



December 2008
Mi Na Nollaig

Members Tel: (305) 949-8400
www.emeraldsocietySFL.com

Emerald Society
Officers

President
Oliver Kerr
305-251-6208
1st Vice-President
Jon B. Lindeman
2nd Vice-President
Janice McKay
Treasurer
John Doherty
Historian
Daniel L. Fitzgerald
Recording Secretary
Hugh A. Ryan
Immediate Past Pres.
David (Skip) Russell
Directors
John Doherty
Sean Ferrell
Mary Gerhardt
Dan Fitzgerald
Christopher Kelley
Bella Kelly
Oliver Kerr
Jon Lindeman
Thomas Lynch
Janice McKay
Joseph McManus
Patrick Novak
William O'Brien
Jan Paris
David (Skip) Russell
Nabil Salem
Judi Sherry

Editors
Barbara &
Joe McManus
(561) 338-8848

The Dublin City Ramblers

Featuring Sean McGuinness Banjo, Mandolin and Vocals

LAST CALL!
CHRISTMAS IN IRELAND DINNER DANCE

Thursday, December 11th
The Rusty Pelican
3201 Rickenbacker Causeway
Key Biscayne

Our Emerald premier event of the year, our Christmas Party, starts at 6:30 PM with a cash bar. Tickets are \$75.00. This is a stellar event with a sit-down dinner with both salmon and a fillet followed by a spectacular program. Dan Fitzgerald will be our inimitable MC and will introduce our internationally acclaimed Dublin Ramblers musical group and the exciting Breffni dancers. You should have already received your personal invitation. Bring your friends to this extravaganza that will offer tables of six for \$450 or tables of eight for \$600. Optional valet parking will be available for \$5.00.

Raffle tickets will be available at the door: \$10 each and 6 tickets for \$50. Prizes include system wide roundtrip tickets for two on Spirit and Gulfstream Airlines good through Dec 2009, a 3 to 4 day cruise for two, a Waterford crystal candy dish, and a basket of Irish cheer. This raffle is the backbone of this fund-raiser; please support it!

Make your checks out to the South Florida Emerald Society and mail your reservations to Mary Ann Kerr, 8305 SW 169 St., Palmetto Bay, FL 33157. Contact Mary Ann at 305-251-6802 or Event Chair Erin Ashley at Elaserbeam@aol.com. If you have a preference for seating at your table, phone Mary Ann at 305-251-6802.

Upcoming...

Dec 11 Christmas in Ireland Dinner Dance, Rusty Pelican, Key Biscayne
Jan. 4 *Time to Go*, Sean O'Casey Comedy, John Martin's, Coral Gables
Jan 8 Emerald Board of Directors Meeting, Miami Yacht Club



An Internationally Acclaimed Musical Extravaganza.

Hear Sean McGuinness and the well-known Dublin City Ramblers play popular Irish ballads, folk, and humor. Born in James's Street in the heart of Dublin, Sean spent most of his life in Inchicore. He is also a great supporter of the Irish soccer team, having played music for them on numerous occasions throughout the years. Sean started his music career in 1963, by forming a band called "The Jolly Tinkers". They changed the name some years later to "The Quare Fellas", being influenced by that great author and character, the late great Brendan Behan. Sean went on to form the "Ramblers" in 1970, and turned professional in 1972, having packed in the day job in the P&T (now Eircom).

Known worldwide, The Ramblers have had 30 albums, with 8 gold albums, ten top hits, numerous awards and honors--they are Ireland's number one group.

The Breffni School of Irish Dancing

You will be enchanted by the Breffni dancers and their delightful dancing of the jigs, reels, and hornpipes. Here you have Irish dancing at its best from a very popular group that has won awards and competitions.

How Many Emeralds Does It Take to Read an Irish One Act Comedy? Ten!

The Celtic Cultural Players, now in their second year, will tackle Sean O'Casey's hilarious one act comedy, *Time to Go*, in a reading Sunday, January 4th at 4 PM, at John Martin's Restaurant, 253 Miracle Mile in Coral Gables.

Sean O'Casey (1880-1964) actively supported the Irish Independence Movement. His play, *The Shadow of the Gunman*, was produced by the Abbey Theatre in 1923. Unfortunately, his third play, *The Plough and the Stars*, an anti-war play, was misinterpreted by the Abbey audience as being anti-nationalistic. He later moved to London and continued producing plays there.

O'Casey's plays use vibrant language telling the story of the tensions in Irish society. He sought to identify himself with Dublin's working class.

This great literary icon now has a bridge crossing the River Liffey in Dublin named after him. It links the docklands with the South Quays.

The St. Patrick's Day Committee, Inc.

The Tinker's Pavilion at the St. Patrick's Day Festival Needs Your Old Treasures!

