October 2007 Mi Deireadh Fomhair

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Welcome to the new 2007-2008 season of Celtic culture and Irish wit and humor.

Yes, the summer time is fading and the fall is slowly but surely approaching. Have you noticed the pick up in the winds in the last two weeks and the days definitely getting shorter? It's getting to be still dark out there when I venture out to pick up the paper in the morning.

The hurricane season is in its final furlong and we have been blessed this year with no serious storms. May it stay that way! There's got to be a cold front out there somewhere heading our way to put us in the spirit for Halloween tricks and treats. And rumor has it that some of our members were seen engaging in some early Christmas shopping at Macy's last weekend, taking advantage of a 20 percent discount while contributing to the St. Patrick's Day Committee, Inc. (see inside).

The Celtic Cultural Series kicked off the season with the talented musician Paddy Kelleghan, playing, singing, and spinning yarns of Dublin upstairs at John Martins on Sunday, October 7 to a good crowd with many new faces.

October Social at the Grand Bay Gnu Lounge in the Grove

Bill O'Brien, reports a great social last month at the Colonnade in the Gables. See list of attendees inside. He promises an even better one when we return to the Grand Bay Gnu Lounge in Coconut Grove. It is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 26 at 2669 South Bayshore Drive, telephone 305-858-9600. Valet parking is available at the reduced price of \$8.00. Drinks are two for one at the Gnu bar and there will by Thai Chicken and Key West Conch Fritters to nibble on. Bill, now assisted by board member, Nabil Salem, promises a fun evening in an elegant setting, with perhaps a live mermaid or two. We'll see you there ladies and gentlemen. So, shake off that long summer lethargy and come on out to meet and greet old and new friends. We'll be looking out for you.

Poetry Corner

Each month the Shamrock News presents a poem by an Irish poet. This month we bring you a poem by one of Ireland's best-known and most popular poets, William Butler Yeats. Like Seamus Heaney, last month's poet, he won the Nobel Prize for Literature, but 72 years earlier, back in 1923. He was a leader of the Irish literary renaissance in the early years of the 20th Century. This poem is one of his best known and loved. Want to learn more? Come to the Celtic Cultural Series on November 4, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. upstairs at John Martins.

The Song of Wandering Aengus

I went out to the hazel wood,
Because a fire was in my head,
And cut and peeled a hazel wand,
And hooked a berry to a thread;
And when white moths were on the wind,
And moth-like stars were flickering out,
I dropped the berry in a stream
And caught a little silver trout.

When I had laid it on the floor
I went to blow the fire aflame,
But something rustled on the floor,
And someone called me by my name.
It had become a glimmering girl
With apple blossom in her hair
Who called my by my name and ran
And faded through the brightening air.

Though I am old with wandering
Through hollow lands and hilly lands,
I will find out where she has gone,
And kiss her lips and take her hands;
And walk among long dappled grass,
And pluck till time and times are done
The silver apples of the moon,
The golden apples of the sun.

William Butler Yeats

November Board Meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday, November 1, at 6:30 p.m. at the Miami Yacht Club on Watson Island on the McArthur Causeway. Members are welcome to attend. There is a small restaurant and a bar and it is a pleasant place to spend an evening by the water's edge after the meeting. And sometimes the meetings are interesting.

Condolences to the McGees

We offer our sincere sympathy to members and good friends, Bob and Arlene McGee, who tragically lost a baby granddaughter a few weeks ago. Maggie McGee was only 11 months old and a large circle of friends including many Emeralds shared the loss. May she rest in peace!

Are you getting a paper copy of the newsletter?

This newsletter has a color picture on the back page, which is only black and white on the printed copies. Those receiving it via email can view it in color. If you are not getting an email version and would like one, just email us at kerr39@bellsouth.net. If you decide not to receive a paper copy let us know. It will save us the cost of printing and mailing.

