

**April 2007**

**Aibrean**

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**What a wonderful St. Patrick's Day celebration it was on March 10 past!**

**We were blessed once more with blue skies and sunshine—thank you, St. Pat—and we played host to an even larger crowd than last year. Congratulations to the St. Patrick's Day Committee who worked so hard under the leadership of Jon Lindeman to make this a day when we were proud to be Irish.**

**The Breffni Irish dancers once again danced up a storm and highlighted some of the youngest dancers we have ever seen. The Soda Bread booth sold all the Irish whiskey cake and almost all of the soda bread. The Tinkers' Booth was very successful this year. Thanks to Dolores Fitzgerald, Dorothy Kane, and crew and all who rummaged in their closets for hidden treasures for the Booth. Thank you Dan Fitzgerald for being such an eloquent MC and Oliver Kerr for playing second fiddle. Joe McManus, and Judi Sherry at the Welcome/Info Booth assisted Henry and Carmen Kissane and we thank them heartily for a job well done. C.L. Conroy made sure that the publicity was placed and John Kane saw to the print advertising. Thanks to Mary Ann Kerr, Jan Paris, Naomi Flasco, and Ann McShane who served soda bread, whiskey cake, and Irish coffee.**

**Thanks also to our sponsors, vendors, exhibitors, entertainers, and technicians. The cleanup crew was great—Bill Gregory, Tom Lynch, Tom and Karen Dunn, Oliver Kerr and all their crew helped to fold the tents and to clean up the park before heading off into the night. Go raibh maith agaibh! Thank you all for a memorable day!**

**Election Results and Installation of Officers**

**Ballots for the election of officers and board members have been counted and you can see the results on the left margin. Congratulations to our new president, David (Skip) Russell, now recovered from a serious illness and ready to take charge. Backing him up is First Vice-President Carroll Cameron. Oliver Kerr was elected as Second Vice-President. John Doherty was re-elected Treasurer and Pat O'Regan Rios, all the way from Broward County as Recording Secretary. Dan Fitzgerald was re-elected as Historian. The Installation dinner will be at Jungle Island on May 23, 2007 (see inside).**

The **Jacaranda Room at Jungle Island** is the beautiful location on Watson Island, just off the MacArthur Causeway. It's an opportunity to congratulate the new officers and board of directors and to meet the new members. The dinner will be **6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 23**. Invitations will be mailed soon. Get your reservations in early, as seating is limited. Thank you **Janice McKay** for heading up the host committee. We'll hoist a glass to up in old Ballintoy!

### **April Social is back at the Grand Bay**

Bill O'Brien has arranged for us to meet at the the Grand Bay for our April Social on **Wednesday, April 19, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.** The Grand Bay down in the Grove, 2669 South Bayshore Drive, has hosted us before in great style. Ask Oliver about the mermaid he saw there. It is easier to park in the back of the hotel on the second floor.

### **Poetry Corner**

Here's a lovely Irish song that can be heard sometimes in John Martin's Irish Pub and Restaurant in the Gables. The Anna Liffy in the song is the river Liffy that runs through the center of the City.

The Pillar was Nelson's Pillar a British monument that once dominated O'Connell Street until the IRA demolished it one night. The sentiments here about the loss of old familiar landmarks are those that many Miamians share in these days of rapid change in downtown Miami and other places.

### **Dublin in the Rare Ould Times**

Raised on songs and stories  
Heroes of renown  
The passing tales and glories  
That once was Dublin Town.  
The hallowed halls and houses  
The haunting children's rhymes  
That once was Dublin City  
In the rare ould times.

(Chorus) Ring a Ring a Rosey,  
As the light declines  
I'll remember Dublin City  
In the rare ould Times.

My name it is Sean Dempsey  
As Dublin as could be.  
Born hard & late in Pimlico  
In a house that ceased to be.  
By trade I was a cooper  
Lost out to redundancy.  
Like my house that fell to progress  
my trade's a memory.

I courted Peggy Dignan  
As pretty as you please.  
A rogue and child of Mary  
from the rebel liberties.  
I lost her to a student chap  
With skin as back as coal  
When he took her off to Birmingham  
She took away my soul.

