

February 2009
Mi Feabhra

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www.emeraldsocietySFL.com

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ONLY 5 WEEKS TO THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY
FESTIVAL!



Our Breffni Dancers, Carolyn Ho (l)
And Brianna O'Neil (2004)

The St. Patrick's Day Festival Committee, under the leadership of Janice McKay, has been meeting weekly to plan for a successful Festival on March 14.

Here are two dancers from the Breffni School of Irish Dance performing in 2004. This is but a sample of Irish culture, music and song you can look forward to. For the children, there will be clowns, face painting, a giant slide, rock climbing, the Leprechaun Corner, and last but not least the Miss Colleen Pageant. Coupled with the choice selection of Irish food and spirits, there is that wonderful feeling of pride in preserving our heritage.

Join with the St. Pat's Committee and make this Festival a success!

We need volunteers for Saturday, March 14.

-Ladies, we need you at Soda Bread booth or the Tinker's Faire for 2 hours anytime from 12noon to 6pm.

-Men, we need you for 2 hours anytime from 9am to noon for general set-up and stocking; from noon to 6pm for general appearance and maintenance, and from 6pm to 8pm for knockdown, stacking and clean-up.

We need you to contact your friendly neighborhood merchant and sell Festival Book ads . We need to sell \$20,000 in ads. The Ad form is on our Website at the top of this page-Souvineer Book Advertiser. (See page 3)

Upcoming.....

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Feb. 18 | Social at Irish Times, 5850 Sunset Drive, South Miami |
| Feb. 22 | Riders to the Sea, John M. Synge, Celtic Cultural Series |
| Mar. 5 | Emerald Board of Directors , Miami Yacht Club |
| Mar. 14 | St. Patrick's Day Festival, Hartnett Park, Coral Gables |

If There's Time for the Irish, It's Time for the Irish Times! Right?

"Coel Rince Agus Iomdan"



The Irish Times, 5850 Sunset Drive, South Miami, FL 33143 (Phone: (305) 667-4114) an authentic Irish pub in the heart of South Miami, will host the SFES Social on Wednesday, February 18th. Voted "Best Irish Pub for 2008", known for great food, cold pints and the pleasure of conversation among Irish countrymen. From 6:30 - 9:00 pm, there will be an extended Happy Hour and 2 for 1 drinks. A section of the establishment will be reserved for Emeralds and friends. Appetizers will include Chicken Tenders, Onion Rings, Mozzarella Sticks, Chicken Wings and other pub fare. Located one block east of South Dixie on Sunset, street parking should be available; the South Miami Metrorail station and parking garage are immediately across South Dixie

What a Grand Time on Such a Cool Evening

Approximately 25 Emeralds braved the chill weather to share a brew (or several) and a remarkable series of hors d'ouvres at Novecento on Alhambra in the Gables. This is the latest and western outpost of the Novecento family as we visited the Brickell version last September. Among those Emeralds enjoying the conversation and atmosphere were **Ed Cooke, Erin Ashley, Bill Owens and Anna Louise Owens, John and Dorothy Kane, Barbara and Joe McManus, Jon Lindeman, Darby Collins, Skip Russell, Carroll and Billy Cameron, Jim Cooney** from Atlanta, **Dick O'Connell, Larry Faye, John Sorgie, Annie Goodrich, Bill O'Brien, John Doherty, Chuck Harty, Oliver Kerr, Hugh Ryan, and Roy Schuldice.**

Multi-Media *Riders to the Sea* Arrives Feb. 22

This one-act play by John Millington Synge recreates the atmosphere of a Greek tragedy in a western fishing village; it sums up the essence of the "constant struggle of the islanders against their relentless enemy, the sea." Old Maurya grieves for her son Michael, missing nine days; she has already lost her husband and five other sons to the sea. Now her sixth son, Bartley embarks for the mainland...

Phillip Church, Head of the Performance Program at Florida International University will discuss Synge's most celebrated play; actors from the Department of Theatre will present selected scenes from the play, together with the incorporation of projections and video.

The presentation will take place at 4pm Sunday February 22 in the Upstairs Tipperary Room of John Martin's Irish Restaurant, 253 Miracle Mile, Coral Gables.

The St. Patrick's Day Committee, Inc.

The Tinker's Faire Needs Your Old Treasures!

Less Is More! How is your "Donate Box" doing?

Now is the time to clean out your closets and donate your treasures to the Tinker's Faire at the Festival. 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 wrapping. Used clothing, bedding, and stuffed animals are not accepted.

Price your treasures beforehand and bring them to the Tinker's Faire pavilion on the day of the Festival, March 14.

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

Call **Judi Sherry** at 305-271-2750 if you are interested in writing an article for the Festival book. No travelogues, please

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.

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 or 7:00pm every Monday at the Jack Thompson's office in Coral Gables.

Philip Morrissey (305 460 2728) is the new Vendor Director.

We need volunteers in the following areas; give an hour or two to make this Festival successful!

