

# **the emerald Society** **shamrock news**

Aril 2011  
Aibrean

Member Tel: (305) 949-8400  
www.emeraldsocietySFL.com

## Emerald Society Officers

### President

**Christopher P. Kelley**  
305-893-6004

### 1st Vice-President

**Hugh A. Ryan**

### 2nd Vice-President

**Mary Gerhardt**

### Treasurer

**John Doherty**

### Historian

**Daniel L. Fitzgerald**

### Recording Secretary

**Judi Tierney Sherry**

### Immediate Past President

**Janice McKay**

## Directors

**Jeffrey S. Bailey**  
**Charles (Chuck) Daley**  
**John Doherty**  
**Patrick Duffy**  
**Daniel L. Fitzgerald**  
**Mary Gerhardt**  
**Christopher P. Kelley**  
**Donald E. Harrington Jr.**  
**Sean P. Hayes**  
**Phillip Humphries,**  
**Phillip F. Morrissey**  
**Patrick Novak**  
**William O'Brien**  
**Paul Reilly**  
**David "Skip" Russell**  
**Erin Ashley Sieber**

## Co-Editors

**Barbara & Joe McManus**  
561-338-8848

## The Gaelic Feast of Beltane or "Burn Baby Burn"

Fires will burn throughout many of the counties of Ireland on the evening of April 30<sup>th</sup> to celebrate The Festival of the Fires, an ancient Gaelic celebration of Beltane (Bealtaine) on May 1st or the beginning of summer. Many of the hills of Ireland will be illuminated that night starting from the ancient Hill of Uisneich, the epicenter in County Westmeath to the many communities across the Island

How did this ancient festival or the lighting of the hilltops begin? To understand Beltane, you must understand the Gaelic calendar. This calendar is divided into two halves: the dark, cold half or Samhain, commences on November 1, and the light, warm half or Beltane commences on May 1. The Celts believed that their year began with the season of darkness and cold after the crops were harvested and stored for the long winter. The beginning of the summer season started at Beltane, a time of purification and transition hoping for a good harvest. This was the time when the herds of livestock were driven out to the summer pastures and mountain grazing lands.

For further information, [www.festivalofthefires.com](http://www.festivalofthefires.com) or on Facebook.



## It's Time for Irish Times!

The Irish Times, 5850 Sunset Drive, South Miami 33143 Phone (305) 667-4114, an authentic Irish pub, will be our host on Wednesday April 20. Known for cool pints, great food and stimulating conversation among Irish countrymen. From 6:30 to 9:00 pm, there will be an extended Happy Hour and 2 for 1

### Upcoming:

April 20	6:30pm, Social: Irish Times, 5850 Sunset Drive, South Miami
May 1	4pm, Celtic Cultural Series: <i>The Life of Oscar Wilde</i> , Michael Gillespie, Ph.D., JohnMartins
May 5	7:15 pm, SFES Board Meeting, Miami Yacht Club,
May 24	Installation Dinner, Jungle Island, MacArthur Causeway

## It's Time for Irish Times! (Cont'd )

drinks and well liquors. Hors d'oeuvres will be served. A section of this establishment has been roped off for Emeralds and friends. Located one block east of the South Miami Metrorail Station at South Dixie and Sunset, street parking should be available; but never fear, parking is available in the parking garage next to the Pub.



Michael Gillespie Ph.D.

## Wilde Springs to Life on Mayday

On Sunday May 1, Michael Gillespie Ph.D. will present *The Life of Oscar Wilde* upstairs at JohnMartins, starting at 4pm. Dr. Gillespie is Professor of English at Florida International University.

Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) was a native Dubliner whose rich and dramatic portrayal of the human condition swept late 19th century literature. He toured the United States in 1882; 140 lectures in 260 days. In 1895, he was incarcerated for two years for "gross indecency". Wilde authored several books, poems "The Ballad of Reading Gaol" (see next page) and the play "The Importance of Being Earnest".

The Celtic Cultural Series is sponsored by the St. Patrick's Day Committee; all events are free and open to the public. Parking is available in the parking garage behind JohnMartins on Aragon Avenue.

\* \* \*

Has any one seen our Info Booth and SFES banners ??

## *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 *Shamrock News* to the activities conducted under the umbrella of this organization.



Janice McKay at the 2011 St. Patrick's Day Festival

Message from President Janice McKay:

To those who made the Festival possible...

What a good group you are. You made it happen with your hard work and dedication!! I looked around as you were working, and you all made me feel proud to be a member of this team! You reinforced the behind-the-scenes dedication we had to do to get there! You should feel proud too.

Everything turned out so lovely, and God smiled down on us with such fabulous weather—and, two years in a row..

Thanks a heap for every small job that you may have thought insignificant to make such a big job a success! Pat yourself on the back!! And lest we forget, thanks for putting up with me when I may not have been as nice as I should have been..Amen.

With much admiration,

Janice

\* \* \*

We still need a recording secretary..can you volunteer? And St. Patrick's Day Committee elections are coming up.

Festival financial results will be forthcoming.



