

December 2006

Mi Na Nollaig

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**Last Call—for Thursday night's
Christmas Time in Ireland Dinner**

The annual celebration returns to the Coral Gables Country Club, 997 North Greenway Drive, again this year. On Thursday, December 14, 2006, yes this Thursday, we welcome you to a night of food, fun, frolic, and dancing. It will be a buffet dinner with a choice of entrees. Dan Fitzgerald, will keep it lively, assisted by Peter Fuchs at the piano. Music to listen to and to dance to is provided by Celt and there will be a dance exhibition by the award-winning Breffni Dancers. Reservations for tables of eight or ten are available. Dinner starts at 7:30, cocktails at 6:30.

Admission tickets are \$65. You should have received your personal invitation already in the mail and some raffle tickets in a separate mailing. This year's celebration is once again under the able direction of Board Member, Patrick Novak but we still need volunteers to help make this event the highlight of the season. If you have not gotten your invitation or tickets yet or if you would like to help, just call Mary Ann Kerr at 305-251-6206 or by email, kerr39@bellsouth.net.

There are three great prizes for the raffle this year: \$1,000 in cash, a cruise on Carnival Cruise Lines, and Cayman Airline tickets. There will also be a surprise auction. Remember, if you're not in you can't win!

Come and support us. The funds we raise go to our cultural and charitable programs throughout the year and help underwrite the St. Patrick's Day festival.

Another Great Social

The November Social at John Martins was a great success. About 50 members and guests showed up for a lively evening in our favorite pub. The upstairs bar was open and an ample supply of gourmet snacks. Martin Lynch welcomed all, including members Bill Gregory, John Doherty, Judi Sherry, Joe and Barbara McManus, Noel McManus, Oliver and Mary Ann Kerr, Jon Lindeman, Dan and Dolores Fitzgerald, Dick O'Connell, Billy and Carroll Cameron, Tom Lynch, Pat Novak, Frank O'Dowd, John Sorgie, Annie Goodrich, Chuck Harty, Enid Miguez, Mary Gerhardt, Chris Kelley, Ann McShane, Doug and Margaret Yoder, Sean Hayes, and Stu Robinson. Guests included Jack Norris, Pat and Bob Desbiens, David Albury, Kathleen Charles, Joanne Drescher, and from Ireland, Pat Synnott, Donal Mulligan, and Joan Corcoran. The music downstairs went on late into the evening.

January Social at Ann McShane's Place

The January social will be at member Ann McShane's home in the Redland farming area of South Miami-Dade on Friday January 26. Following the great success of the last social at a private home (Serre Murphy's place in the Gables), we're heading to Ann's lovely home in the Redland. Ann's brother, an accomplished Irish musician will be visiting then and it promises to be a wonderful evening under the stars. Directions will follow in the January newsletter.

Board Meeting

The December Board meeting was held on December 7 at the Miami Yacht Club. Plans for the Christmas in Ireland party at the Coral Gables Country were finalized and Patrick Novak distributed invitations and raffle tickets (see front page). Minutes of the meeting are posted on the web site so that you can view the complete record of what was done. The next meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 4, 2007. My, how time flies when you're having fun! Attendance of all Board members is expected and members are welcome to attend. Just identify yourself as an Emerald Society member at the gate speaker box.

Welcome New Members

Five new members were approved at the November and December board meetings:

- **Tom and Mary Horan**
- **Pat Desbiens**
- **John Hourihan**
- **Mike Lally (son of deceased member, Robert Lally)**

Join us in extending a warm welcome to them and come meet them in person at the next Social.

Emerald Friend Passing

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Emerald Society friend, **Marty Malone**, who passed away last week. He designed the piper that graces our St. Patrick's Day publicity for the past several years. May he rest in peace.

Audit Committee Volunteers Needed

John Doherty, our dedicated and meticulous treasurer, is seeking volunteers to form an audit committee to review the accounts of the Society. John tells us that this is considered good practice. Contact President Joe McManus if you are interested in serving.

Poetry Corner

Each month the *Shamrock News* presents a poem on an Irish topic or by an Irish poet. This month, since it's Christmas, we bring you a piece that we happened upon that seems to fit with the season. We do not know the name of the poet. If you do know anything about this let the editors know so that we can give proper credit. And a very merry Christmas and happy New Year to you all! ***Nollaig Siona Duit! (A Blessed Christmas to you!)***

An Irish Welcome

**'Twas Christmas Eve at St. Mary's and the pastor, Father Gibb,
Was watching Michael, the sexton, as he carefully fixed the crib.**

The sheep and oxen were standing guard—the straw was neatly piled;
And Mary and Joseph were kneeling, admiring their little child.

The star that guided the Magi flooded the stable with light.

“Tis beautiful, Michael,” the pastor said, “It looks like that first Holy Night.”

“Ah, faith and I think it is terrible,” the sexton replied with a frown,
The way that our Saviour had to be born in that miserable pagan town.”

“Sure there isn’t an Irishman living, much less is there one in the grave,
From County Derry down to Kerry that’d let him be born in a cave.”

“If the Irish were living in Bethlehem, Joseph need not have knocked;
Sure Mary and he could have walked right in, for our doors are never locked.”

“And if they had come to my cottage, they’d have found the door full wide—
‘Cead mile failte,’ I’d say to them, ‘God bless ye and step inside.’ ”

“I’d shake up the ould turf fire, and make them as warm as could be,
And I’d have my wife, God rest her, make them a pot of tea.”

“And if the soldiers of Herod came after the baby, the fakes:
Me and my neighbors would rout them like Patrick drove out the snakes.”

“Tis a pity, Father, I tell ye, without a word of lie,
That there wasn’t an Irishman livin’, when Joseph and Mary passed by.”

The St. Patrick’s Day Committee, Inc.

The St. Patrick’s Day Committee, Inc., is a not-for-profit 501 (c) 3 organization affiliated with the **South Florida Emerald Society, Inc.**, which, in turn, is a 501 (c) 7 organization in the IRS code. We are devoting a separate section of the newsletter to the activities conducted under the umbrella of the St. Patrick’s Day Committee so that we can fully meet the reporting requirements of the IRS and the rules of the community grants programs.

St. Patrick’s Day Festival

Our grant applications to the Miami-Dade Cultural Affairs Committee and the Coral Gables Cultural Affairs Commission seeking support for the St. Patrick’s Day Festival have been approved. The County awarded us \$3,314 and the City awarded \$1,000.

Jon Lindeman, has volunteered to chair the event this year. Three planning meetings have already taken place and another is scheduled for January. Look for details in the January *Shamrock News*, or call **Carroll Cameron, President of the St. Patrick’s Day Committee**, at 305 232-2015. Volunteers are needed and all are welcome to attend any meeting.

The Celtic Cultural Series Sixth Season

The Cultural Series inaugurated its seventh season last month with a presentation on **Rambles in Ireland** by those members who traveled there earlier in the year. **Bill Hartnett** spoke of his adventurous climb up and down Croagh Patrick, a challenging place of pilgrimage in the West of Ireland. **Carroll and Billy Cameron** talked about their adventures by car across the country. **Barbara McManus**, who with her husband Joe, traveled with the Cameron’s, added detail about a wonderful stony desert in the west called the Burren. **Oliver and Mary Ann Kerr** talked about their extended travels throughout the country from Antrim to Cork. **Frances Baboun** wrapped up the

discussion with stories about her travels in the
Emerald Isle.

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