

St. Patrick's Day Festival

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



March 2009

Mi Na Marta

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY TO YOU ALL!

The St. Patrick's Day Committee, Inc.

Janice McKay, President
Charlie Davis, Vice President & Festival Chair
John Doherty, Treasurer

The Festival Committee

Jeff Bailey	Sean Glynn
C. Cameron	John Kane
C. L. Conroy	Mary Ann Kerr
Chuck Daley	Oliver Kerr
Sean Ferrell	Phil Morrissey
Dan Fitzgerald	Bill O'Brien
Dolores Fitzgerald	Jan Paris
Mary Gerhardt	Dave Russell
Marge Hartnett	Judi Sherry
	Richard Welch



It's this Saturday, March 14,
At Fred B. Hartnett Ponce Circle Park
from Noon until Sunset!

Festival Schedule

Dan Fitzgerald, Master of Ceremonies, with Peter Fuchs at the Keyboard

When Irish Eyes are Smiling

Miss Colleen Pageant.....	12:30
Tipsy Laird, Balladeer.....	1:15
Breffni School of Irish Dancers.....	2:00
The Green and Blues Band.....	2:30
St Andrews Pipe Band ...	3:15
Avalon with Irish Singer & Harpist, Tricianne Garrihy.....	4:00

Irish and American National Anthems

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.

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

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."

President Janice McKay and all her merry leprechauns on the St. Patrick's Day Committee have been meeting every Monday these past three months at Jack and Dorothy Thomson's and Phil Morrissey's offices to bring this Festival to the Community and celebrate our Irish heritage on this Day.

But We Still Need Volunteers!!!!!!

Ladies, if you can assist for an hour or two at the Tinker's Faire or Miss Colleen Pageant, call Janice at 305 733-0831. Gents, if you can donate an hour or two for setting-up, maintenance, or tear-down and stacking, call Chuck Daley at 305 310-5087 or chasd763@aol.com

Upcoming...

Mar.14	St. Patrick's Day Festival, Hartnett Park, Coral Gables
Apr. 2	SFES Board of Directors Meeting, Miami Yacht Club
Apr. 5	<i>The Book of Kells</i> with Fr. Sean O'Sullivan, John Martin's
Apr. 15	Social at Miami Shores Country Club, Miami Shores
May 3	Nigel MacDonald, St. Andrew's Bagpipers, John Martin's
May 20	SFES Installation Dinner, Parrot Jungle Island

Festival (cont'd)

The Festival will showcase Irish culture that will delight your eyes and ears on March 14. There will be music and song by Paddy Kelleghan and the Green and Blues Band, Topsy Laird, Tricianne Garrihy and Avalon, and the St. Andrews Pipe Band to stir your Irish roots. Michael O'Hara will introduce the Breffni Dancers. There will be a Leprechaun Corner for the kids to make Irish crafts, with a merry-go-round, a giant slide, rock climbing, and face painting. And, last but not least, the Miss Colleen Pageant. And pick up your Emerald green bracelet.

Food Vendors:

Anacapri pasta, **BSA Troop #7** hot dogs, **Cotton Candy**, **Fritz & Franz** brats, **Italian Ice**, **John Martin's** corned beef, **Kraven's Ice Cream**, **LJ's Backstage Cafe** BBQ chicken, **Mr. G Roasted Corn**, **Our Lady of Lebanon** specialties, **Power Pizza**, **Soda Bread Booth**, **Thai Donut** and **UVA**.

Craft Vendors:

Claddaugh, **Copper Kettle**, **Corona Help**, **Dental Hygienists**, **Gene Simmons Woodworking**, **Ed & Rosie Hart**-jams and jellies, **Genealogy Society of Greater Miami**, **Janet Nussberg**, **Quillows**, **Promotional Therapy**, **Sandra Jane Designs**, and **Suzanne Cook**.

As there will be many more vendors this year, you might want to bring a "take home" box so you don't have to make dinner that night.

LESS IS MORE!

We can learn from the Tinkers of Ireland, a small minority of merchants who traveled around Ireland mending, repairing, and re-cycling items for re-use. Clear out your unused items and donate them to the Tinker's Faire at the St. Patrick's Day Festival. How is your donate box of discarded treasures doing? Remember we told you that Tinker guru Dolores Fitzgerald (305 665-1812) needs your donations. The Tinker's Faire will accept almost everything which includes jewelry, books, DVD's, housewares, decorator boxes, frames, and new clothing still in it original wrapping. Used clothing, bedding and stuffed animals are not accepted.

