

The Emerald Society

shamrock news

May 2021
Mi na Bealtane

Member Tel: (305) 596-9995
E-mail: emeraldsocietysf@gmail.com
Tweeter @SFemeraldsmiami

WEB: www.emeraldsocietysf.com.
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SouthFloridaEmeraldSociety/>

Emerald Society Officers

President

Mark Donnelly
305 794 7499

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Noel McManus

Stillings

2nd Vice-President

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Paul Reilly

Sean Ferrell

Hugh Ryan

Judi Tierney Sherry

Editors

Joe & Barbara McManus
561 338-8848



Cobh Harbor

Cobh (Cove) and St. Colman's Cathedral overlook one of the great natural harbors of the world and home to Ireland's only dedicated cruise terminal. Once known as Queenstown, Cobh is known as the final port of call for the *RMS Titanic*. It's also the departure point for 2.5 million Irish who emigrated to North America between 1848 and 1950.

The South Florida
Emerald Society, Inc
PO Box 836225
Miami, FL33283-6225.

In adhering to the COVID-19 guidelines, all Emerald social activities have been curtailed. Thank you for being a member as we manage through this time together.

Wear a Mask

Keep your Distance

Wash your Hands

Happy Mothers Day

South Florida Emerald Society

May Committee Reports

The Board conducted their monthly meeting via ZOOM on Thursday May 6.

Social Committee – Mark Donnelly

See my message on p.3.

WEBSITE Committee —Ann Eustace

Ann Eustace and Consultant Justin Arrondo assisted by the Website Committee have completed the new WEBSITE www.emeraldsocietysfl.com. and urge you to try it out. Provide any feedback to Ann Eustace.

Treasurer– John P. Doherty

We have 85 paid members. Annual dues were payable January 1st. Renewals are \$25pp; new members are \$50 pp. Publication of a directory is pending.

Membership-Katie O'Connor Schultz and Ann Goodrich Sorgie.

Katie and Ann organized and sent out membership cards to all Emeralds. Note the discounts on reverse. If you didn't receive a membership card—you haven't paid your annual dues!

Next Meeting: Thursday June 3 by ZOOM.

The St. Patrick's Day Committee

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

President	Charlie Davis
Vice President	Rosemarie Hart
Second Vice	
President	Judith T. Sherry
Secretary	Clodagh Michel
Treasurer	John P. Doherty-
Committee.Members:	
C.L.Conroy	Noel McManus Stillings
Don Harrington	Bob Friedlander
John & Noreen Cunningham	

St. Patrick's Day Committee, Inc. is working with Amazon so that purchases made through the Amazon app will fund the St. Patrick's efforts. If you are using your smartphone, here is instructions on how to program the Amazon app to direct funds to St.Patrick's.

How it works:

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on "AmazonSmile" within Programs & Features
3. Select "St Patricks Day Committee Inc" as your charity
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app .

Health and Welfare—Judi T. Sherry

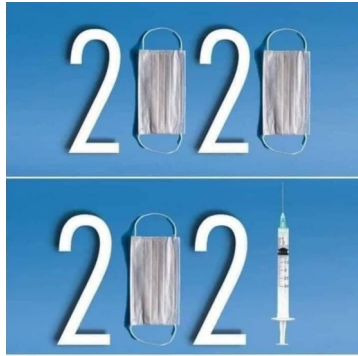
Gloria Cooke would appreciate a phone call: (305) 576 -8462.

John Kane is doing well in Delray Beach. He enjoys playing pickleball with new friends and neighbors.

Bill O'Brien, who for years was our chief fundraiser for the St. Patrick's Day Festival, is now at Jackson Plaza Rehabilitation. Call Bill between 10 and 12 noon at (305) 347-3380; ask for William O'Brien in Room 421 and the staff will arrange the connection. Bill would like to hear from you.

South Florida Emerald Society

Welcome all Emeralds:



The good news is that we are on the mend after our Covid shots and will soon be back to public gatherings—normalizing our lives through this pandemic and having social events. Our goal is to resume in-person social events soon after September 1, 2021. We will have a small intro social on June 26 “Shamrock Summer Social” at the Miami Yacht Club, coupled with a possible Installation Ceremony. Check your emails. I’ve also been talking with the German American Social Club, 11919 SW 56th St., Miami. And we will do our annual Tropical Celtic Christmas Fest at Mike’s at the Venetia in downtown Miami in December.

The SFES board met virtually by ZOOM in early May. We discussed our objectives which are to resume our social events, to grow membership and increase usage of our WEB site. We encourage all members to refer to the calendar on the WEB site to learn of upcoming events. Our Editors are introducing a new feature—Travel—to other places to see when traveling.

