

# St. Patrick's Day Festival

Showcasing Irish Tradition, Culture & Heritage  
To the entire South Florida community

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March 2008  
Mi Na Marta

St. Patrick's Day  
Committee, Inc.

## The Festival Committee

Jon Lindeman, Chairman  
Billy Cameron  
Carroll Cameron  
John Doherty  
Dan Fitzgerald  
Marge Hartnett  
John Kane  
Mary Ann Kerr  
Oliver Kerr  
Joe McManus  
Ann Mc Shane  
Marge Hartnett  
David Russell  
Judi Sherry  
Janice McKay  
Mary Gerhardt  
William O'Brien

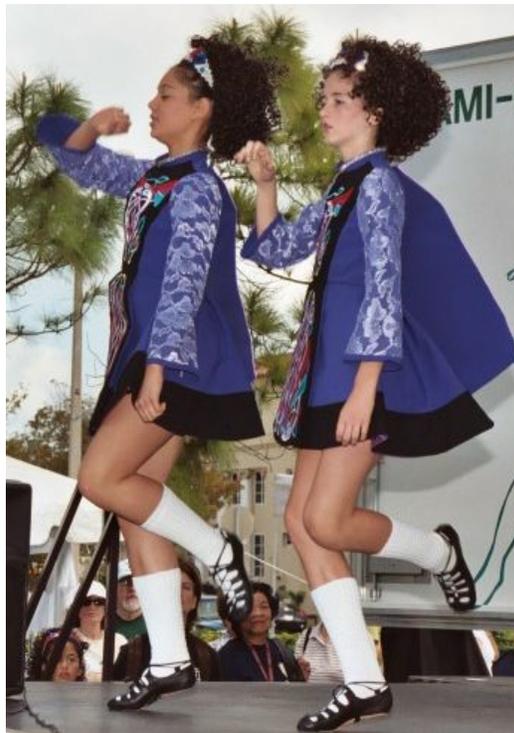
*Thanks to the Miami-Dade  
County Department of Cultural  
Affairs and the Cultural Affairs  
Council, Mayor Carlos Alvarez,  
and the Board of County  
Commissioners for their  
continuing financial support of  
the Festival.*

*Thanks also to our host city, the  
City of Coral Gables, Mayor  
Donald Slesnick, and the  
Commissioners of the City. The  
Coral Gables Cultural  
Development Board also  
financially supports our Festival  
here in the "City Beautiful."*

**A Happy St. Patrick's Day to you all!**  
**It's this Saturday, March 15,**  
**At Fred B. Hartnett Ponce Circle Park from Noon**  
**until sunset.**

The St. Patrick's Day Festival Committee has been meeting weekly under the leadership of Jon Lindeman at the offices of John and Dorothy Thomson in Coral Gables. They have been working to bring you a brilliant day in the sun in beautiful Coral Gables. It will be a festival celebration that will outshine last year's memorable sunny day. Jon and his merry band of workers could use your help. *To volunteer* your time or talent please call Mary Ann Kerr at 305-251-6208 or email [kerr39@bellsouth.net](mailto:kerr39@bellsouth.net).

Here's a picture of two dancers from the award winning Breffni



School of Irish Dance performing in 2004. This is but a sample of the showcase of Irish culture that will delight your eyes and ears on March 15. There will be music and song and the St. Andrews Pipe Band to stir your Irish roots. There will be fun for the kids with a merry-go-round, a giant slide and rock climbing. And, last but not least the Miss Colleen Pageant. There will be Irish crafts by high quality vendors. There will be a Tinkers' Booth where you might pick up a treasure for

**pennies. And when you grow hungry or thirsty there will be no shortage of great Irish food**

**provided by local bars and restaurants. Come on out and enjoy the fun.**

### **The Tinkers' Booth**

The hidden treasures of the Festival can be found at the Tinkers' Booth. Mary Gerhardt chairs this vital part of the Festival and needs volunteers. See her at the Festival and offer an hour or two. So rummage through your closets and dressers and bring those oldie goldies to the Festival early on March 15. There will be somebody there from 10:00 a.m. to accept your clean cast-off treasures. The only things we'd rather not accept are used clothing and florist vases, as these did not sell last year.

### **Poetry Corner**

Each month the Shamrock News presents a poem by an Irish poet. This month, in this special St. Patrick's Day edition, we bring you an English translation of an old poem in Gaelic from the eighth century, which is known as "St. Patrick's Breastplate." The poet or poets are unknown. It is partly a Druidic poem and originally may have had nothing to do with St. Patrick. The fifth verse is often quoted and has been incorporated into a hymn to St. Patrick.