Now is the time to start a "Donate Box" for the Tinker's Faire for the St. Patrick's Day Festival, March 14th. The Tinkers will accept almost everything which includes jewelry, books, DVD's, house wares, decorator boxes and pillows, small lamps, sporting goods, candles, frames, and new clothing still in its original wrap. Used clothing, bedding, and stuffed animals are not accepted. These items take up too much room and do not sell.

Any questions, please phone Tinker guru **Dolores Fitzgerald** at 305-665-1812.

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. The Committee received a grant from the Miami-Dade Cultural Affairs Department in the amount of \$2,354.00 in support of the St. Patrick's Day Festival. Congrats to Carroll Cameron and her band of helpers!

Message from President **Janice McKay**:

The St. Patrick's Day Festival will be held **Saturday March 14, 2009**, at Fred Hartnett Park in Coral Gables. The Festival Committee will meet at **6:30 pm on Monday, January 5, at the Elk's Club at Sunset and 103rd**. Subsequent meetings will be held every Monday, same time. We will be rotating locations between the Elk's Club and the Miami Yacht Club. If you are interested in helping with the St. Patrick's Festival in March, this will be a good opportunity for you to join us.

Volunteers are needed to staff the Soda Bread Booth and Tinker's Faire. Can you cook corned beef? Please contact President **Janice McKay** at 305-733-0831 if you are interested in volunteering.

Jeff Bailey needs your help your help for ads to ensure that that Festival Book is a success!! This year we will be offering a cash prize in the amount of **\$500.00** to the individual who sells the highest dollar amount of advertisements! Please visit the website at www.emeraldsocietysfl.com to review the full details! Thanks to you we have already collected over **\$1,300.00** towards our goal of **\$20,000.00!!!!** Make out your checks to the St. Patrick's Day Festival and mail to P.O. Box 140848, Coral Gables, FL 33114.

Interested in writing an Irish or Ireland-related article for publication in the Festival Book? (No travelogues, please). Call **Judi Sherry** at 305-271-2750 and outline what you have in mind.

The office of SPDC Secretary is now vacant. If you, or someone you know, are interested in this appointment, call President **Janice McKay** at (305) 733-0831

Poetry Corner

This Irish folk song dates back to the Irish Rebellion of 1798. The color green represented the United Irishmen, the revolutionary organization. This patriotic song was written in response to English efforts to suppress the use of the shamrock and the color green as a symbol of Irish resistance to English rule. Napper Tandy was an Irish rebel leader. A caubeen was a hat.

The Wearin' O' the Green

Oh, Paddy dear, an' did ye hear the news that's goin' round?

The shamrock is by law forbid to grow on Irish ground;

No more St. Patrick's Day we'll keep, his color can't be seen,

For there's a cruel law agin the wearin' o' the green!

O! I met with Napper Tandy, and he took me by the hand.

And he said, "How's poor old Ireland, and how does she stand?"

She's the most distressful country this world has yet to see

For they're hangin' men and women there for wearin' o' the green.

An' if the color we must wear is England's cruel red,

Will serve to remind us of all the blood that she has shed,

Then pull the shamrock from your hat, and throw it on the sod,--

And never fear, 'twill take root there, though under foot 'tis trod!

When law can stop the blades of grass from growin' as they grow,

And when the leaves in summer time, their colors dare not show,

Then I will change the colour, too, I wear in my caubeen,

But 'till that day, praise God, I'll stick to the wearin' o' the green.

January Social at Novecento
121 Alhambra Circle, Coral Gables

The January Social will be at the new Novecento restaurant in Coral Gables (305-557-0900) on January 21, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. Metered parking is generally available on the street and there are some parking garages nearby. This is the location of the former Splendido Restaurant where we have met in the past. Join us for a fun evening..

January Emerald Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will be at the Miami Yacht Club on Watson Island on the MacArthur Causeway on **Thursday, January 8, 2009 7:00 pm.** Committees can meet at 6:30 pm. All Board members are expected to attend; all Emerald members are welcome.

Emerald Dues

Dues invoices for calendar year 2009 have been mailed out by **Carroll Cameron**; she wants them returned by January 31. Please make out your checks to "The South Florida Emerald Society" and mail them to The South Florida Emerald Society, P.O. Box 836225, Miami Fl 33283-6225.

Health and Welfare

Get-well cards were sent to Judi Sherry wishing her a speedy recovery from a broken knee sustained in a household accident.

A sympathy card was also sent to Judi expressing our sincere condolences on the death of her aunt with whom she was very close.

In Memoriam

Our condolences are extended to Past President and Newsletter Editor Stu Robinson on the death of his son, Angus. R.I.P.

Also condolences to Mary Gerhardt on the death of an uncle and a cousin within just two weeks.

The South Florida Emerald Society, Inc.
PO Box 836225
Miami, FL. 33283-6225.