and new and catch up with what's happening this fall.

Irish Cultural Series Meets in John Martins

Join us at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 14, upstairs at John Martin's Irish Pub and Restaurant, 253 Miracle Mile in Coral Gables. The program will be either Nicolette Monaco discussing the American College in Dublin, sponsored by Lynn University, Boca Raton, or Professor Kathleen McCormick of FIU discussing Maria Edgeworth, an 18th. Century Irish author. We will contact you by mail or email prior to the event. Please make an effort to come out to the Cultural Series events. We had to cancel last month's presentation because of low turnout. It's on the second Sunday of the month at 4:00 p.m. at John Martins.

Christmas in Ireland Celebration

The annual celebration returns to the Coral Gables Country Club this year. On Thursday, December 9, 2004 we will welcome the fabulous Highland Rovers to our town for a night of food, fun, frolic, and dancing. It will be a buffet dinner with a choice of entrees. Show starts at 8:00, cocktails at 6:30. Admission will be \$50. Look for your personal invitation in the mail shortly. We still need volunteers to help make this event the highlight of the season. Call Jim Cooney at 305-665-8445 if you can help in any way.

Board Members

The Board met on Thursday October 7 at the Miami Yacht Club to review plans for the Christmas party, approve new members, and other business. The next meeting will be on Thursday November 4, 2004. Any member is welcome to attend. Attendance of all Board members is expected. Dinner and drinks, as usual, will be available. Stick around after the meeting and enjoy good company by the water's edge under the stars.

Another Look at Ireland

Join the Emeralds on a trip to Ireland next May 2005? We will plan a two-week trip geared to seasoned Irish travelers skipping the usual tourist spots and focusing on the nuances of craic and the less-well traveled north and west Ireland. We thought we would start our trip May 1, 2004, just two weeks before the airlines increase their required mileage for those using frequent flyer airline miles in lieu of airline cash purchases.

We will advise the travel agents that we wish to stay in reasonably priced bed and breakfasts as well as a few bed and breakfast farmhouses. Possibly, we should ask for a manor house on the west coast of Ireland. The travel agency will then specify a set price for a basic route, and those who wish to deviate from this route, can make their own plans. We will ask the travel agents to

give us two quotes—one quote just for the land portion of the trip including lodging and transportation within Ireland and the other quote for the airline expenses flying out of Miami in addition to this land portion of lodging and transportation within Ireland.

Before we submit an itinerary to tour companies for bids, the group is getting together to plan a prospective itinerary. If you are interested in this trip, join us for a potluck dinner here in Boca Raton on Saturday, November 6, 2004, at 3 PM. Please let us know if you are coming by phoning 561-338-8848 or by email at jwmcmanus@adelphia.net.

Barbara and Joe McManus

Poetry Corner

Each month the Shamrock News presents a poem by an Irish poet. This month we turn away from the more serious poetry that we have been offering to a simple, well-loved street ballad. Here's an old traditional ballad by T.P. Keenan often sung at family gatherings and parties in the north of Ireland. Show up at the next Cultural Series meeting and we'll give you the music and teach you how to sing it yourself. And maybe another for good measure. Now, isn't that grand!

Hello! Patsy Fagan or
The Dacent Irish Boy

I'm working here in Glasgow.
I've got a dacent job.
I'm carrying bricks and mortar
And my pay is fifteen bob.
I rise up in the morning.
I get up with the lark,
And as I'm walking down the street
I hear the girls remark.

Chorus

"Hello! Patsy Fagan."
You can hear the girls all cry.

“Hello! Patsy Fagan,
You’re the apple of my eye.
You’re a dacent boy from Ireland,
There’s no one can deny,
You’re a rarem, tarem, divil-may-carem,
Dacent Irish boy.”

The day that I left Ireland,
It’s many years ago.
I left my home in Antrim,
Where the pigs and praties grow.
But since I left Ould Ireland,
It’s always been my plan
To let the people see that I’m
A dacent Irish man.

Chorus

Now if there is one among you
Who would like to marry me,
I’ll take her to a little home
Across the Irish Sea.
I’ll dress her up in satins,
And please her all I can
And let her people see that I’m
A dacent Irish man.

Chorus

T. P. Keenan.

St. Patrick’s Festival Booklet

The printing of the St. Patrick’s Festival booklet for 2005 will be up for bid. A spec sheet is being prepared. For further information contact Tom Dunn whose number is on the masthead.

Dervish at the University of Miami

Were you among the Emeralds who showed up at the Festival Miami music festival at the University of Miami on October 2 last? Then you know what a great concert was presented by the wildly popular and exciting Irish traditional musical group, Dervish. The party afterwards, hosted by members Patti O’Rorke and Ted

Asmus, was a great opportunity to chat with the seven members of the band and to get to know them. Thank you Patti and Ted!

Members and Guests at September Social

One of our members suggested that we put more names and social happenings of members in our newsletter. Brilliant! Absolutely, brilliant!

Here’s a list of members and guests who attended the September social in the Grove. Please contact the editors with any news about our members or their families that might be suitable for publication here.

Enjoying the evening at Bice’s in the Grove were

John and Grace Wright
John and Dorothy Kane
Bill O’Brien
Tom and Karen Dunn
John Doherty
Michael O’Connor
Michael Guyer
Jim Cooney
Tom Cooney (guest)
Dick O’Connell
Nabil Salim
Tom Lynch
Billy Cameron
Dave Russell
Joe McManus
Bob Meyer
Pat Novack
Bill Gregory
John Gregory
Patty O’Rorke and Ted Asmus
Jon Sorgie
Mary Ann Fierro
Judi Sherry
Sean Hayden
Sharie Lorie (guest)
Shane O’Connor (guest)
Tom Wilson (guest)
Annie Goodrich (guest).

We know that you had a great time. See you next month at the Coral Gables Country Club.

Condolences

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Linda Murphy and her family on the untimely death of her son, Tony Estevez. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Linda.

Good News

We were delighted to hear that Dan Fitzgerald's wife Dolores was out of the hospital and recovering. Our prayers and best wishes are with you, Dan and Dolores.

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 submission of jokes, stories, old songs or wise sayings with an Irish flavor. Contact Mary Ann Fierro or Oliver Kerr.

Editors' Note

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