

December 2010  
Mi Na Nollaig

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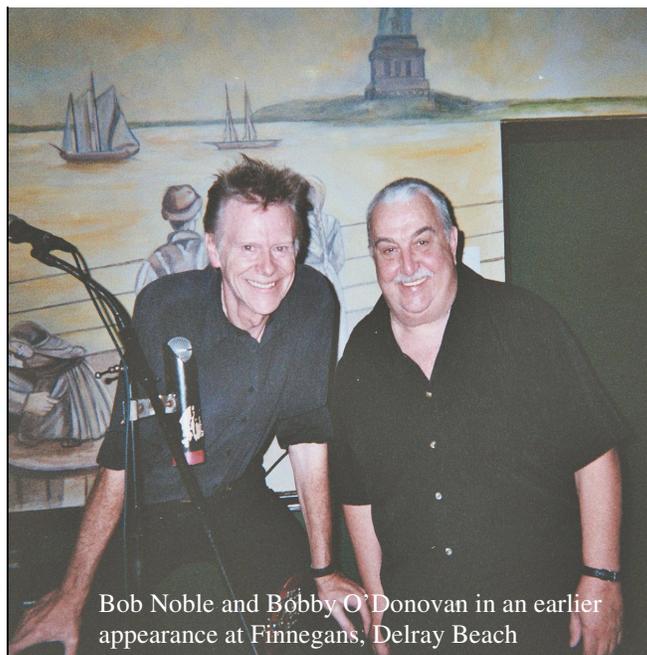
**561-338-8848**

**Season's Greetings! Beannachtáí na Féile duit!**

A merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all Emeralds and to your families and friends! There is no holiday more loved or more celebrated in Ireland. Christmas festivities last three full days. Best wishes for our members who are not Christian!

**Christmas in Ireland Features Fire in the Kitchen.**

*Fire in the Kitchen*, featuring Bobby O'Donovan, direct from Cork City, Ireland, and Bob Noble will headline our annual Christmas in Ireland Dinner Dance. This event will be held on Friday, December 10 at the Westin Colonnade, 180 Aragon Avenue, in Coral Gables. The Breffni Dancers and Irish Fiddlers will also perform.



Bob Noble and Bobby O'Donovan in an earlier appearance at Finnegans, Delray Beach

Commencing at 7pm in the Gables Salon, the Cocktail Hour will feature an open bar, courtesy of Diageo (Thanks to Jeff Bailey) After 8pm, drinks will be available at standard prices; but \$4 for any Diageo brand; There will be appetizers served during Cocktail Hour.

Dinner will be at 8pm in the Merrick Ballroom. The main course will be a sit-down dinner with a choice of either Chicken Genovese or Norwegian Salmon. Bottles of wine can be purchased for \$25 to have at your table.

Dinner tickets are \$75 per person. Reservations close Dec. 3; call Mary Ann Kerr at 305 302 2301. Parking and valet parking is \$10. (Continued on Page 2)

**Upcoming.....**

- Dec 2 6:30 pm SFES Board of Directors Meeting, Miami Yacht Club
- Dec 10 7 pm Christmas in Ireland, Westin Colonnade, Coral Gables
- Jan 6 6:30 pm SFES Board of Directors Meeting, Miami Yacht Club
- Jan 9 4 pm *Tales from the Irish Club*. Lester Goran, John Martins CG

**Christmas in Ireland** (Continued from  
Front Page)

**Chair Erin Ashley has announced the following prizes to be raffled at *Christmas in Ireland*.**(Donors shown in parentheses)

- **\$1500 Aer Lingus Flight Voucher.** (South Florida Emerald Society)
- **Two Roundtrip Cayman Airways Flight Vouchers.** (Bill O'Brien)
- **\$200 Gift Certificate at John Martins** (J. Bailey)
- **Two Tickets to the University of Miami Men's Basketball Game against Florida State University on Jan. 19, 2011** (Jeff Bailey)
- **Dinner Party for 6 at the Kerr Residence.** (Oliver and Mary Ann Kerr)
- **President's Gift Basket worth \$150.** (Janice McKay)
- **Two \$50 Gift Certificates at Mike's at the Venetia Irish Restaurant.** (Barbara and Joe McManus, Mike Shelow)
- **Two \$50 Gift Certificates at Scully's Tavern on Sunset.** (Dan and Dolores Fitzgerald)
- **\$50 Gift Certificate at Miami Yacht Club.** (Sean Farrell)
- **Two Customized Bottles of Bushmill's Irish Whisky.** (Paul Reilly, the Kerrs)
- **Two Tickets to the Miami Heat Game vs. Sacramento Kings on Feb. 22, 2011.** (Chris Kelley)
- **One case of special custom brewed Shenan - doah Swill Stout.** ( Hugh A. Ryan)
- **\$100 Pie Voucher from Pie in the Sky.** (Erin)
- **Lenox Ornaments Basket.** (Judi Tierney Sherry)
- **1.75 Liter Bottle of Bailey's Irish Cream** (Chuck Daley)