The years have made me bitter.  
The gargle dims my brain  
'cause Dublin keeps on changing  
and nothing seems the same.  
The Pillar and the Met have gone  
the Royal long since pulled down  
As the grey unyielding concrete  
makes a city of my town.

Fare thee well sweet Anna Liffy  
I can no longer stay  
And watch the new glass cages  
that spring up along me Quay.  
My mind's too full of memories  
too old to hear new chimes.  
I'm a part of what was Dublin  
in the rare ould times.

Author: Pete St. John

## *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

**Jon Lindeman** and his 2007 Festival Committee is taking a well earned rest. A more detailed report on the event this year will be forthcoming. During the weekly planning meetings, which were held at the offices of John and Dorothy Thompson, we learned that one of our more active members was about to celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup>. Birthday. We presented our own Marge Hartnett, the Rose Lady, with a little birthday cake at one of the meetings and a much larger one at the Festival.

Here's Marge's thank you note:

*Where, oh where, do I start thanking Mary Ann Kerr, the Cake Lady, and ALL the others who were so very kind in helping me celebrate the Big 90!! You all have spoiled me, but I like it!!*

*When I win the lottery all of you are invited when I charter a plane to have a festival in O'Neill, the official "Irish Capital of Nebraska." Get ready—it could happen! The luck of the Irish looms near.*

*Marge Hartnett*

### May Board Meeting

The May Board meeting will be at the Miami Yacht Club on Watson Island on the McArthur Causeway on **Thursday, May 3, 2007 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.

### New Members

Join us in extending a *cead mile failte*, a hundred, thousand welcomes, to our five new members.

- **Richard C. Welsh, Jr.** of Miami, sponsored by Bill O'Brien.
- **Dana O'Brien Brown**, of Miami Shores, sponsored by David and Mary Gerhardt.
- **Ann Eustace**, of SW Miami, sponsored by Henry Kissane.
- **Nicholas Ash**, of Homestead, sponsored by Joseph W. McManus.
- **Matthew Johnson**, of SW Miami, sponsored by Joseph W. McManus.

We look forward to getting to know them better at the April Social and to helping them become involved in the affairs of the Society.

### Bob Lally Memorial

The Emerald Society has received donations in memory of deceased member, Bob Lally. These funds will be used to provide honoraria for our Cultural Series. The first recipient was Professor Sean Quilter who presented at the April 1, 2007 session.

### **The Celtic Cultural Series Sixth Season**

The Cultural Series is ending 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, Inc., it was directed for the past two years by Joe and then Barbara McManus. Now, members John and Dorothy Kane will direct it with the assistance once again, of Oliver and Mary Ann Kerr, and Billy and Carroll Cameron.

Last month's session on Celtic art presented by Irish Professor Sean Quilter was very well attended and evoked a lot of interest. Ed and Gloria Cooke were there, along with John and Dorothy Kane, Joe McManus, Dave and Judy Russell, Carroll and Billy Cameron, Mike Lally and Jenny, Helen Lennon and granddaughter Erin, and Oliver and Mary Ann Kerr. We may want to bring the professor back again.

### **Ian Paisley and Gerry Adams Together?**

Have the Good Friday agreements of 1998 finally been implemented in Northern Ireland? On May 6, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. in John Martin's Irish Pub and Restaurant on Miracle Mile join us for a discussion of this topic at the May Celtic Cultural session presented by Dr. David Kilroy of Nova Southeastern University. He will address the ongoing efforts to form a power-sharing government in Northern Ireland and the reasons why the Unionist and the Nationalist communities remain deeply suspicious of each other. Understand the roles of Paisley, Adams, Bill Clinton, Tony Blair, John Hume, and David Trimble.

### **June 16 is Bloomsday in Coral Gables**

It's a Saturday this year and we have plans for an afternoon and evening of literary festivities at the Coral Gables library, Books and Books, and, of course, John Martin's. Check next month's bulletin.

*The South Florida Emerald Society, Inc.  
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