



May 2008

Mi na Bealtaine

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Nabil Salem

Judi Sherry

Editors

Mary Ann &

Oliver Kerr

305-251-6208

Member Tel: (305) 949-8400

www.emeraldsocietySFL.com

Installation Dinner

Join us for the festive dinner to mark the installation of new officers and directors at Jungle Island on Wednesday, May 21, 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. Checks should be payable to the South Florida Emerald Society. A big Thank You goes to Janice McKay, our 2nd Vice President, for organizing this celebration again this year.

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 Oliver Kerr and his team, and to welcome lots of new members to our Irish society.

Bloomsday comes again

June 16 is a Monday this year but we're still celebrating Bloomsday. Join us then for our sixth 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 5:30 p.m. with a mayoral proclamation from the City of Coral Gables. Note the early start—5:30 p.m. Then comes the dramatic readings courtesy of professionals 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 Joycean feast for all of your senses. Come on out and join us in a wacky and wonderful celebration. We promise that there will be no rain this year. 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. And see more Bloomsday frivolity on the next page. . .

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 Jungle Island (see above). Last month's social at the Ana Capri in the Gables was arranged by Nabil Salem, and was very well attended. More than 50 members and friends were there. There were many new faces, and Maurice Grondin won the 50-50 raffle. It could not have happened to a nicer guy. He promised to put the \$120 toward refreshments for the next social at his house on South Miami Avenue, the scene of some good parties in the past. Thank you, Maurice, for your generosity.

Future Social Meetings

The June Social Meeting will be at the Miami Yacht Club, the accommodating host of our monthly board meetings. You have to see it to believe that this lovely old corner of Miami still prospers in the shadow of our new downtown. Join us for drinks and snacks by the waters edge on June 26, 2008, at 6:30 p.m.

June Board Meeting

The June Board meeting will be at the Miami Yacht Club on Watson Island on the McArthur Causeway on **Thursday, June 5, 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**—Billy and Carroll Cameron, and Mary Gerhardt.
2. **Installation of Officers**—Janice McKay
3. **St. Patrick's Festival**—Janice McKay
4. **Christmas in Ireland**—Pat Novak, Nabil Salem, and Mary Gerhardt.
5. **Celtic Cultural Series**—John and Dorothy Kane
6. **Newsletter**—Joe and Barbara McManus
7. **Nominating**—Joe McManus
8. **Audit**—Christopher Kelley
9. **July 4th. Celebration**—Carroll Cameron
10. **Bloomsday**—Oliver Kerr
11. **Socials**—Nabil Salem and Bill O'Brien
12. **Public Relations**—John Kane and C.L. Conroy.

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. It's a wonderful opportunity to introduce the green to the red, white and blue. 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 (305-232-2015). Look for more details in the June edition.

New Members

Help us to welcome the many new members who recently joined. Come and meet them at the Installation Dinner and welcome them personally.

In Memoriam

We extend our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of **Arthur Hill**, a long-time member who passed away on March 18, 2008, the day after St. Patrick's Day.

Health and Welfare

We ask for your prayers and best wishes for former president **Michael O'Connor, Peter O'Connell, Gary Tomeny, and John Hourihan** who are ill and who need our prayers and good wishes. We wish them a speedy recovery and a return to joining us again in our activities.

Change of Editors for Newsletter

Mary Ann and Oliver Kerr want to welcome the new editors of Shamrock News, Joe and Barbara McManus. Joe and Barbara have been active in leadership roles in the Society for many years. They will be responsible for the June edition.

Oliver has been elected President of the Emerald Society and needs to give his full-time attention to building the Society and bringing it to new heights. Joe and Barbara have graciously accepted the invitation to serve as editors.

It may be hard to believe, but Mary Ann and Oliver began editing the newsletter five years ago, in the spring of 2003. They introduced the poetry corner presenting the work of Irish poets, old and new, accompanied by brief biographies.

As always, the newsletter has focused on presenting timely news of persons and events important to the members.

Join us in welcoming Joe and Barbara. We look forward to reading their work and lending a helping hand when needed.

Poetry Corner

Here's a short poem by Seamus Heaney, the subject of this Sunday's Celtic Cultural Series presentation at John Martins. Hopefully, this will spark your interest to come on out and enjoy the session.

The Railway Children

When we climbed the slopes of the cutting
We were eye-level with the white cups
Of the telegraph poles and the sizzling wires.

Like lovely long freehand they curved for miles
East and miles west beyond us, sagging
Under their burden of swallows.

We were small and thought we knew nothing
Worth knowing. We thought words traveled the
wires

In the shiny pouches of raindrops,

Each one seeded full with the light
Of the sky, the gleam of the lines, and ourselves
So infinitesimally small

We could stream through the eyes of a needle.

Seamus Heaney

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

At the past St. Patrick's Day Festival someone lost a pair of prescription glasses, which were turned in to the information booth. If you think that they might be yours call the editors for more information.

And was not that a great festival? Certainly, one of the best in Coral Gables. Thanks to all who by working, playing, or performing, contributed to the success of the day that it was.

The Celtic Cultural Series Presents The Poetry of Seamus Heaney



Amanda Tucker

4 pm Sunday, May 4

John Martin's Irish Restaurant & Irish Pub

Amanda Tucker, Instructor and PhD candidate in the English Department at the University of Miami, will discuss the poetry of the Nobel Prize winning Irish poet, Seamus Heaney, recognized as the most important Irish poet since W.B. Yeats. Heaney has written extensively about "The Troubles" of Northern Ireland.

The presentation will take place in the Upstairs Tipperary Dining Room of John Martin's Irish Restaurant, 253 Miracle Mile, Coral Gables. All Celtic Cultural events are free and open to all. Plenty of parking is available on Miracle Mile and the City Parking Garage behind the restaurant. For further information, please call 305-273-0118.

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