Please price your treasures with sticky labels beforehand and bring them to the Tinker's Faire pavilion on the day of the Festival.

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**:

I am pleased to announce that, in a meeting on February 23, the following officers were re-elected to the St. Patrick's Day Committee, Inc., for the coming year: **Janice McKay**, President; **Charlie Davis**, Vice President and Festival Chair and **John Doherty**, Treasurer.

The Festival Committee will meet at every Monday at **Phil Morrissey's** office, opposite Hartnett Park, in Coral Gables, until the Festival.

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

-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 funds the Festival. Our goal was \$20,000 in ads; in these tough times, we have received part of our goal and ad payments are still coming in. **Jeff Bailey** (305 520-8626) is in charge of this ad campaign and deserves our congratulations!

Our appreciation is extended to all our volunteers from Columbus, Gulliver and Westminster; to **C.L. Conroy** of the Conroy/Martinez Group and **John Kane** for publicity and marketing; to **Dwayne Elmore** of Elmore Graphics for the Festival Book Covers and to **Orestes, Joe** and **Theresa** on **John Sorgie's** staff at Sunset QuickPrint. Thanks to all volunteers who gave so generously of their time to bring you this Festival. Show your appreciation by showing up on Saturday.

The Celtic Cultural Series: *The Book of Kells*

On Sunday, April 5th at 4 pm, at John Martin's, Father Sean O'Sullivan will discuss the famed *Book of Kells*, the richly illustrated New Testament which now resides in Trinity College in Dublin. Father O'Sullivan, an Irish native of West Cork, now serving a parish in Coral Gables, will also discuss how the Irish monks and scribes starting in the 6th century saved Western Civilization by copying not only biblical scriptures but also the manuscripts of the classical heritage of Greece and Rome, thereby preserving them for posterity.

Think of this as historian Kenneth Clark comments: "It is hard to believe that for quite a long time--almost a hundred years--Western Civilization survived by clinging to places like Skellig Michael, a pinnacle of rock eighteen miles from the Irish Coast."

Good Times at Irish Times

Our February social was held at Irish Times, the Irish pub in South Miami. Some 32 Emeralds and their guests enjoyed the appetizers, beverages and *craic*, including: C.L. Conroy, Ed Cooke, Carroll and Billy Cameron, Dolores and Dan Fitzgerald, Tom Flynn, Gaea Garrity, Mary Gerhardt, Sean Glynn, Bill Gregory, Chuck Harty, Dorothy and John Kane, Chris Kelley, Mary Ann and Oliver Kerr and their guests Donna and Ronald Shelley, Jon Lindeman, Phyllis McSweeney Lane, Tom Lynch, Dick O'Connell, Bill O'Brien, Jan Paris and her guests Roberta Hall and Ellie Telford, Paul Riley and his guest Robert Seitz, Richard Welch, and Barbara and James G. Worth.

Riders to the Sea

Thirty-eight fans of the Celtic Cultural Series shared in Professor Phillip Church's discussion of John Millington Synge's one-act play at John Martin's on February 22. Professor Church heads the Performance Program at Florida International University but unfortunately was unable to present the full multi-media show with a cast from his program. Among the Emeralds who attended were: Carroll and Billy Cameron, Ed and Gloria Cooke, Dolores and Dan Fitzgerald, Dorothy and John Kane, Helen Lennon, Jon Lindeman, Tony Martinez, and Patricia Villacorta.

Poetry Corner

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 authors 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.

-- Oliver Kerr

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,

Poetry Corner (cont'd)

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 Whitly Stokes

Emerald Election Results Are In!

At the March Board meeting, the Nominating Committee of **Jon Lindeman, Bill O'Brien** and **Joe McManus**, Chair, announced that the Officers of the South Florida Emerald Society had been re-elected:

President: **Oliver Kerr**

1st Vice President: **Janice McKay**

2nd Vice President: **Jon B. Lindeman**

Treasurer: **John Doherty**

Historian: **Daniel L. Fitzgerald**

Recording Secretary: **Hugh A. Ryan**

The following Directors were elected for three-year terms: **Jeffrey S. Bailey, Charles J. (Chuck) Daley, John P. Doherty, Daniel L. Fitzgerald, Jon Burton Lindeman** and **Patrick Novak**. **Erin Ashley** was elected as a Director for a one-year term. Congratulations to all and sincere appreciation for their years of service to **Jan Paris** and **Tom Lynch**, whose terms as Directors had expired. We hope to continue to see Jan and Tom at future Emerald events.

These Officers and Directors will be seated in April.