## Poetry Corner

Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) is not considered an especially “Irish” author, even if born in Dublin, but rather a member of the British Ascendancy. After spending 2 years in Reading Jail, Wilde wrote this poem describing the fate of Charles T. Wooldridge, a fellow convict, for killing his wife, Laura Ellen. Entirely too long to be produced here, only a few stanzas are shown; the last acting as a repeating chorus.

### **The Ballad of Reading Gaol**

He did not wear his scarlet coat,  
For blood and wine are red,  
And blood and wine were on his hands  
When they found him with the dead,  
The poor dead woman whom he loved,  
And murdered in her bed.

\* \* \*

In Reading gaol by Reading town  
There is a pit of shame,  
And in it lies a wretched man  
Eaten by teeth of flame,  
In a burning winding-sheet he lies,  
And his grave has got no name.

And there, till Christ call forth the dead,  
In silence let him lie:  
No need to waste the foolish tear,  
Or heave the windy sigh:  
The man had killed the thing he loved,  
And so he had to die.

And all men kill the thing they love,  
By all let this be heard,  
Some do it with a bitter look,  
Some with a flattering word,  
The coward does it with a kiss,  
The brave man with a sword.

### **Kim Garvey Defines What It Is to be Irish**

Appearing for the second time in the Celtic Cultural Series on April 3, Kim Garvey from Nova Southeastern University, charmed her audience of 45 with a PowerPoint presentation which defined the Irish in America. Remarkable to see the change in public perception—from Thomas Nast’s critical cartoons of the Irish in the 1860’s to the respect with which John F. Kennedy is held today.

## **New Prexy, New Board, New Term**

New President **Christopher Kelley** greeted the new officers and Directors at the Board meeting of April 7. New Officers are:

- 1st Vice President: **Hugh A. Ryan**
- 2nd Vice President: **Mary M. Gerhardt**
- Treasurer : **John P. Doherty**
- Secretary: **Judi Tierney Sherry**
- Historian: **Daniel L. Fitzgerald**
- Immediate Past President: **Janice McKay**

The one-year directors are: **Jeffrey S. Bailey, Charles J. Daley, John P. Doherty , Daniel L. Fitzgerald** and **Patrick Novak**. The two-year directors are: **Mary M. Gerhardt, Donald E. Harrington Jr., Christopher P. Kelley, William J. O’Brien Jr.** and **Erin Ashley Sieber**, The three-year directors are: **Patrick L. Duffy, Sean P. Hayes, Phillip Humphries, Phillip F. Morrissey, Paul Reilly** and **David “Skip” Russell**. Having served three years as Board members but not officers, Oliver Kerr, Joe McManus, and Sean Ferrell cannot continue to serve according to the By-Laws. Jan Paris replaced Oliver Kerr by email vote of the Board March 8, but she declined the position and was replaced by Philip Humphries. Joe McManus resigned April 6, 2011. Two positions remain open.

President **Chris Kelley** appointed the following Emeralds as Chairs of Committees: Membership - **Erin Ashley Sieber**; Social-**Paul Reilly**; Nominating-**Dan Fitzgerald**; Fourth of July-**Carroll** and **Billy Cameron**; Installation Dinner-**Judi Tierney Sherry**; Christmas in Ireland-**Erin Ashley Sieber**; Publicity-**John Kane**, and Newsletter-**Barbara** and **Joe McManus**.

Concern was expressed over the drop in membership to 169 members. **Erin Ashley Sieber**, new membership Chair, thought there should be informal “Meet-Ups” in addition to the monthly socials. President Chris stressed the importance of wearing Emerald shirts and green jackets at events. **Carroll Cameron** found a website—[www2.hugestore.com/ad.php?id=green-sport-coats](http://www2.hugestore.com/ad.php?id=green-sport-coats)—which has polywool Augusta Green jackets for the Masters for \$159.50. But we have no known source for green Emerald shirts — any ideas?

**John Doherty** announced that the deadline for printing the 2011-12 Membership Directory is April 15; anyone interested in entering a \$25 business card ad should contact John before April 15.

## **Cooke's COPP's Conclave Convenes**

Past President **Ed Cooke** emceed the 2nd annual meeting of the Council of Past Presidents at the Key Biscayne Yacht Club on March 10; **Tom Flynn** was the host. Other Past Presidents attending were: **Christopher Kelley, John Kane, Bob Meyer, Gerard Jones, Bill Gregory, Tom Dunn, Carroll Cameron,** and **Joe McManus**. Past Presidents **Tom Flynn** and **Dan Fitzgerald** were honored for their U.S. Army service during the Korean War. An American Legion color guard presented American flags to the two veterans;. Lt. Col. Margaret Burke (ret'd) spoke and Marine Corps Major General Larry Taylor (ret'd) also attended. A congratulatory letter from Congresswoman **Ileana Ros-Lehtinen** has been lost in transit at the Emerald P.O. Box and will be reproduced here next month if found.

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

## **May Board Meeting**

The next Board meetings will be at **7:15pm Thursday May 5** at the Miami Yacht Club on Watson Island on the MacArthur Causeway. .President **Chris Kelley** 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.