I would again like to welcome Hugh Ryan, former President, to the Board. I have appointed Mike Garrison to the Board as 2nd Vice President. Welcome, Mike! I would also like to welcome Harold Ryan, Hugh’s brother, as a new member. We would like to invite everyone to become involved and seize the opportunity to network with other Emeralds while enjoying the camaraderie and fun!

Slainte!

Mark Donnelly President

Greet a New Emerald!

Harold “Hal” Ryan and his wife Ginny have two children and live in Miami. Hal is a Project Manager. His paternal ancestors are from County Tipperary. His sponsor is his younger brother-Hugh Ryan.

Auld Dubliner

The Auld Dubliner will feature its inaugural Pig Roast on Sunday May 30th. The Auld Dubliner is located at 91 NW 1st St. opposite the Courthouse in downtown Miami.
—Ann Eustace

Poetry Corner

The poem's magnificence lies in its mythological element: Aengus, ancient god of love and beauty fell in love with a girl who turned into a swan. Now Aengus, an ordinary man growing old, has never stopped his search for the girl.



W.B. Yeats

The Song of Wandering Aengus

I went out to the hazel wood,
Because a fire was in my head,
And cut and peeled a hazel wand,
And hooked a berry to a thread;
And when white moths were on the wing,
And moth-like stars were flickering out,
I dropped the berry in a stream
And caught a little silver trout.

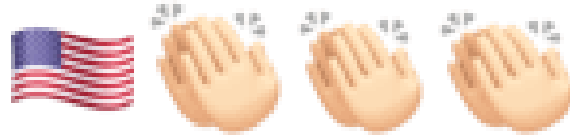
When I had laid it on the floor
I went to blow the fire a-flame,
But something rustled on the floor,
And someone called me by my name:
It had become a glimmering girl
With apple blossom in her hair
Who called me by my name and ran
And faded through the brightening air.

Though I am old with wandering
Through hollow lands and hilly lands,
I will find out where she has gone,
And kiss her lips and take her hands;
And walk among long dappled grass,
And pluck till time and times are done
The silver apples of the moon,
The golden apples of the sun.

W.B. Yeats (1865-1939)

Eagle Scout

We are pleased to announce that Donny Harrington has been awarded the highest rank in Scouting: Eagle Scout.



Donny began Cub Scouts at age of 6 and entered into the Boy Scouts at 11. We are so proud of his hard work, dedication and commitment.

Donald and Tracy Harrington

The Cross-eyed Teacher

Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher in the national school in Westport?
He resigned because he couldn't control his pupils.

Some Bad News

A man from Cork was in with his doctor. 'Look, David. I've some bad news and some terrible news for you.'

'God. What's the bad news?!', asked the patient. 'Well', replied the doctor, 'You only have 3 days to live'.

'You're joking' says the patient. 'How on earth can the news get any worse'.
'Well', says the doctor, 'I've been trying to get hold of you for the past 2 days'.

Why Brexit Is Still Fueling Irish Border Tension



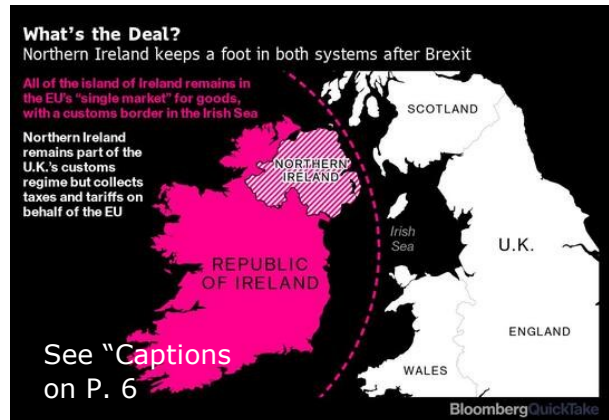
“ Keeping the land border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland free of any visible checkpoints is a key plank of the Brexit accord between the European Union and U.K. An agreement, known as the Northern Ireland Protocol,* (December, 2020) aims to do just that. Yet, it’s drawing bitter criticism from unionists who claim it undermines their British identity because it treats Northern Ireland differently from the rest of the U.K. ...

1. Why was Northern Ireland such a Brexit sticking point?

Following Brexit, the 310-mile (499-kilometer) frontier running from near Derry in the north to Dundalk on the east coast of Ireland became the EU’s new land border with the U.K. Without special status, checks would have had to take place on the frontier because the U.K. has exited the customs union and single market, i.e., Brexit. The concern was that delays could hamper the free movement of people and goods between the two parts of Ireland, which was partitioned a century ago, and customs posts could become targets for violence. The Northern Ireland Protocol was seen as an answer. By keeping the land border free of potentially provocative checkpoints, both sides hope to prevent a return to the era of sectarian violence, which cost more than 3,000 lives between the late 1960s and the signature of a peace accord, the Good Friday Agreement, in 1998.

