

October 2010
Mi Deireadh Fomhair

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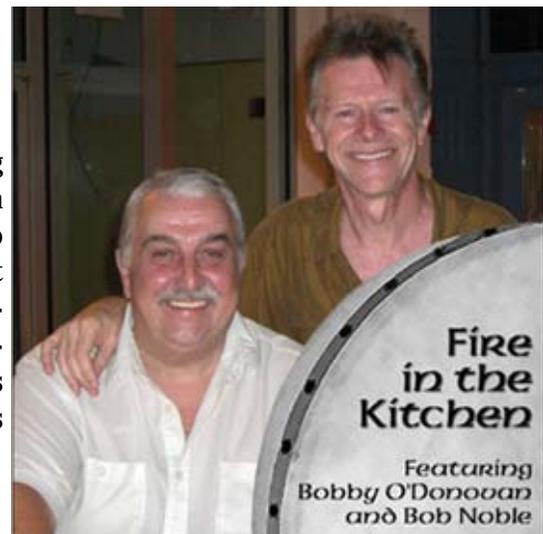
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fire in the kitchen

featuring Bobby O'Donovan and Bob Noble

Christmas in Ireland will Arrive in Coral Gables

Fire in the Kitchen, featuring Bobby O'Donovan, direct from Cork City, Ireland, and Bob Noble will headline the event at the Colonnade on Friday, December 10. The Breffni Dancers will be there. Invitations have been mailed; raffle tickets have been sent to all Emeralds. (Continued to page 3)



Let's Head for Joe Healey's Hurricane Bar !

At 6:30pm, Thursday, October 21, to mark the end of a quiet hurricane season, Emeralds will make our annual visit to Joe and Linda Healey's Hurricane Bar and Grill, located at 365 N. Royal Poinciana Boulevard, Miami Springs, (305-884-5077). The Hurricane Bar constitutes a northern outpost of Irish hospitality and remains a green cultural icon. The Healeys always provide generous hors d'oeuvres and a wide variety of beverages are available at reasonable prices. Directions after exiting the Palmetto Xway 836/Okeechobee Rd Interchange: turn southeast on W. Okeechobee Rd. toward 74th for 2 miles. Turn right at Hialeah Dr. over the bridge. At the traffic circle, take the first right onto N. Royal Poinciana Boulevard and look for the Hurricane Bar.

Upcoming.....

- Oct 21 6pm Social: Hurricane Bar, 365 N. Royal Poinciana Blvd.
- Nov 4 6:30pm SFES Board of Directors Meeting Miami Y Club
- Nov 7 4pm Celtic Cultural Series *The Informer* John Martins
- Nov 17 6pm Social: Scully's Tavern, 9809 SW 72 St., Miami
- Dec 2 6:30pm SFES Board of Directors Meeting, Miami Y Club
- Dec 10 6pm Christmas in Ireland, Westin Colonnade, C. Gables

Samhain - October 31st

The origin of Halloween dates back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in). This day marked the end of the fall harvest and the beginning of the dark, cold winter. The Celtic calendar was divided into two seasons: the season of Samhain—the dark half of the year — and the season of Beltaine, the sun, beginning with April/May.

The night before Samhain is when the veil between the two worlds was very thin, and the spirits of the dead could be reincarnated to visit their homes again. The Druids or Celtic priests met in the forests and lit huge bonfires to ward off evil spirits. Later an ember from these fires was given to families who in turn lit candles in their homes and laid out food to greet their spectral ancestors. This is a time when the departed ancestors would re-visit earth and their families. This is why families leave food and drink on Samhain near the where their deceased ancestors would visit to welcome them. Interesting enough, this custom is followed in other parts of the world. For example, in the Yucatan, Samhain is celebrated as All Souls Day and food and drink is left for departed ancestors in cemeteries.

Thus began the tradition of tricks or treats at Halloween, fears of black cats, evil spirits, skeletons, skulls, and the customary colors of black and orange and, of course, the pumpkin, the Irish legend of Stingy Jack. Apples were peeled and their shaped used for purposes of fortune telling. Samhain later became Christianized as All Souls Day or the eve of All Hallow's Day the night before All Saints' Day.

Celtic Cultural Series Features *Informer*

On Sunday November 7 at 4pm , Pat McCarthy, PhD, Chairman of the English Department at The University of Miami and Co-Editor of the *James Joyce Literary Supplement*, will discuss John Ford's classic motion picture *The Informer* and the impact it has had on Irish motion pictures, culture and politics. The movie follows Liam O'Flaherty's novel about an Irish rebel in the 1922 Civil War who informs on his friend and then feels doom engulfing him. Victor McLaglen won the Academy Award for Best Actor in 1935 for this leading role.

