

May 2007

Mi na Bealtaine

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Mary Ann &

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Installation Dinner

Join us for the festive dinner to mark the installation of new officers and directors at Parrot Jungle Island on Wednesday, May 23, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. Note that this is Wednesday night. You should have received your invitation in the mail by now. Make your reservation now by calling Mary Ann Kerr at 305-251-6208 or sending a check to her at 8305 SW 169 Terrace, Palmetto Bay, FL. 33157. The price is \$35.00. A big Thank You goes to Janice McKay for organizing this celebration.

New members who joined over the past year will receive their official Emerald Society pins at the dinner. This is a wonderful occasion to meet old friends and to welcome new ones. Come on out and show your support for Dave (Skip) Russell and his team, and to welcome lots of new members to our Irish society.

Bloomsday comes again

June 16 is a Saturday this year; thank heavens. You can stay out later that evening and not worry about getting up for work on Sunday morning unless you're a member of the clergy. Join us then for our fifth annual celebration of James Joyce's famous novel, Ulysses. It is part of a worldwide celebration of that day, June 16, 1904, immortalized in the novel. The celebration begins at Books & Books at 5:00 p.m. with a mayoral proclamation from the City of Coral Gables. Note the early start—5:00 p.m. This year we have a special treat, a stirring rendition of a few songs by Zach Bowen, a Joycean expert from the University of Miami. Then comes the dramatic readings courtesy of actors from Actors Playhouse. Finally, we will embark on our own little odyssey with flags and pipes and drums around the block to the Bloomsday feast in John Martins at 7:00 p.m. with still more songs and fun, a literary feast for all of your senses. Come on out and join us in a wacky and wonderful celebration. Like to help? Call Oliver Kerr at 305-251-6208.

We have happy memories of our Bloomsday celebrations over the past few years and we would love to have the same crowd of literary mavens out there again. We can't promise that you'll be featured on the front page of your newspaper as has happened, but we can guarantee you a memorable evening of literary and musical fun. By the way, dig out your vintage duds for the occasion.

Bloomsday Continued

For the last few years the Coral Gables Library has hosted a Bloomsday tea with proper teacups and snacks. This year it is on Bloomsday starting at 4:00 p.m. with Irish music and, of course, some readings from Joyce. And it's only a short drive from there to Books and Books for the start of the evening's celebration. Make a day of it. Dress up and let's have some fun at our last cultural event of the season.

May Social is the Installation Dinner

The May Social is the Installation Dinner at Parrot Jungle Island (see above). Last month's social at the Grand Bay arranged by Bill O'Brien was well attended despite a glitch in the April newsletter. Next month Bill is looking at a site further north, perhaps the Miami Shores Country Club.

June Board Meeting

The June Board meeting will be at the Miami Yacht Club on Watson Island on the McArthur Causeway on **Thursday, June 7, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.** It's right next to Parrot Jungle Island. 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.

Emerald Society Committees

Don't be shy. Get involved in your society. Contact one or more of these committees and make some new friends.

1. **Membership**—Tom Lynch and Ann McShane
2. **Installation of Officers**—Janice McKay
3. **St. Patrick's Festival**—Jon Lindeman
4. **Christmas in Ireland**—Pat Novak
5. **Celtic Cultural Series**—John and Dorothy Kane
6. **Newsletter**—Oliver and Mary Ann Kerr
7. **Nominating**—Joe McManus
8. **July 4th. Celebration**—Carroll 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 bring you a wonderful romantic old song by Padraic Colum. I remember my father singing this often in the evening back home in Armagh.

Padraic Colum was born Patrick McCormac Colm in County Longford in 1881, the son of a workhouse master. As a novelist, playwright, and poet he was a considerable figure in the Irish Literary Renaissance. He married Mary Molly Maguire in 1912 and emigrated to New York two years later. He and his wife taught comparative literature at Columbia University from 1939 to 1956 and in 1958 Columbia honored him with a doctorate. He died in Enfield, Connecticut in 1972 and was buried in Sutton, County Dublin.

She Moved Through the Fair

**My young love said to me," My brothers won't mind,
And my parents won't slight you for your lack of kind."
And she stepped away from me and this she did say,
"It will not be long, love, till our wedding day."**

**She stepped away from me and she moved
through the fair,
And fondly I watched her go here and go there;
Then she went her way homeward with one star
awake,
As the swan in the evening moves over the lake.**

**The people were saying no two were e'er wed,
But one had a sorrow that never was said,
And I smiled as she passed with her goods and
her gear,
And that was the last that I saw of my dear.**

**I dreamt it last night that my young love came
in,
So softly she entered that her feet made no din;
She came close beside me and this she did say,
"It will not be long, love, till our wedding day."**

Padraic Colum

Emerald Society Business Cards

These business cards with the Emerald Society mission statement and contact numbers and a space for you to write in your name and contact number will be available at the Installation Banquet. These are intended to help you in introducing new members to the society.

July 4th. Celebration on Key Biscayne

The Emeralds have traditionally marched in the Key Biscayne celebration of July 4th. We need a convertible (in reasonable condition) to carry some of our older or disabled members. Let us know if you can help. Call Billy or Carroll Cameron.

New Members

Join us in welcoming the following new members. Come and meet them at the Installation Dinner and welcome them personally.

Judge Diane Ward of Miami Shores.

Robert Fitzsimmons, Esq., Coconut

Grove

They were co-sponsored by John Doherty, C.L. Conroy and Bill Gregory.

Correction: Last month we misspelled the name of Richard C. Welch. Sorry about that, Richard.

Health and Welfare

Remember Louise Owens in your prayers and good thoughts and she undergoes some medical treatment. We wish her a speedy recovery.

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.

St. Patrick's Day Festival

A financial report on the past St. Patrick's Day Festival is being reviewed and we should be able to present a report next month. It was certainly one of the best Festivals that we have held in Coral Gables, blessed once again with perfect weather and a large and appreciative attendance.

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 members Barbara and Joseph McManus. Joe is our immediate past president. John and Dorothy Kane have stepped up to run the series next season starting in September. They would appreciate your help and any suggestions for next season's program.

A good crowd attended the May meeting to hear Dubliner, Professor David Kilroy of Nova Southeastern University, discuss the peace process in Northern Ireland. In attendance were Jon Lindeman, Ann McShane, Marge Hartnett, Gerry McGinley, Barry McHugh along with his brother Mark, Claire MaDan, Helen Lennon, Billy and Carroll Cameron, Oliver and Mary Ann Kerr, Pat Franco, Liz Kelly, Pat Kelly, Dave and Judy Russell, and Frances Baboun.

It was an excellent presentation and much appreciated by those in attendance.

The South Florida Emerald Society, Inc.
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