2. How does the protocol work?

The Protocol effectively keeps Northern Ireland in the EU’s customs area and much of the single market. That means cargo coming from mainland Britain needs to be checked before or on entry to the region to ensure it meets the bloc’s rules and standards. Essentially, the border has moved to the Irish Sea. The deal also allows Northern Irish exporters to have easy access to Europe’s single market and Britain’s internal market.



3. Why is it so controversial?

Most fundamentally, Northern Irish unionists say it’s wrong that the province isn’t treated in the same way as England, Scotland and Wales. On a more practical basis, Northern Irish importers say the system has created more paperwork, delays and costs when goods are brought into the region...

4. How has the U.K.-EU rift widened?

Strains emerged almost from the moment the protocol came into force... However, tensions truly ratcheted up in January when Northern Ireland was caught up in the EU’s vaccine crisis. The European Commission threatened in January to override parts of the Protocol.... The prospect -- however faint -- of controls returning to the Irish border sparked outrage, forcing the Commission to reverse course almost immediately. Yet the episode added to momentum behind the wider unionist campaign to undermine and abolish the Protocol. [former Ulster Unionist Party Leader David Trimble has called for the Northern Ireland Protocol to be torn up.]

5. What’s fueling the tensions now?

On March 3, the British government said it would waive customs paperwork on food entering Northern Ireland until October, beyond the April 1 deadline it had agreed with the EU...The U.K. had previously asked for the deadline to be extended until 2023, but the bloc hasn’t signed off on that proposal. Instead, the EU said it would take legal action against the U.K. for breaching the Brexit deal.

(continued on Page 6)

Why Brexit Is Still Fueling Irish Border Tension (cont'd)

6. What's the long-term future for the Protocol?

Northern Ireland will be given a say on the Protocol in 2024. Though the precise details have yet to be set out, the region's power-sharing assembly will vote on the accord. If a simple majority in the assembly backs the Protocol, another vote will be held four years later. If the measure gains the support of both the nationalist and unionist groups, there won't be another vote for eight years. If the assembly scraps the Protocol, the border question could well be back on the agenda.

7. Could Brexit hasten a united Ireland?

It's unlikely anytime soon. Nearly a century after partition, a majority in Northern Ireland want to remain part of the U.K. Still, the fact that the possibility is being openly discussed again is testament to the forces unleashed by Brexit. Under a provision of the Good Friday Agreement, a so-called border poll on Irish unification could only take place if the U.K. government considers such a referendum would likely be passed."

—Peter Flanigan, *The Washington Post*, March 7, 2021

*The Northern Ireland Protocol commits the UK and the EU to maintaining an open border in Ireland, so that (in many respects) the *de facto* frontier is the Irish Sea border between the two islands.

From the captions: "What's the Deal" on p. 4

Northern Ireland keeps a foot in both systems:

-All of Ireland remains in the EU's "single market" for goods, with a customs border in the Irish Sea.

-Northern Ireland remains part of the U.K.'s custom regime but collects taxes and tariffs on behalf of the EU.

Beltane

Beltane is a Gaelic feast or holiday celebrated on May 1st—marking the beginning of the summer season. At this festival, the ancient celebrations were observed on the eve of May 1st by the lighting of fires on hilltops—in order to bring the sun's light down to earth. This was the time when the herds of livestock were driven out to summer pastures and mountain grazing lands.

Once the fires were kindled, people danced around and jumped over the dying fires. It was a time off fertility and merrymaking. Girls jumped over the dying embers to wish for good husbands; pregnant women stepped through it to ensure an easy birth, and when the fires had died, the embers were thrown among the crops to protect them.

To celebrate today—at dawn if a woman washes her face, she will be beautiful; the man who washes his hands will be skilled with knots and nets. If you live near water, make a garland of spring flowers and cast it into a stream, lake or ocean to bless the water spirits.

As a festival, Beltrane had largely died out by the mid-20th century; the custom has lasted to the present day only in County Limerick, especially Limerick itself, and in Arklow, County Wicklow.

Travel

The best Irish pubs in Washington D. C.

1. **The Dubliner**, Phoenix Park Hotel, is a Capitol Hill institution and a must stop. (202)737-3773
2. **Kellys Irish Times**, next door at 14 F St. NW A hundred years of Irish history. (202)543-5433
3. **Irish Channel Pub**, Fairfield Inn, 500 H St. NW. Near Capital One Arena.(202)216-0046
4. **Mattie & Eddie's**, 1301 S Joyce St. Across the river in Pentagon City (571) 312-2665
5. **Murphy's Grill**, 620 Michigan Ave. NE. Near the CUA campus. (202) 319-4770