**Thank you to all our donors and to Morgan Keegan, the exclusive sponsor .**(Thanks to Philip Morrissey)

**Two books of Raffle tickets have been sent to Board members; one book has been mailed to all Emeralds. Tickets in the raffle books are \$10 each or six for \$50. Each Emerald should think about selling \$50-100 of raffle tickets. Return completed stubs with your check made out to the South Florida Emerald Society Inc., to John Doherty at the South Florida Emerald Society Inc., P.O. Box 836225, Miami Fl 33283-6225 by December 3.**

*The St. Patrick's Day Committee, In c.*

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**:

We are organizing for our next St. Patrick's Day Festival. Our next meeting is **Monday December 6 at John Martins.**

**Melissa O'Rourke** will take over as Grants Director, guided by our illustrious team of **Carroll Cameron** and **Oliver Kerr**. Melissa will also take on the responsibility of proposing amendments to the By-Laws; using her preference to specialize in Contracts once she graduates from law school. With that great news, the position of Secretary is now open. Keep our good work going by becoming our Secretary!

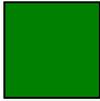
The Nominating Committee is open for the 2011-12 St. Pat's Election. Call me at 305 733 0831

New member **Jake Jacobson** is pitching in for **Charlie Davis**. **John Loughridge** is researching free publicity on the internet and possible grants. **Polly Ramos** is in the kitchen whipping up some new recipes for the soda bread booth. **Ileane Renfroe** has volunteered to chair the Miss Colleen Pageant. **Sylvia Breton** will chair the Tinker's Faire booth. **Jeff Bailey** has sent out announcements to all potential advertisers for our Festival Book. Do you know of any advertisers? The advertisements in our Festival Book support our Festival.

We are still looking for a Chair and talent for the Leprechaun Corner, our children's craft corner. But we also have Rainbow Dust, which is candy art.

**Judi Tierney Sherry**, the Editor of our Festival Book has two requests: the deadline for articles for the Festival Book is January 15 and if anyone has pictures of the 2010 Festival, could you place them on a CD and send it to Judi?

**Mark your calendars for the next Festival:  
March 12, 2011**



## Poetry Corner

Robert Burns is regarded as the national poet of Scotland and Scots revere him as "The Bard". Tuesday, January 25 marks 252 years since his birth. Burns is remarkable both for the number of his poems composed over a fairly short lifespan (37 years) and that his poems and songs are in Gaelic, light Scots' dialect, and standard English. Here, we present his most well-known song as we look ahead to the New Year.

### Auld Lang Syne

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
And never brought to min'?  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
And days o' lang syne?

Chorus:

For auld lang syne, my dear,  
For auld lang syne,  
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet  
For auld lang syne.

And surely ye'll be your pint-stowp,  
And surely I'll be mine!  
And we'll tak a cup o' kindness yet  
For auld lang syne.

We twa hae run about the braes,  
And pu'd the gowans fine;  
But we've wander'd monie a weary fit  
Sin' auld lang syne.

We twa hae paidled i' burn,  
From mornin' sun till dine,  
But seas between us braid hae roared  
Sin' auld lang syne.

And there's a hand, my trusty fiere,  
And gie's a hand o' thine;  
And we'll tak a right guid-willie waught  
For auld lang syne.

### Series presents *Tales from the Irish Club*

Lester Goran, author of *Tales from the Irish Club* will discuss this collection of short stories at 4pm Sunday January 9 at John Martins. The Celtic Cultural Series is sponsored by the St. Patrick's Day Committee.

## A Return Visit to Scully's Tavern

Thirty-six Emeralds and guests enjoyed the conversation and hospitality at Scullys on Sunset on November 17, especially the splendid spread of mussels, cheeses and assorted fruits. Among those dining were: **Paul Reilly, Amy Law, John and Linda Doherty, Chuck Harty, Chuck Daley, Janice McKay, Judi Tierney Sherry, Judy Sawyer, Carroll and Billy Cameron, Jon Lindeman, Melissa Sullivan, Mark and Annette Hackman, John and Dorothy Kane, John Sorgie, Ann Goodrich, Dan and Dolores Fitzgerald, Bill Owens, Ken Pines, Jean McEnany, Ann Eustace, Jim Weber, John Murphy, Margaret and Doug Yoder, Bob Meyer, Joe and Linda Healey, Danielle Area, Clodagh and Jim Michel, and Barbara and Joe McManus.**

## The Informer was Elusive

On November 4, over thirty Emeralds and guests appreciated the exposition of *The Informer* by Professor Pat McCarthy of the University of Miami at John Martins. While Professor McCarthy's explanation of John Ford's film of the 1920's Irish Civil War was clear, the actual showing of the film proved to be elusive. While Chairman and cameraman **John Kane** is appreciative of this opportunity to make a "trial run" he looks forward to next season to screen a "final cut" for the Celtic Cultural Series.

