

The Emerald Society shamrock news

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Stillings

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Donald F. Harrington Jr.

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Katie O'Connor-Schultz

Judi Tierney Sherry

TBA

Editors

Joe & Barbara McManus
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Bicycle Paths in Ireland

Red dots are a circumferential trail around Ireland, starting in Dublin. Blue numbers are cumulative distance (kilometers).



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. We encourage everyone to keep in touch with one another. We wish you and your loved one's health and safety. Thank you for being a member as we manage through this time together.

Wear a Mask

Keep your Distance

Wash your Hands

Bicycling in Ireland

Before COVID, popular bicycling events in Ireland were the major annual tours like the Ring of Kerry Charity Cycle (10,000 cyclists in one day cycling the Ring, which is 180km. we did it twice), the Skoda Ring of Clare Cycle (we did it once), the Cliffs of Moher Cycle Challenge, Westport Gran Fonda, Wild Atlantic Way Sportive (4 days), Rebel Tour (Tour of Cork), Ring of Beara, Tour de Lough Corrib, Giants' Causeway Coast Sportive and Tour de Burren are but a few. Many of these routes are also popular throughout the year for accomplishing over a couple of days. On an ordinary day, these routes are open; on race days these routes shut down to non-racers, as on the day of the Ring of Kerry Charity Cycle.

Right now, Ireland is on a level 3 alert which means bikers cannot go outside more than 5km. from their home.



These are the jerseys from the Ring of Kerry Charity Cycle—180km

The authors, John and Vivien McManus, together with their five children, annually visit Vivien's parents and her siblings in Carragaline, Ireland. Together, they have participated in many of the cycling events described.

—The Co-Editors

South Florida Emerald Society

October Committee Reports

Social Committee – Mark Donnelly

- Look out for ZOOM Socials
- Next Social –Friday October 23, but if the Miami Yacht Club is opening, there may be a real Social. Stay tuned for announcements
- Pub Crawl (Chairperson?)
- Women’s Tea Party (Chairperson?)
- Celtic Christmas (Chairs: **Maureen Hickey/Don Harrington**)

Nominating – Chris Kelley

- Chris is Chair of the Committee; he will assemble a slate for the February election of all Officers and a third of the Directors. If you are interested, contact Chris

Membership

Katie O’Connor-Schultz (new members),
Ann Goodrich Sorgie (lost and unpaid members)

- 2020-21 Goal: 145 members
- Encourage members to attend Board meetings and social events.
- Need to get guest speakers to talk at social events.

Next Meeting November

A Cat Limerick

There once were two cats of Kilkenny,
Each thought that was one cat too many,
So they quarrel’d and fit,
They scratched and they bit,
Till, excepting their tails,
Instead of two cats, there weren’t any!

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

The AmazonSmile Foundation recently surpassed **\$200 million** in donations to charities worldwide! Our thanks go out to you, **St Patricks Day Committee Inc** supporters, and every supporter who shops at smile.amazon.com.

This increase in AmazonSmile donations to **St Patricks Day Committee Inc** by shopping at smile.amazon.com/ch/59-1862399 or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app. is a great moment to remind your supporters to continue generating donations for **St Patricks Day Committee Inc** by shopping at smile.amazon.com/ch/59-1862399.

Mark Your calendars:

Saturday March 13, 2021

South Florida Emerald Society

Hello! = *Dia dhuit!* - pronounced - (Jee-ah ghwitch!

This month the board and the directors had our monthly zoom meeting and we continue to make progress on next year's 2021 -2022 budget. Discussions about social events, increasing membership, posting pictures on our Facebook page and on our new and improve web site were the main topics.



There is no greater gift than your time. Volunteering as an Emerald board member is a rewarding endeavor that provides personal enrichment, professional connections, and a challenging experience while making new friends and knowing that you are doing something good for the Irish community.

As an emerald board member, you can practice using your skills and discover hidden talents while having fun! You can challenge yourself to try something different, learn a new skill and gain experience on how to take on a project that is important to you.

The board members are always very supportive and open to new ideas on how to improve the SF Emerald Society visibility in the South Florida community. If you are interested in joining the board or running a project, please contact us via email.

BI' curamach - Be safe!

Sláinte!

David Donnelly President

Samhain

The origin of Halloween dates back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (literally meaning “summer’s end” and pronounced sow-in), which began on November 1st. This day marked the end of the fall harvest and the beginning of the dark, cold winter season. The Celtic calendar was divided into two seasons: the season of Samhain—the dark half of the year—and the season of Beltane, the sun, beginning in April. Samhain later became Christianized as November 1st became All Saints’ Day and the eve of All Saint’s Day — All Hallow’s Day—became All Souls’ Day.

The eve of 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 eve of Samhain became a time to remember the dead and those who had passed on. For example, in the Yucatan, All Souls’ Day is celebrated as “The Day of the Dead” and food and drink is left for departed ancestors in cemeteries.

Thus began the tradition of tricks or treats at Halloween, fear of black cats, evil spirits, skeletons and skulls, and the customary colors of black and orange and, of course, the pumpkin.

Poetry Corner

Patrick Kavanagh (1904-67) fell in love with a girl he met on Raglan Road in Dublin. Unfortunately, he was 40 and she was 22; which she thought was too great a disparity. This poem was later set to the melody of a popular song.

ON RAGLAN ROAD

On Raglan Road on an autumn day I met her first and knew
That her dark hair would weave a snare that I might one day rue;
I saw the danger, yet I walked along the enchanted way,
And I said, let grief be a fallen leaf at the dawning of the day.

