

July 2006
Juil

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Editors

Mary Ann & Oliver Kerr
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ReJoyce Miami, 2006

Bloomsday, June 16, was a Friday this year. Thank heavens. Once again we had a wild and wacky celebration of James Joyce's famous novel, Ulysses. The day began with the Lord Mayor of Coral Gables, member Donald Slesnick, presenting the Bloomsday proclamation outside City Hall in front of the new George Merrick statue that gazes now down the length of a bustling Miracle Mile. Emerald Board members and City officials present for the occasion were blessed with sunshine and a pleasant breeze.

The evening started at Books & Books with dramatic readings from Ulysses, with assistance from Karl Waisenau of Actors Playhouse and your humble editor, both properly attired for the occasion. A big basket put together by Mary Ann Kerr and Janice McKay with the assistance of Helen Speranza, was raffled off. After a few sweet old songs, rendered with the requisite gusto by all present, we embarked on our own odyssey with flags and pipes and drums around the block to the Bloomsday feast in John Martins. Eddie Fierro, Mary Ann's son, beat out a brisk march on an Irish Bodhran. Once again, our entire merry group stoutly resisted the lures of the lovely sirens and their designer martinis at Houstons. Some wavered momentarily, yes, but quickly came to their senses and were not wrecked on the rocks there. Instead, we pressed steadfastly on behind our own pied piper to the hallowed portal and safe refuge of our favorite Irish pub. It was indeed a literary feast for all of our senses.

July 4th. Celebration on Key Biscayne

The Emeralds once again marched in Key Biscayne's wonderful small-town celebration of July 4th. We met early in the tree-shaded parking lot of St. Agnes Church for some drinks and light refreshments to sustain us on the parade. About 30 of us in the emerald green and white blended well with the red, white, and blue as we wished "Top o' the morning," to the various nationalities that lined Crandon Boulevard to celebrate Independence Day. Special thanks go the Gregory kids, Ariel and Billy, and to the McManus grandkids, Andrew and Matthew Ballas, for helping to distribute little sweets to the kids in the crowd.

Editors are off to Ireland for August and September

Your editors are celebrating Oliver's retirement from County service after 32 years by taking an extended vacation this year. As usual there will be no newsletter in August. Bob Meyer assisted by Jan Paris has kindly offered to publish a newsletter for September and for October. Look for the editors on their return in October at the November Celtic Cultural Series talking about what else? -- Travels in Ireland.

No Social in July or August

There will be no social gathering in July or August, but Bill O'Brien assures us that we will crank up again in September when the kids are back in school and college football will have started. Hopefully, we will be looking to celebrate a storm-free summer and fall in South Florida.

The June Social at the Mezzanine Bar at the Wyndham Grand Bay in Coconut Grove was an exciting event. Ask someone who was there to tell you about the mermaid. Enough said!

September Board Meeting

The September Board meeting will be at the Miami Yacht Club on Watson Island on the McArthur Causeway on **Thursday, September 7, 2006 at 6:30 p.m.** Attendance of all Board members is expected and members are welcome to attend. Just identify yourself as an Emerald at the entrance gate and you can enter.

There is no August Board Meeting.

Emerald Society Committees

1. **Membership**—Tom Lynch and Ann McShane
2. **Installation of Officers**—Janice McKay
3. **St. Patrick's Festival**—Vacant
4. **Christmas in Ireland**—Pat Novak
5. **Celtic Cultural Series**—Vacant
6. **Newsletter**—Oliver and Mary Ann Kerr
7. **Nominating**—Joe McManus

8. **July 4th. Parade**—Carroll & Billy Cameron
9. **Bloomsday**—Oliver Kerr
10. **Socials**—Bill O'Brien
11. **Public Relations**—John Kane and C.L. Conroy.

Poetry Corner

Each month the Shamrock News presents a poem by an Irish poet. This month we have selected another poem by Seamus Heaney, Ireland's Nobel Prize-winning poet. He was born in Northern Ireland in 1939. Oliver Kerr was also born in the North in the same year. In September think of your editors "making the time to drive out west into County Clare." We'll tell you about it in ovember.

Postscript

**And some time make the time to drive out west
Into County Clare, along the Flaggy Shore,
In September or October, when the wind
And the light are working off each other
So that the ocean on one side is wild
With foam and glitter, and inland among stones
The surface of a slate-grey lake is lit
By the earthed lightning of a flock of swans,
Their feathers roughed and ruffling, white on
white,
Their fully grown headstrong-looking heads
Tucked or cresting or busy under water.
Useless to think you'll park and capture it
More thoroughly. You are neither here nor
there.
A hurry through which known and strange
things pass
As big soft buffetings come at the car sideways
And catch the heart off guard and blow it open.**

Seamus Heaney

Condolences

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of **member John Gregory**, whose wife Sheryl passed away on July 11, 2006. Many Emerald members attended the wake and the funeral mass at Epiphany Church. John, her three young sons, and

her extended family which includes John's brother, **member Bill Gregory**, will sadly miss her

New Business Cards

New business cards have been purchased with the Emerald Society mission statement and contact numbers and a space for you to write in your name and contact number. These are intended to help you in introducing new members to the society. They will be available for members at all of our future meetings and celebrations.

Help Wanted

The **Celtic Cultural Series** is looking for additional members to help with the program for the coming year. The series operates on a monthly basis from October through June of each year. Interested? Call Joe McManus for more information.

The **Membership Committee** is looking for assistance with making phone calls and following up with member contacts. Call Tom Lynch or Ann McShane for additional information.

New Directory on the way

A new Directory of members is being prepared and will be mailed to all members. Check your entry in the current directory (you can find it on the website) and let us know if it needs updating. A new draft will be available on the website soon for your review. Email or fax any corrections to Carroll Cameron—cameronc@bellsouth.net or 305-235-3439. Do it now, while you are thinking about it. Would you like to place an ad in the Directory? This is a real bargain--\$25.00 for a business card. People use their directories. Contact Carroll now!

The St. Patrick's Day Committee, Inc.

The St. Patrick's Day Committee is a not-for-profit 501 (c) 3 organization affiliated with the South Florida Emerald Society, 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 this Committee.

At a meeting on April 24, 2006 new officers were elected as follows:

President	Carroll Cameron
V. President	Jon Lindeman
Secretary	Ann McShane
Treasurer	John Doherty

A number of assignments were made in preparation for next year's festival. More details on these will be available next month.

St. Patrick's Day Festival

Next year's celebration will be on Saturday, March 10, 2007, the Saturday prior to St. Patrick's Day. The choice of this date will help us ensure that we continue to book the high quality musicians and entertainers that we have enjoyed in recent years

The Celtic Cultural Series Sixth Season

The Cultural Series is in its sixth season of presenting Celtic Cultural Programs in Miami-Dade County. Founded by Edward Cooke, a past-president of the South Florida Emerald Society, it has been directed most recently by member Joseph McManus, who has been elected President of the Emerald Society. We are looking for volunteers to help with the Celtic Cultural Series, which will kick off this September.