- For the Soda Bread Booth, we need volunteers who can brew Irish coffee, and bake Irish whiskey cakes the day before.

- For the Tinker's Faire, we need volunteer(s)

- Early on the 14th, we need men who are willing to work, setting up tables and chairs. During the day, we need men to do general maintenance. From 6-8pm, we need men to take down, put away and cleanup. Call **Chuck Daley** at 305-310-5087 or chasd763@aol.com.

Please contact President **Janice McKay** at 305-733-0831 or mckaycoantrim@aol.com

Our Festival book is based on the ads you sell and funds the Festival. Our goal is \$20,000 in ads; we only have 10% of that now. **Jeff Bailey** (305 520-8626) needs your help your ad to ensure that that Festival is a success! Please visit our website to look for Souvenir Book Advertising Contract. Make out your checks to the St. Patrick's Day Festival and mail to P.O. Box 140848, Coral Gables, FL 33114. This year we will be offering a cash prize-a Pot O' Gold- in the amount of \$500.00 to the individual who sells the highest dollar amount of advertisements! Please visit our website at emeraldscsocietyfl.com to review the rules and full details.

Poetry Corner

We bring you a poem of Thomas Moore (1779-1852) who was the first writer of Irish Catholic background to achieve international fame. Born in Dublin the son of a grocer, educated at Trinity College, he was a friend of Lord Byron and P.B.Shelley. In these lyrics, Moore alludes to the ancient site of Ireland's high kings --Tara-- and then personifies Ireland as the harp.

Tara's Harp

The harp that once through Tara's Hall the soul
of music shed
Now hangs as mute on Tara's wall as if that soul
were fled
So sleeps the pride of former days so glory's thrill
is o'er
And hearts that once beat high for praise now
feel that pulse no more

No more to chiefs and ladies bright, the harp of
Tara swells
The chord alone, that breaks at night, its tale of
ruin tells
This freedom now so seldom wakes, the only
throb she gives
Is when some heart indignant breaks, to show
that still she lives

Many of Moore's poems are like this one, lyrics set to music. Those Emeralds with PC's might enjoy listening on YouTube to John McCormack, the great Irish tenor, singing "Tara's Harp"

March Emerald Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will be at the Miami Yacht Club on Watson Island on the Macarthur Causeway on Thursday, March 5, 2009, at 7:00 pm. All Board members are expected to attend. Our *Uachtaran* has admonished all Board members to respect the dignity of, and to share fellowship and courtesy with all Board members.

Resignation

Nabil Salem has resigned from his position as Director, citing business and other reasons. We hope to greet **Nabil** and his son **Sharif** at future socials and the St. Patrick's Day Festival

President's Remarks

The Emerald Society had a successful year for 2008. Financially, there was a surplus of \$4,190, which will be added to our "rainy day" reserves. Our membership increased to 174. But there are still 84 Emeralds who haven't quite arrived to the point of paying their 2009 dues. **Carroll Cameron** will be sending out reminders. 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. Thank you.

-**Oliver Kerr**

New Members

At the February meeting, we approved three new Emeralds:

- **Emma Doris Kohler** is from Philadelphia and is an accomplished pianist. On her maternal side, she is Irish from County Cork. Doris is sponsored by **Phyllis McSweeney Lane**.
- **Bob Rance** lives at the Grand and is sponsored by **Carole Hanna Miller**.
- **Pauline E. Ramos** is a registered pharmacist, whose maiden name is Walsh. Polly's paternal side is Irish from County Kerry. She is sponsored by **John Kane**.

Let's look for these new Emeralds at socials and "meet and greet" them.

New Miss Colleen

Richard Welch and his wife welcomed their baby daughter recently. Congratulations!

Elections (Ballots) Are Approaching

The Elections Committee of **Joe McManus**, Chair, **Jon Lindeman** and **Bill O'Brien** is contacting prospective candidates to be nominated to a slate of officers and three-year directors for 2009-10. The present officers have agreed to serve again; a field of directors is being contacted. Within the next two weeks, ballots will become available at the Emerald website or will be mailed to those lacking internet access. Ballots will be collected and counted in early March so that results will be announced at the St. Patrick's Day Festival. New Officers and Directors will assume office at the April 2 meeting and will be installed at the Installation Dinner May 20.

Health and Welfare

Both **Judi Sherry** and **Carmen Kissane** are recuperating satisfactorily. Judi is the Editor for the St. Patrick's Day Festival Book. Every year **Carmen** and **Henry** provide a warm greeting to our visitors at the Welcome/Information Tent at the St. Patrick's Day Festival. We hope to see them both on March 14th.

Ireland's Boom Falls Hard

Dublin-...Prime Minister Brian Cowen announced massive spending cuts to shave \$2.56 billion from a yawning budget gap....In a sign that the economic crisis is hitting Ireland where it hurts, Guinness is having second thoughts about building a new brewery here...

Wall Street Journal Feb. 7-8

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