

June 2005
Mi An Mheithimh

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ReJoyce Miami, 2005

Celebrating the 101st. Anniversary of Bloomsday

It's here already! Bloomsday 2005. Join us in Coral Gables on Thursday, June 16 when we celebrate the 101st. anniversary of Bloomsday. On June 16, 1904 Leopold Bloom and Stephen Dedalus set out on their epic journeys through the streets of Dublin, their adventures memorialized in James Joyce's immortal Ulysses. So join us on June 16 at 6:00 p.m. at Books & Books, 265 Aragon Ave, just behind John Martins. Parking is easy in the new city parking garage between the bookstore and the pub. Professionals from Actors' Playhouse will do justice to some short excerpts from the novel after the presentation of the Bloomsday proclamation by the Lord Mayor of Coral Gables, the Honorable Donald Slesnick, who is a member of the Society. Be sure to get there early. Last year it was standing room only.

Following the readings there will be a procession with flags and piper around the block to John Martin's Irish Pub and Restaurant on Miracle Mile for the Bloomsday Feast. A proper observance of Bloomsday always involves moving from one place to another and invariably involves some eating and drinking. The restaurant will offer some special dishes in addition to the regular menu. There will be music and songs and we will end the evening with an actress from the Playhouse reading Molly Bloom's wonderful and somewhat erotic soliloquy, which concludes the novel.

On the Saturday prior, June 11, join us at 2:00 for a pre-Bloomsday Tea Party at the Coral Gables Branch Library at 3442 Segovia Street. There will be readings, live Irish music, songs, an Irish dancing exhibition, and a lovely, proper, afternoon tea with scones, etc. We want to send you home refreshed in body, mind, and spirit. All of this is offered at absolutely no charge.

We encourage you to join with your editors in dressing for the occasion at the library and June 16. Period hats, blouses, shirts, frocks, whatever you can find in your closet that looks old, will do. Come on out now and let's have some fun, Emeralds!

Irish Cultural Series Meets in John Martins

This month's topic is the Bloomsday celebration outlined above. The Series will take a break for the months of July, August and September and reconvene in October when the long hot summer will be winding down.

Last month we were treated to a presentation on the Scottish/Irish influence on the young United States of America in the 18th and early 19th centuries. Edward S. Cooke (founder of this Cultural Series) together with Nigel Mac Donald, of the Scots -American Society of South Florida and the St. Andrew's Pipe Band talked about the Scottish/Irish presence in North America as they reviewed James Webb's book Born Fighting.

The Installation of Officers and Board of Directors

The installation dinner at the new Parrot Jungle Island was a big success. About 60 Emeralds gathered to salute our first woman President, Carroll Cameron, and to see the other officers and board members properly sworn in. Judge Deborah White LaBora presided over the swearing in ceremony. Dan Fitzgerald was the master of ceremonies. Oliver Kerr, the new Historian of the Society, offered an invocation. New members in attendance were presented with Emerald pins. The new president made a short but moving speech recognizing the leadership of Past-President Tom Dunn and pledging to lead the Society to new levels of success in the year ahead. President Cameron offered Certificates of Distinguished Service to the Society to the following: Carmen and Henry Kissane, C.L. Conroy, Marge Hartnett, Maurice Grandin, Dolores Fitzgerald, Karen Dunn, Jan Paris, and Janice McKay. Each table was graced with a beautiful orchid arrangement and these went home with the lucky winners of the table raffles. Thanks go to the organizer Judi Sherry and Mary Ann Kerr.

July 4th Parade on Key Biscayne

Wear your green and white with a touch of the red, white, and blue as you march with your fellow Emeralds in the traditional July 4th parade on Crandon Boulevard. We will meet at St. Agnes Catholic Church on Harbor Drive. Turn right at the first traffic light in the Village of Key Biscayne (Harbor Drive) and the church will be on your right. Refreshments will be served to fortify you for the rigors of the parade. Try to get there by 9:00 a.m. as traffic builds up quickly on the Rickenbacker Causeway.

Board Members

The Board will meet on Thursday, July 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the Miami Yacht Club on Watson Island. It's in back of Parrot Jungle Island. If you have never been there you ought to come and experience the place. There's a small bar and restaurant with a real 1960's feel. You can sit at tables out by the water's edge. Any member is welcome to attend. At the gate just press the intercom and identify yourself as with the Emerald Society. Attendance of all Board members is expected. Dinner and drinks, as usual, will be available.

June Social at Grand Bay in the Grove

Bill O'Brien brings us back to the beautiful Bice lounge on the mezzanine deck at Grand Bay, 2699 South Bayshore Drive in Coral Gables. Be there to mingle with your friends at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 29, 2005.

Poetry Corner

In June we honor our fathers, living and dead. Here is a poem by Irish playwright John B. Keane in tribute to his father. You may trip over one or two of his words (inchoate means chaotic) but you cannot mistake the strong love and loyalty of this man for his father. Note the detail in this portrait and the honesty that the poet brings to it. This poem is dedicated to all of our Emerald fathers living and departed.

John B. Keane was born in Listowel, Co. Kerry in 1928 and died in 2002. He published forty-six works and is best known as playwright. He wrote the Field, which was later adapted as a powerful movie of the same name that is well worth renting. He was a founder member of the Society of Irish Playwrights.

My Father

John B. Keane

When he spoke gustily and sincerely
Spittle fastened
Not merely upon close lapel
But nearly blinded
Those who had not hastened
To remove pell-mell.
He was inviolate.
Clung to old stoic principle,
And he
Dismissed his weaknesses
As folly.
His sinning was inchoate;
Drank ill-advisedly.
His waistcoat I remember—
Tobacco-perfumed parallelogram
Of pennied pockets.
One, when unexpected telegram
Advised immediate payment
Eyes rocketed in sockets
At demand of claimant.
He wired this cant:
“Coffers, rent apart,
Am intimate friend
Of Weller, Tony.
Have ripped beadles apart.
Am, sir, compelled to dial
The number of your heart.”
I am terribly proud of my father,
Bitterly, faithfully proud.
Let none say a word to my father
Or mention his name out loud.
I adored his munificent blather
Since I was his catch-as-catch-can.
I am terribly proud of my father.
For he was a loveable man.

Tom Flynn Honored

The Government of Australia conferred the honorary Order of Australia on Tom Flynn, a singular honor for anyone who is not a citizen of Australia. Congratulations, Tom, you are surely one of our Emerald stars.

Installation Dinner Photos



Past-President Tom Dunn with
President Carroll Cameron



Jan Paris and Janice M\cKay



Janice McKay and Stu Robinson



Tom and Karen Dunn



Carmen & Henry Kissane with Carroll Cameron



**Megan Toemes, Marge Hartnett,
And Dan Fitzgerald**

**South Florida Emerald Society, Inc.
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