John Martins is at 253 Miracle Mile, admission is free and parking is available on Miracle Mile or behind John Martins at a City parking garage.

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 meetings are **Monday November 1 and Monday December 6 at John Martins**. Last March, we estimated that over 4,000 people attended the Festival. Think about volunteering for this event. We need chairpersons for our various activities such as the Leprechaun Corner. But we also need at least 24 volunteers for 2-4 hours throughout the day—next March 12. Call me at 305 256-0233.

Ileane Renfroe has volunteered to chair the Miss Colleen Pageant. **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 are the financial support of our Festival.

Judi Tierney Sherry, the Editor of our Festival Book has two requests. For all our budding authors, the deadline for articles for the Festival Book is January 15; no travelogues, please. Also, if anyone has pictures of the 2010 Festival, could you place them on a CD and send it to Judi; she may be able to use them in the upcoming Festival Book.

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

O Paddy Dear and Did you Hear...

Paddy Kelleghan, Irish fiddler and story teller, inaugurated the Celtic Cultural Series season at John Martins on Sunday October 3. A full house of 37 Emeralds and guests listened to Paddy with great appreciation and applause. **John and Dorothy Kane** chair the Series, assisted by their committee: **Carroll and Billy Cameron, Dan and Dolores Fitzgerald, Oliver and Mary Ann Kerr, Helen Lennon, Janice McKay and Barbara and Joe McManus.**

Poetry Corner

Seamus Heaney, the great Northern Irish poet and Nobel Prize winner, now in his eighth decade, is the most popular literary poet since Robert Frost, according to a current review in the *New York Times*. Here is a poem from Heaney's new book, *Human Chain*. Here you are told how a farm used to be run by someone who returns again and again to the Irish fields where he grew up.

"Lick the pencil" we might
have called him
So quick he was to wet the
land, so deft
His hand-to-mouth and
tongue-flirt round the stub.

Or "Drench the cow" so fierce
his nostril-grab
And peel-back of her lip, so
accurately forced
The bottle-neck between her
big bare teeth

Or "Catch the horse," for in
spite of the low-set
Cut of him, he could always
slip an arm
Around the neck and fit
winkers on

In a single move.
—Seamus Heaney

Welcome a New Emerald

At the September Board meeting, **Paul "Popo" Kunz** was nominated by **Erin Ashley** and approved unanimously by the Board. Born in Miami, Paul lives in Boca Raton and is a lawyer with Bander & Associates. His spouse is **Maria** and they have three children. His Irish ancestry is through his maternal side: the McCartheys of County Cork.

Who said the Irish have a way with words?

So the priest asks the Bishop if it is permissible to smoke while praying. The Bishop responds certainly not. Next day, the priest asks the Bishop if it is permissible to pray while smoking. That, says the Bishop, is not merely permissible, it is admirable.

Christmas in Ireland (Continued from Front page)

Chair **Erin Ashley** announced the following features for our major fund-raiser —Christmas in Ireland—at the Westin Colonnade, 180 Aragon Avenue, Coral Gables on Friday, December 10, 2010:

- Prizes for the Raffle now include: a \$1500 voucher for Air Lingus airfare, 2 Cayman Airways vouchers, Private Dinner for 6 hosted by the Kerrs at their home, Customized Bottle of Bushmills, 2 \$50 Gift Certificates for Mike's at the Venetia, vouchers for Erin's pies and many others.
- Two books of Raffle tickets have been sent to Board members; one book has been mailed to all Emeralds. The raffle tickets are \$10 each or six for \$50. Each Emerald should think about selling \$50-100 of raffle tickets. Return stubs with a check to the South Florida Emerald Society to John Doherty at the South Florida Emerald Society.
- Invitations are being mailed to all Emeralds. Tickets are \$75 per person. For additional tickets and reservations, call Mary Ann Kerr at 305 302 2301.

Would you like to place your business card in this space?

\$10 for one-time insertion; \$25 for a quarter (3 months).

Send your check and business card to The South Florida Emerald Society, PO Box 836225, Miami FL 33283-6225 and **John Doherty** will make the arrangements

CASSIDY BLACK, P.A.

