

September 2004  
Mi Mean Fomhair

Member Tel: (305) 949-8400  
[www.emeraldsocietySFL.com](http://www.emeraldsocietySFL.com)

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**(954) 989-5054**

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**2<sup>nd</sup> VP James Cooney**

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**Patrick Novak**

**David Russell**

**Judi Sherry**

### Editors

**Mary Ann Fierro**

**305-251-6208**

**Oliver Kerr**

**305-662-6744**

## Welcome back from the endless summer!

This newsletter was scheduled to go out in the first week of September but Frances blew our schedule away. The September Board meeting was cancelled and we will crank up again in October. See the details below.

All together now let's hope and pray that all hurricanes stay far, far away. We trust that you survived Frances and Ivan unscathed. Hopefully we can look forward now to a peaceful passage through the familiar rites of the fall in South Florida. The only hurricanes that we want to see moving forward over the next ten weeks are those that wear orange and green jerseys on Saturday afternoons. Go Canes! And we wish our Dolphins lots of Irish luck this year. Kids are back in school and already coming home with the fund-raising wrapping paper and Christmas gift catalogues. The traffic is noticeably worse and election candidates are pounding the pavement. Yes, the fall is upon us, "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" and a host of Emerald Society activities.

We look forward to seeing you at the first fall social and hearing how you survived yet another Florida summer and the storms that have disrupted our lives this fall.

We have great plans for the year ahead. Bill O'Brien has lined up a string of enticing and exciting venues for our monthly socials. Joe and Barbara McManus will present a sparkling series of Irish Cultural events throughout the year. Jim Cooney is working hard on the Christmas party. Keep checking the web site, [www.emeraldsocietySFL.com](http://www.emeraldsocietySFL.com), that John Doherty maintains so well for the latest information.

### **The first great social of the season is set**

Bring all your summer vacation stories to the Wyndham Grand Bay, 2669 South Bayshore Drive in Coconut Grove. On Wednesday, September 29 at 6:30 p.m. we'll convene at Bice Restaurant on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor mezzanine. Happy hour prices for drinks.

This is a great location in the heart of the Grove overlooking Biscayne Bay. There is valet or on-street parking. See you there!

### **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 night of food, fun, and frolic. 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.

### **Irish Cultural Series Kicks Off a New Season**

The Irish Cultural Series inaugurates its fifth season with a talk by Marie Tierney Smith on Northern Ireland Since the Sixties. Marie is well versed in the slow progress toward peace there and will talk about the Good Friday agreement and the roles of President Clinton, Senator Mitchell, Gerry Adams of Sinn Fein, the Rev. Ian Paisley, and David Trimble of the Unionists.

Join us at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 10 at John Martin's Restaurant and Irish Pub, 253 Miracle Mile in Coral Gables. There is no parking behind the restaurant. Best parking can be found at the parking garage behind the Miracle Theater on the south side of Miracle Mile. There is a short walk through the passageway to Miracle Mile and the crosswalk to John Martins.

### **Board Members**

The monthly Board meeting scheduled for September was postponed because of the approaching hurricane. The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Miami Yacht Club on Watson Island on Thursday, October 7. 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, September 25, 2004, at 3 PM. Please let us know if you are coming by phoning 561-338-8848 or by email at [jwmcmanus@adelphia.net](mailto:jwmcmanus@adelphia.net).

*Barbara and Joe McManus*

### **Poetry Corner**

Each month the Shamrock News presents a poem by an Irish poet. This is the third poem by Seamus Heaney that we have presented to you. Last year you read the delightful Railway Children who were

“so infinitesimally scaled we could stream through the eye of a needle.” Here’s another to stir your imagination, one that will bring back memories if you have ever upended a rain stick. Do you think that the biblical note of “a rich man entering heaven through the ear of a raindrop” here echoes the biblical ‘eye of a needle’ image of the railway children?

Check it out for yourself.

### **The Rain Stick**

**Up-end the rain stick and what happens next  
Is a music that you never would have known  
To listen for. In a cactus stalk.**

**Downpour, sluice-rush, spillage and backwash  
Come flowing through. You stand there like a  
pipe**

**Being played by water, you shake it lightly  
And diminuendo runs through all its scales  
Like a gutter stopping trickling. And now here  
comes**

**A sprinkle of drops out of the freshened leaves,**

**Then subtle little wets off grass and daisies;  
Then glitter-drizzle, almost-breaths of air.  
Up-end the stick again. What happens next**

**Is undiminished for having happened once,  
Twice, ten, a thousand times before.  
Who cares if all the music that transpires**

**Is the fall of grit or dry seeds through a cactus?  
You are like a rich man entering heaven  
Through the ear of a raindrop. Listen now  
again.**

**Seamus Heaney**

### **Missing Emeralds**

This is a new feature of your newsletter. Every month we hope to publish the names of some member whom we have not heard from in some time and whom we have been unable to contact. Perhaps you know the whereabouts of one of these “missing Emeralds” and can tell us how to contact

him or her. Does anyone know how we could contact **Thomas E. Keenan** or **John Hennessy**? If so, please contact John Doherty, Membership Chair, at [dohertyjohn@bellsouth.net](mailto:dohertyjohn@bellsouth.net).

### **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.

### **Member’s Submissions**

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

### **Dervish at the University of Miami**

As part of the annual Festival Miami music festival at the University of Miami, the wildly popular and exciting Irish traditional musical group Dervish is scheduled to appear on Saturday, October 2nd at the Gusman Hall on campus at 8:00 p.m. Tickets \$25, Seniors \$20, and students \$10. It may be possible for the band to come to a reception after the concert with the Emerald Society members who attend it. The reception could be at the School of Music or at the home of the Dean of Graduate Studies, which is just a few miles away. This could be a great evening for the Irish. We will be asking for a contribution toward the refreshments. For more details call Mary Ann Fierro. Her number is listed on the front page.

### **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.

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