# Quinn's

Steaks Seafood RawBar  
South Beach

\* \* \*

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**“ 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?"”**

## Ireland Seeks €€ Assistance from EU



Brian Cowen, Taoiseach

... “As Brian Lucey, a Trinity College economist, put it in a much circulated **blog**: ‘This is geopolitical hardball; Brian Lenihan from Castleknock versus the heirs of Bismarck and Cardinal Richelieu’ ...

...A stinging editorial in the *Irish Times* on Thursday (Nov. 18) captured the mood, referring to the Easter Rising against British rule and asking whether this ‘was what the men of 1916 died for: a bail-out from the German chancellor with a few shillings of sympathy from the British chancellor on the side.’

(from Financial Times, Nov 19, 2010)

Ireland is prepared to receive around €85bn (\$114bn) of emergency assistance from the International Monetary Fund, the European Central Bank, the Irish Pension Fund, and possibly the British Exchequer, Sweden and Denmark.

The proposed four-year Irish budget (2011-2014) aims to reduce the deficit from 32% of gross domestic product (GDP) to 3% of GDP by 2014 through cuts in public spending and tax increases. The minimum wage will be reduced and the value added tax (VAT) will be increased. Approximately 25,000 public service jobs will be eliminated. But the low corporate tax rate of 12.5% will be retained. The proposed budget visualizes an annual growth of 2.75% in GDP.

## Yank’s Investment in Ireland

“There are more than 600 US businesses in Ireland employing over 100,000 people, or about 70% of all jobs created by Irish Development Agency-supported companies. US groups have invested \$168bn in Ireland—more than they have in Brazil, Russia, India and China combined....” (from Financial Times November 26, 2010)

## Public Sector Workers Braced for Pain

“Outdated work practices, benefits and allowances in Ireland’s public sector are expected to be targeted in any bail-out deal with the European Union and International Monetary Fund.

“Irish public sector workers have arguably already taken considerable pain already—with cuts in pay averaging 15 percent after three austerity budgets. Michael Noonan, finance spokesman for the opposition Fine Gael party, told Irish radio the IMF would seek ‘fundamental restructuring of expenditure and that’s where they’ll dictate, rather than on the specifics of the cuts’ ...

“One way for Dublin to demonstrate the fairness of painful cost-cutting measures is to tackle what some see as the most egregious public sector perks.

“Former prime ministers have free use for life of a car and driver, for example. Existing ministers have 24-hour free use of a ministerial car to ferry them around, even when not on official business.

“While public sector reforms will have to go much deeper, trade unions are set to resist strongly moves to withdraw these benefits. They have dragged their feet on the so-called bank hour. This is the tradition that staff are given time off to cash pay cheques—even though today almost all public employees are paid by direct electronic transfer.

“They are also resisting the loss of their ‘privilege days’—additional days given to civil servants at Christmas and Easter and around bank holidays...

“Working hours are also likely to be addressed. In some regions, staff work a 33-hour week not the normal 35.

“Similarly, public employees are given paid time off to attend local race meetings and arts festivals.

“It (FT) pointed out that the number of middle-ranking and senior officials grew by 82 percent during 1996-2009 while total civil service numbers rose by 27 percent.”-from Financial Times, November 22, 2010 4

## December Board Greet New Emerald

**Mark Hackman** is a native of Miami; he is Assistant Manager at Einstein Brothers Bagels. His wife is Annette and his sponsor is **Paul Reilly**. On his maternal side, his ancestors are Quinns from Macroom, County Cork, Ireland

## December-January Board Meetings

The next Board meetings will be at **6:30pm Thursday December 2** and **January 6** at the Miami Yacht Club on Watson Island on the MacArthur Causeway.

## Correction

Oops! November's *Shamrock News* mis-identified **David G.** in the photo with **Mary Gerhardt**; actually it was **Gerry Quinn**. (See business card on page 3)

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

## Emerald Elections

In pre-planning for the February elections, we are looking for up to eight Emeralds to stand as nominees for the Emerald Board of Directors. We have one meeting a month, you are expected to chair a committee, to offer support to all our activities and the pay is unbelievable (none). You should be well-organized, capable of conversing extensively, and have a library of Irish jokes and stories. Please call Janice McKay at 305 733 0831

## Want to Make New Friends?

We are looking for a volunteer to assume the chair of the Membership Committee. Emeralds are a gregarious group—aren't we Irish?—and if you are outgoing and can get along with other Irish, you meet the requirements. Call Janice McKay.