### **St. Patrick's Breastplate**

**I bind unto myself today  
The strong name of the Trinity,  
By invocation of the same,  
The Three in One, and One in Three.**

**I bind this day to me forever,  
By power of faith, Christ's Incarnation;  
His baptism in the Jordan River;  
His death on cross for my salvation;  
His bursting from the spiced tomb;  
His riding up the heavenly way;  
His coming at the day of doom;  
I bind unto myself today.**

**I bind unto myself today  
The virtues of the starlit heaven,  
The glorious sun's life-giving ray,  
The whiteness of the moon at even,  
The flashing of the lightning free,  
The whirling winds tempestuous shocks,  
The stable earth, the deep salt sea  
Around the old eternal rocks.**

**I bind unto myself today  
The power of God to hold and lead,  
His eye to watch, His might to stay,  
His ear to hearken to my need,  
The wisdom of my God to teach,  
His hand to guide, His shield to ward,  
The word of God to give me speech,  
His heavenly host to be my guard.**

**Christ be with me, Christ be within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me,  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.**

**I bind unto myself the Name,  
The strong name of the Trinity;  
The invocation of the same,  
The Three in One, and One in Three,  
Of whom all nature hath creation,  
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word,  
Praise to the Lord of my salvation:  
Salvation is of Christ the Lord.**

**Anonymous, translated by Whitley Stokes**

### **Thanks**

**Here's a big Irish "Thank You" to Commissioner Carlos A. Gimenez whose office was instrumental in obtaining the use of the County Showmobile.**

**Thanks also C.L. Conroy of the Conroy/Martinez Group for helping with publicity and marketing.**

***Thanks to Dwayne Elmore of Elmore Graphics  
for a great job on the Festival Book Covers.***

***Thanks to Sean Pick with Sunset Quick Print  
who worked such long hours with great  
patience putting together the Festival book.***

***And thanks to all the volunteers who gave so  
generously of their time and talent to bring you  
this festival. Show your appreciation by  
showing up on Saturday.***

## **Emerald Society Members Invited**

Alliance Francaise invites the Emeralds to join Their French brothers and sisters on St. Patrick's Day in rediscovering some mutual Celtic roots among the French. Join them at their brand new building (built by Patrick McGowan, an Irish contractor) for a taste of fine French wine and maybe a green beer. Wear your green. The building is 618 SW Eighth Street. The time, 7:00p.m. Philippe Timon is the Director. You could still stop off at John Martin's famous St. Pat's bash on your way home later in the evening.

## **Maureen Gerhardt wins third place in the Miami Herald spelling bee.**

Maureen is one of our Miss Colleens this year and is the beautiful young daughter of Board Member Mary Gerhardt. She is eleven years old and is in the fifth grade at St. Rose of Lima School in Miami Shores. Congratulations, Maureen! We are all proud of you.

## **The Installation of Emerald Society Officers**

The installation of Emerald Society officers will take place in Jungle Island on May 23, 2007. Look for details in the April newsletter.

The newly elected officers are as follows:

President	Oliver Kerr
1 <sup>st</sup> . Vice President	Jon Lindeman
2 <sup>nd</sup> . Vice President	Janice McKay
Treasurer	John Doherty
Historian	Dan Fitzgerald
Recording Secretary	Hugh Ryan
Immediate Past President	David Russell

Board members elected to three-year terms include Sean Ferrell, Oliver Kerr, Janice McKay, Joe McManus, Hugh Ryan, and Judi Sherry.

Join us in celebrating the start of new year in the annals of the Emerald Society.

## **The Celtic Cultural Series presents J. M. Synge, the Force of Nature in his Plays**

Join us at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 6, 2008, upstairs at John Martin's Irish Pub and Restaurant, 253 Miracle Mile in Coral Gables. The topic is a discussion of the force of nature in the plays of Irish playwright, J.M. Synge, who with William Butler Yeats, and Lady Gregory, spearheaded the Irish cultural renaissance in the early 1900s.

Phillip Church, head of the Performance Program at Florida International University will discuss Synge's *Riders to the Sea*. Actors from the Department of Theater will present selected scenes from the play, together with projections and video.

The presentation, like last months reading of a Lady Gregory play, will be upstairs at John Martins. We've really been in a dramatic mood recently in the Cultural Series. Plenty of parking is available on Miracle Mile and in the garage behind the restaurant, accessible from Aragon Avenue. For further information please call 305-273-0118.

## **Emerald Society Board Meeting**

The Board will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 3, at the Miami Yacht Club to wrap up the review of the St. Patrick's Day festival and to plan for the Fourth of July Parade on Key Biscayne and the Bloomsday celebration on Monday, June 16. Mark your calendars now. Any member is welcome to attend. There is food and drink available at a little restaurant there by the waters edge. Come, join us.