Those Continentals were Green

On March 17, 1776, the day that British forces under General Sir William Howe evacuated Boston during the American Revolutionary War, the password of the day at General George Washington's Continental Army encampment was "Saint Patrick". Massachusetts has the most Irish ancestry of the United States in terms of percentage of total population.---Wikipedia.

Stuart Metzger Robinson

We were saddened to learn of the recent death of Stu Robinson, an Emerald stalwart who was our president in 2000-2001. Stu was born Sept. 10, 1927 in Joliet, Illinois where he resided until enlisting in the U.S. Navy at age 17. After serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, Stuart earned a BA at Lake Forest College and a MA at Northwestern University in History. He married and raised four children, two sons and two daughters.

After graduation, Stuart taught US and World History in high school and on local television before returning to the US Navy as a civilian employee in computer systems analysis. He traveled to all 50 states and to forty countries. He saw the Hindenburg in 1936, he walked game trails in Africa, he twice saw the midnight sun, and he climbed the Great Wall in China. Stu loved his involvement in many clubs including Elderhostel, The Civil War Round Table, Sons of Norway, USS Catskills reunions and most especially the South Florida Emerald Society.

Stu threw himself into Emerald activities, first running for the Board and then accepting the office of President. Once his term of office was complete, Stu took on the editorship of our monthly newsletter and delivered it faithfully until he moved back to California. By then, Florida's sand was in his shoes, so he returned to a condo in West Palm Beach. Even as his health failed, he continued to make the drive down to attend socials and cultural events with courageous regularity.

Excerpts from a letter to Billy Cameron tell his story well. Stu said, "By far, the happiest days that I enjoyed in the Miami area were my association with the ladies and gentlemen of the Emeralds. A small gesture of inviting me to move to another table where there were fellow Emeralds, was so heartening that I almost broke out in tears. I was given the opportunity to build upon great predecessors, Dan Fitzgerald & Bill Gregory. I received great help from Bob Meyer...and assistance from Ed Cooke, Tom & Karen Dunn and so many others. Please extend my heartiest appreciation to the members of the Emerald Society during my years of membership."

Stu passed away February 8th, 2009 at JFK hospital in Lake Worth, Florida. We will miss him. RIP.

--Carroll and Billy Cameron

April Emerald Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will be at 7:00 pm, Thursday, April 2nd, at the Miami Yacht Club; committees can meet at 6:30 pm. Newly-elected Officers and Directors will assume their positions. They will be inaugurated at the Installation Banquet at Parrot Jungle Island on May 20. Mark your calendars.

New Member and a Resignation

At the March Board meeting, **Susan Joy Latham** was accepted into the Emeralds. She is an attorney with Feldman Gale P.A. Susan has Gallaghers from Dublin on the paternal side of her family and Joys from County Kerry on her maternal side. What better credentials!

Mike Mullen, an Emerald since 1996 of Ft. Lauderdale, has sent a note, saying; "We salute the Emeralds as an excellent organization of great folks. But it is too far from home to be active. All the best" Hope to see you at the Festival, Mike!

Emerald Dues are Due.

Reminder letters and a Big Mouth announcement will be sent this month those 55 Emeralds who, to date, have not paid their 2009 dues which were due 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

Irish Diplomacy: The ability to tell a man to go to hell so that he will look forward to the trip.-- Anonymous

St. Patrick's Day (Tuesday March 17) Events

For those Emeralds who wish to commemorate the day in a festive manner, may we recommend our hosts, premises and *craic* at:

- Duffy's, 2108 SW 57 Ave.
- Hurricane Bar, 365 N R. Poinciana Blvd, M.Spgs
- Irish Times, 5850 Sunset Drive, South Miami
- John Martin's, 253 Miracle Mile, Coral Gables
- Mike's at Venetia, 555 NE 15 St. Miami

100,000 Protest Ireland Pay Cuts

"Dublin.--About 100,000 people filled the streets of the Irish capital Saturday in protest of the government's handling of the country's economic crisis, police said.

The march through the heart of Dublin, organized by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, was meant as a warning to the government, which wants to cut public sector pay as it pumps billions of dollars into its troubled banks.

The government has argued that wage reductions are needed to keep Ireland's ballooning deficits under control and reassure international markets that the nation isn't spiraling toward a default.

But the plan, which effectively docks 7 percent from the paychecks of 350,000 Irish workers, comes amid revelations of shady dealings and irresponsible lending at the banks now getting the taxpayers' help...

...The trade unions are hoping the turnout will convince the government that organized labor is ready to strike if its demands are ignored."

-- Associated Press February 14, 2009

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