

the emerald Society shamrock news

April 2015
Aibrean

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Editors

Joe & Barbara McManus

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The Breffni Dancers are (l-r): Valentina Brown, Carly Davis, Toni Farrell, Claire Irigoyen, Natalia Brown, Kaylee Brown, Keelin Lyons, Michelle Kelly, Savannah Bass, and Victoria Molina. The Breffni Academy is supervised by Emeralds Michael and Nicola.

Congratulations to the St. Patrick's Day Committee who produced a splendid Festival under the leadership of Chairman Charlie Davis on Saturday March 14! We were proud to be Irish and on this Great Day, everyone is Irish!

The Ancient Gaelic Feast of Beltane

The ancient Gaelic calendar was divided into two halves: the light, warm season of Beltane, a time of purification and hope for good harvests followed by the dark, cold season of Samhain. The Festival of the Fires announced Beltane. The ancient Celts burned fires throughout all of Ireland the night of April 30th which ushered in the feast of Beltane, on May 1st marking the beginning of summer.

Our Beltane will be led by Rachel Battista, starting (continued to page 2)

Upcoming.....

Wed	Apr 29	6:30pm	Installation/ Social, John Martin's, Coral Gables
Sat	May 2	4:00pm (Tentative)	Beltane, Bill Sadowski Park, 17555 SW 79th Ave. Palmetto Bay
Thur	May 7	6:30pm	SFES Board of Director's Meeting, Miami Yacht Club
Wed	May 27	6:30pm	Social, Hurricane Bar, Miami Springs



Beltane, Saturday May 2 (?)

(Continued from page 1)

at 4:00 until 7:30 at Bill Sadowsky Park, 17555 SW 79th Ave, Palmetto Bay. Rachel will tell the stories of Beltane, historically celebrated in Ireland, Scotland and the Isle of Man, around a fire. This family event is tentative, and subject to revision; be on the look out for an e-mail spelling out the details.



Installation/Social at John Martins

All the new officers and directors (listed on page 1) will be inaugurated with appropriate ceremony at John Martins Tipperary Room on Wednesday, April 29 starting at 6:30pm. Membership cards will be distributed; new members will receive Emerald pins. Martin Lynch and John Clarke, the proprietors, will set out generous hors d'oeuvres, no dinner but there will be a cash bar. John Martins (305 445-3777) is located at 253 Miracle Mile, Coral Gables. Parking may be available on Miracle Mile; the alternatives are the City parking garages, north and south, entering from Aragon or Andalusia, respectively.

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 is, in turn, a 501 (c) 7 fraternal organization in the IRS Code.

The St. Patrick's Day Committee will hold a wrap-up meeting at 6:30pm Tuesday April 14 at 6:30pm at the Sports Grill, Kendall Drive at SW 97th Ave.(9090 SW 97th Ave.) This is the opportunity to attend and review the 2015 Festival, and get involved in the planning of the 2016 St. Patrick's Day Festival. All new Emeralds that want to be on the Festival Committee should attend to sign up and meet the other committee members. Food and refreshments available. All are welcome.

Hugh Ryan has suggested that we should get a jump on next year's Festival by buying Festival Book ads now. Pre-sales are very helpful for income projection and budgeting and takes some of the pressure off **Bill O'Brien** selling ads in the months prior to the Festival. If Emeralds who placed an ad in this year's Festival Book would go ahead and renew their ad or place a new add **NOW** for 2016, it would be greatly appreciated by The St. Patrick's Day Committee, Inc.

"It's no use carrying an umbrella if your shoes are leaking"

"If you lie down with dogs you'll rise with fleas"



Charlie Davis, Festival Chairman, takes a "selfie" of the Miss Collieens



President Don Harrington gives a Lifetime Achievement Award to Dan Fitzgerald

St. Patrick's Day Festival at Fred Hartnett Park in Coral Gables, Saturday March 14



Don Harrington and Maureen Hickey, 1995 Parade Chair

Photos by John Kane



Joe and Linda Healey, Thelma Hayes and Dorothy Kane



Mary Ann Kerr and Friend at the Soda Bread Booth



Bill Hartnett observes the festivities

Emerald Board Happenings

The 2015-2016 Emerald Membership Directory will go to print sometime in May. President **Don Harrington** has suggested that ads be solicited **NOW** for the membership book. It only costs \$25 for a business card-size ad. Send your business card to **John Doherty**, The South Florida Emerald Society, Inc., PO Box 836225, Miami, FL. 33283-6225.

Several members have not sent in their 2015 dues. Mail your check to **John Doherty** at the address on page 5.

Chris Kelley is in the process of planning an Emerald Society Marlins game night. We will select a Saturday 4pm game in the weeks ahead.

Recalling those great Emerald weekends of the 1980's-90's, President **Don Harrington** announced that he is planning an Emerald Society weekend retreat at the Sea View Hotel on the Ocean (9909 Collins Avenue, Bal Harbour) in the month of September to take advantage of reduced room rates of \$185 per room, per night, plus tax. Check-in Friday afternoon; check-out Sunday mid-day. The Sea View offers a specially discounted sit-down breakfast at a rate of \$10 per person, daily, if you so desire. More info to follow as we get closer. Please RSVP to **Don Harrington, Jr.** at dharrington@espirotosantoplaza.com if you would like to attend a weekend retreat at the Sea View Hotel in September.

Both Poetry Corner and Helen's Quiz are absent this month. Look for them next month.

Condolences

JOHN ARTHUR WRIGHT

Wright was born in Archbald, Pennsylvania on Valentine's Day, February 14, 1926. He was the third of six children: James, Joseph, Therese, Joan and Robert. All are alive today except Joseph, who died last year in Pennsylvania. Wright worked alongside his siblings in the joint restaurant and bar adjacent to the family home. Duty called with the start of the Second World War. Wright enlisted with brothers James and Joseph and joined the U.S. Marine Corps. Following the war, Wright enrolled at University of Miami College of Law with his brother, James. A year after graduation in 1952, he married his college sweetheart Grace. After opening a general law practice in South Miami, Wright started his family with Grace, who became a schoolteacher. Five children were born within a span of nine years. Wright was active in social circles surrounding St. Augustine Catholic Church, including fourth degree knight of the Marion council, a member of the Emerald Society and the Lung Association of Greater Miami. After retirement, Wright spent time with his three grandchildren and traveled the U.S., Europe and Central and South America. Wright died peacefully at Baptist Hospital surrounded by family on Good Friday, April 2, 2015. Visitation was held at Stanfill Funeral Home; Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Louis Catholic Church last Wednesday.

Condolences to Grace, his wife of 62 years, and his children John II, Dr. Donald, Carole and William (Mercedes) as well as three grandchildren: Colleen, Jake, and Brendan Wright. R.I.P.

-From the Miami Herald April 7, 2015 • 4

Next Board Meeting

The next Board Meeting will be 6:30pm Thursday May 7 at the Miami Yacht Club on Watson Island. President **Donald F. Harrington Jr.** will preside. All members are welcome.

Celtic Cultural Series(?)

The current leaders of the Celtic Cultural Series-Chair **Joe McManus** and **Ed Cooke**—have been hard-pressed to keep the Series going. Rachel Battista has injected new ideas, but we really need a new chair. Anyone interested ? Call Don Harrington.

The South Florida Emerald Society, Inc.

PO Box 836225

Miami, FL. 33283-6225.

Welcome these New Emeralds

At the April Board meeting, the following new Emeralds were approved:

- Franklin Cosmen, Jr.
 - Maureen Hickey
 - Nancy Harrington
 - Mary Marks
 - Sean Pendray
- (More information will be in the May Newsletter)