Congratulations, Mr. & Mrs. Stillings

Our best wishes to member Noel McManus, daughter of Joseph and Barbara McManus, on her wedding to Dave Stillings on Saturday, October 13, 2007. We look forward to welcoming the happy couple at one of our social events.

New Members

Join us in welcoming new member, Mark Jamieson, from way up there in Weston. He is new to town and his Irish ancestors were from Mayo. Look out for Mark at our social and cultural events and see that he is made to feel at home. Welcome, Mark. May the road rise to meet you, especially if you're driving from Weston.

Christmas in Ireland—Thursday, December 6

The Christmas dinner and dance is upon us already! Once again we return to the Coral Gables Country Club arrayed in all its holiday splendor. Invitations should be in the mail shortly. Member Anne McShane's brother from Dublin will lead the entertainment. He is a professional taking a break from his gigs in Dublin to help us have a memorable and merry celebration of the season. Would you like to help out? Please contact Pat Novak (patrickn@admiral-law.com or 305-670-2525) who could use some extra bodies to help with the preparations.

Attendance at the October Social

Barbara and Joe McManus with daughter, Noel David and Judy Russell Bill and Carroll Cameron Dolores and Dan Fitzgerald John and Dorothy Kane

Robert Myer
John Doherty
Jon Lindeman
Serre Murphy
Mary Gerhardt
Dave Albury
Chuck Hearty
Hugh Ryan
John Doherty
Melissa Sullivan
Mike Brennan
Enid Miguez
Jean McEnany
Paul Reilly

Tom Lynch

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 by this Committee.

St. Patrick's Day Festival

We are already planning for the next Festival on Saturday, March 15, 2008. A grant application has already been submitted to the City of Coral Gables. To volunteer to serve on one of the many committees, please call or email Carroll Cameron at 305-232-2015, cameronc@bellsouth.net.

Shop for A Cause

Macy's celebrated a national day of support for local non-profit organizations. The St. Patrick's Day Committee, Inc. is one of these. We sold tickets for \$5.00 which entitled the bearer to 20 percent off all goods at the Falls store on Saturday October 13. We made \$520.00. Thank you Mary Ann Kerr, Carroll and Billy Cameron, Janice McKay, Judi Sherry, and Jan Paris who staffed the tables at Macy's. Well done!

The Celtic Cultural Series Seventh Season

The series enters its seventh season directed by members John and Dorothy Kane, assisted by the McManuses and the Kerrs. The series opened on Sunday, October 7, 2007 with Paddy Kelleghan, Irish singer and guitar player, providing songs old and new and insights into traditional and contemporary Irish music. The musical talk, entitled "Dublin in the Rare Ould Times," was well received by a good crowd with many new faces.

The Celtic Cultural Series presents The Poetry of Yeats

Pat McCarthy, PhD, Chairman of the English Department at the University of Miami and Co-Editor of the James Joyce literary Supplement will provide insights into the poetry of the Nobel Prize winning Irish dramatist, author and poet, William Butler Yeats. The presentation will take place at 4 pm. Sunday afternoon, November 4 in the Upstairs Tipperary Dining Room of John Martin's Irish Restaurant, 253 Miracle Mile, Coral Gables.

Along with his cohorts, J.M Synge and Lady Gregory, Yeats was the architect of the Irish Literary Revival at the turn of the century, which was a period of great significance for the Irish nation.

Dr. McCarthy has taught at the University of Miami since 1976 and teaches courses in Irish Literature devoted to James Joyce and Samuel Beckett. His research focuses on Joyce, Beckett and other modern writers of imaginative reach. His publications include critical interpretations of literary works and he is currently studying the strange bodies in Beckett's prose and plays.

All Celtic Cultural Series events are free and open to all. Ample parking is available on Miracle Mile and in the City Parking Garage behind John Martin's, accessible from Aragon.

The Celtic Cultural Series is produced by the St. Patrick's Day Committee, Inc. and cosponsored by The South Florida Emerald Society, Inc. a prestigious organization for ladies and gentlemen of Irish extraction founded in 1954.



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