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The shell of the planned headquarters for the Anglo Irish Bank after it cratered from lavishing loans on profiteering developers. NYT 6/29/10

Celtic Tiger Disappears but What a Bill It Left Behind

“The Celtic Tiger long ago collected its hat and coat and disappeared into the night. And what a bill it left behind. Thursday’s announcement that the tally for rescuing the Irish banks could touch 50 billion euros shows the absurd scale of the banking crisis. That is nearly a third of gross domestic product (GDP), paid for by taxpayers. There were trade union demonstrations in Dublin this week as part of Europe-wide strikes against austerity, but they were modest compared with the Continent. Perhaps a deep sense of guilt about the excesses of the boom years explains why Irish taxpayers seem willing to bear the cost.

“There is also another factor at work.. The (Irish) government seems determined to prove, especially to the European Union, that a country that steered itself into this calamity can steer itself out again. It is an admirable stance. How sustainable it is will become clear next spring, when Ireland needs to resume its borrowing programme...”

“The bank rescue will result in a 2010 budget deficit of 32 percent of GDP and could see the gross government debt-to-GDP ratio climb above 100 percent. The hope is that the ‘finality’ of the measures...will help to reduce the cost of borrowing...That is something to be grateful for, as is the certainty that Irish people who die will go straight to heaven from now on, because right now they are caught between hell and purgatory. “ ...From *Financial Times*, Oct.1, 2010

.....From *Financial Times* October 1,2010.

CONDOLENCES

Joseph Michael Duffy

Joseph Michael Duffy, 59 of Weston passed away with his family by his side on September 12, 2010. He was a Realtor for many years with Coldwell Banker Weston. He is survived by his wife of 27 years Michelle; his daughters Caitlin and Christina. A memorial service was held on Friday at St Paul Lutheran Church, Weston FL. In his memory the family suggests donations to the St. Paul Child Enrichment Center 580 Indian Trace Weston, FL 33326. Cremation arrangements by T.M. Ralph Funeral Home Sawgrass/Weston .

According to Dan Fitzgerald, Joe Duffy was on our Board of Directors for several years, served as our Festival Chairman one year, and worked on the parades. He helped to announce our first Festival in Fred Hartnett Park. Pat Duffy and Chris Kelley attended the service in Weston.. Condolences to Michelle, Caitlin and Christina. R.I.P.

Victor D. Griffith

Victor D. Griffith 85, died peacefully Saturday August 21, 2010, at his Miami Shores home. Vic joined the service after his 18th birthday during World War II, serving in Patton's 3rd Army in the field artillery unit, 89th Infantry Division. After graduating from college, he married his high school sweetheart, Ginny, and they recently celebrated their 61st anniversary. In 1954, Vic moved from Toledo to Miami. Vic worked for First Federal Savings and Loan, which later became AmeriFirst Federal. For 25-years Vic was a member of the Orange Bowl Staging and Parade Committee and spent much of the holiday season with the annual Orange Bowl game and parade. Vic is survived by his wife, Virginia (Ginny), four sons, James, David, Thomas (Cyndi), and William (Mary), nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held at Miami Shores Presbyterian Church, 602 NE 96th Street, Miami Shores on Thursday, August 26th . In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to: Vitas Hospice, 1100 NW 95th Street 2nd Floor, Miami, Florida 33150, or Miami Shores Presbyterian Church, 602 NE 96 Street, Miami Shores, FL 33138. Gregg L. Mason Funeral Home Miami Shores. Condolences to the Griffith family. R.I.P.

According to Dan Fitzgerald, Vic had been very active in the preparations for our St. Pat’s Parades; his experience with the Orange Bowl Parades was invaluable.

.....Obituaries from *Miami Herald*

November Emerald Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will be at **6:30pm Thursday November 4** at the Miami Yacht Club on Watson Island on the MacArthur Causeway. President **Janice McKay** will preside and expects a sense of decorum and respect for the opinions of others. Attendance of all Board members is expected and all members are welcome. The October Board meeting was cancelled for lack of a quorum.

Health and Welfare

Charlie Davis and **Henry Kissane** are recovering from surgery. Both are home and would love to receive cards to boost their spirits. Our prayers are with them.

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

Emerald Directory

John Doherty and the Membership Committee distributed the 2010-11 Emerald Membership Directory in early July to all members who had paid as of June 30. If you have not received a Directory, leave a message at 305 949 8400. If you were dropped from membership for non-payment of dues, you can be reinstated by paying past dues. Call John Doherty.

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 well-organized, you meet the requirements.