On Grafton Street in November we tripped lightly along the ledge
Of the deep ravine where can be seen the worth of passion's pledge,
The Queen of Hearts still making tarts and I not making hay -
O I loved too much and by such and such is happiness thrown away.

I gave her gifts of the mind I gave her the secret sign that's known
To the artists who have known the true gods of sound and stone
And word and tint. I did not stint for I gave her poems to say.
With her own name there and her own dark hair like clouds over fields of May

On a quiet street where old ghosts meet I see her walking now
Away from me so hurriedly my reason must allow
That I had wooed not as I should a creature made of clay -
When the angel woos the clay he'd lose his wings at the dawn of day.

Health & Welfare Judi Tierney Sherry

Annie Goodrich Sorgie was ill for 2 weeks and unable to make calls-but she was tested and no COVID.

Bill O'Brien for years was our chief fundraiser for the St. Patricks Day Festival.

Sean Ferrell is under the weather, visiting Mt. Sinai Hospital.

Condolences

Rita McLain, Stephanie Kelley's mom, passed away Thursday October 1 in Ft. Meyers, FL. She leaves her husband of 69 years, James, and daughters, Stephanie and Leslie. Services will be held in New York at a later date.

Our condolences to the family of Chris and Stephanie Kelley. R.I.P.



**A Message From
Consul General
Ciara O'Flóinn**

**Consulate General of Ireland
Peachtree Road
Atlanta GA 30326**

My aims for our Consulate General in Atlanta are:

- to continue to promote and protect Irish interests in the South East U.S, starting with providing first class service to our community;
- to work closely with the IDA, Enterprise Ireland and Tourism Ireland to support our business community in the region and to promote trade, investment and tourism;

A chairde / Dear friends,

I am delighted to write to you to introduce myself as the new Consul General of Ireland in Atlanta. I am looking forward to serving as Ireland's representative in the South-East U.S, across the states of Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee

I arrived in Atlanta from Dublin in August with my husband, Caoimhín, and my two young children, Senan and Éabha. We are settling in to our new life very well, and enjoying excellent Southern hospitality and welcome – even if it is socially distanced for now

We have made the move in challenging times, both in Ireland and in the United States. I know many people in our extended community have experienced loss, suffering and challenges both personal and financial. I am learning how strong the Irish community and networks are throughout this region, and seeing the deep solidarity that exists. My goal is to support you as much as possible in strengthening those links and bringing our community together. As the old saying in Ireland goes, '*ar scáth a cheile a mhaireann na daoine*' : we rely on each other, we need each other.....

We are very fortunate and grateful to have a strong Honorary Consul network currently operating in Charlotte, Orlando and Miami, who consistently go above and beyond to serve our community.

- to build on and develop partnerships and relationships in the fields of education, culture and sport;
- to expand our network, relationships and co-operation to new communities and friends and to explore new connections;
- to engage with local and State authorities to strengthen Ireland's links with the South East region;
- to ensure that the principles of diversity, equality and respect underpin everything we do.

In just a few short weeks in Atlanta I have been struck by the depth of the relationship between Ireland and the South East region of the U.S. going from the historical connections, family ties, cultural and educational links, to the vibrant current economic and trade activities. I am excited to begin working to increase awareness of all of those connections and activities both here and in Ireland, and to exploring the endless potential to build on them further

I will do my very best to meet as many of you as possible virtually for now, and I look forward to a time when we can meet in person. Until then, please don't hesitate to reach out, I look forward to being in touch.

Le gach dea-ghuí / With all my best wishes

Ciara

**Message from Comm. Eileen Higgins
District 5, Miami-Dade County**



Dear Fellow Emeralds,

My staff and I have **worked around the clock to put federal relief dollars into action in Miami-Dade community.** To date, Miami-Dade County has launched **15 programs, ranging from rent relief to professional development for hotel workers, and beyond.** I am proud to say that almost 35,000 residents and 3,300 small business in need have been provided relief so far.

And we will not stop.

Just this week, Phase Two of the **Emergency Rental Assistance Program** (ERAP2) opened, allowing those struggling to pay rent due to COVID-19 to apply for up to three months of assistance. Residents unable to pay their home energy bill may now qualify for the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), where they can receive up to \$2,000 in a 12-month period towards their electric bill. My office will continue to update the information on all relief programs on our [COVID-19 Relief Programs](#) hub and do all we can to provide resources to our community.

While the future remains uncertain, Miami-Dade is slowly working towards a new normal. Restaurants have reopened and some of our students are back in the classroom. However, unemployed workers and their families continue to struggle. That's why, in addition to pushing for more relief programs and getting dollars into people's hands as quickly as possible, I continue to host weekly drive-thru food distributions in partnership with Miami-Dade Parks. Residents can pick up fresh produce and other essential items every Saturday at 9:00 am at the Miami-Dade County Auditorium, 2911 West Flagler Street.

Until a vaccine is readily available, we must all continue to keep our guard up. When a safe and effective vaccine is approved by the Federal government, I believe that Miami-Dade County is fully capable of organizing its distribution. The County has large facilities, great health care professionals, and is recognized as a national leader in organizing emergency response.

The safety of residents remains my top priority. Thanks to our collective efforts, COVID-19 infection rates continue to fall and have stabilized. So while we continue to maintain social distancing, wear masks, and wash hands frequently, District 5 will continue to help residents and small business get back on track.

Please know that my office is here to answer any questions or address any concerns you may have. Contact us at 305-375-5924 or District5@miamidade.gov.