

July 2004
Mi Iuil

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A Happy Fourth of July to All Emeralds!

It's now Monday, July 05, 2004 and another glorious celebration of the Fourth is but a happy memory. The green was much in evidence among the red, white and blue which made Crandon Boulevard a kaleidoscope of color yesterday. A large contingent of Emeralds marched once again with President Tom Dunn looking truly presidential in the back seat of Michael Guyer's convertible supported by Past President Michael O'Connor and Maurice Grondin. Mary Ann Fierro followed closely behind the marchers, piloting a golf cart to pick up fading Emeralds in the noonday heat. Bill Gregory and Oliver Kerr led the way with the Emerald banner supported by Judge Carroll Kelly and Keith Delano of the Law Enforcement Emeralds. Bill O'Brien and new member Brian Eaton followed with the flag of the United States and the flag of Ireland. The crowds that lined the Boulevard warmly and enthusiastically greeted the Emeralds. All in all it was a great day.

"Bloomsday was a Blooming Good Time"

Maybe you saw the headline in the Miami Herald and the picture of your editors dressed up as Leopold and Molly Bloom in the march to John Martin's Restaurant and Irish Pub for the Bloomsday feast. There was a standing room only crowd at Books & Books when we marched in from City Hall with Mayor and Emerald Donald Slesnick who delivered the official Bloomsday proclamation. Actors from Actors' Playhouse read excerpts from Ulysses with all the appropriate flourishes. After the feast at John Martin's a young actress from the Playhouse did justice to Molly Bloom's soliloquy and we ended the evening with some traditional songs about Dublin's fair city. It was a wonderful day as was the Saturday before. Then we gathered at the Coral Gables Branch Library for a daylong festival of music, dance, crafts, cooking and a proper social tea in the afternoon.

Our thanks go to the Miami-Dade Public Library System headed by Raymond Santiago who strongly supported our Bloomsday festivities. Thanks also to Mitchell Kaplan of Books & Books, Martin Lynch of John Martin's, David Arisco of Actors' Playhouse, and the City of Coral Gables under the leadership of Mayor, Donald Slesnick. Thanks also to John and Dorothy Kane for creating a video slide show of the Bloomsday activities.

Poetry Corner

With the summer days stretching out ahead of us we give you a charming little poem by Ireland's own William Butler Yeats as a way of enticing you to pick up a collection of Irish poems and to take it with you on your vacation. It's good for your soul!

The Fiddler of Dooney

When I play on my fiddle in Dooney,
Folk dance like a wave of the sea;
My cousin is a priest in Kilvarnet,
My brother in Moharabuiee.

I passed my brother and cousin:
They read in their books of prayer;
I read in my book of songs
I bought at the Sligo fair.

When we come at the end of time,
To Peter sitting in state,
He will smile on the three old spirits,
But call me first through the gate;

For the good are always the merry
Save by an evil chance,
And the merry love the fiddle,
And the merry love to dance:

And when the folk there spy me,
They will all come up to me,
With "Here is the fiddler of Dooney!"
And dance like a wave of the sea.

William Butler Yeats

He was born in 1865 in Dublin and was educated there and in London. He was active in societies that attempted an Irish literary revival. He founded the Irish Theatre, later the Abbey Theatre, with Lady Gregory. He died in 1939 and is buried near Sligo.

Young Emeralds??

Why not? A planning meeting was held at John Martin's on Sunday, June 13 and another one will be held in the fall. Look for September newsletter. This is an effort to encourage young people (under 40 years) of Irish origin to come and chat about the possibility of setting up a group.

July Social at John Martin's Restaurant and Irish Pub

The July Social is at John Martin's Restaurant and Irish Pub, 253 Miracle Mile in Coral Gables. There is no parking behind the restaurant where a parking garage is being constructed. Best parking can be found at the parking garage behind the Miracle Theater on the south side of Miracle Mile. Then it's a short walk through the passageway to Miracle Mile. It is scheduled for Wednesday, July 28 at 6:00 p.m. Come and mingle with friends in this famous establishment, renowned for good food and drink, and a long-time supporter of Emerald activities. It's the closest you will get to an authentic Irish pub this side of the Atlantic.

Join us in welcoming our new members.

We continue to grow with a steady stream of new members. This month we welcome two.

1. Jane Thompson sponsored by Pat Villacorta and
2. Brian Eaton, who found us via our web site and sponsored by John Doheerty.

Welcome! Failte! We look forward to seeing you at the next social. We hope you will get involved in a committee.

Board Members Meeting

There will be no Board meeting in August. The regular monthly meetings will resume on Thursday, September 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the Miami Yacht Club on Watson Island. Attendance of all Board members is expected. All Emerald members are invited to attend. Dinner and drinks, as usual, will be available.

Christmas in Ireland Celebration

Can you believe that we are already more than half way to Christmas? Planning for the annual celebration is already under way in the capable hands of Jim Cooney. We will need volunteers for the various committees that make this event a highlight of the season. Contact Jim at 305-665-8445 if you can help. Look for more information in next newsletter.

Condolences to the Families and Friends of Deceased Members

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to member Janice McKay whose mother passed away last month. May she rest in peace!

Irish Cultural Series

The monthly Irish Cultural Series will resume in October when the weather becomes bearable again and a Sunday afternoon trip to John Martins is a pleasure.

Sick or infirm members

We ask for your prayers for member Linda Murphy's son, Tony, who is seriously ill and hospitalized.

Now it is past time to renew your membership.

Please renew your membership now. We need your membership and active participation in our Celtic Corner here in South Florida. Don't delay. Renew now. Download the renewal form from the web site. Thanks!

Editors' Note

There will be no newsletter next month. Your editors will be away on a long awaited summer vacation and many of you will also be out of town. Look for the newsletter again in September.

It has now been 15 months since we took over this newsletter from Stu Robinson who single-handedly wrote, edited and produced it for years. We are happy to tell you that Stu is back in town, staying with the Camerons, and looking for a place to live in South Florida. Welcome back Stu!

One change we made in the newsletter from the start was the presentation of a short Irish poem each month. We hope that you enjoyed our selections of old and new poems by well known and some not so well known poets. We would love to hear your suggestions and you might find your favorite printed here some month.

Here to jog your memory is the list of literary gems that we have presented. Maybe you'll be inspired to re-read one of these. We know, of course that you have methodically stashed away each and every newsletter or stored those emails in your Emerald documents folder.

1. Helen Wadell, "I Shall Not Go to Heaven."
2. Thomas Moore, "I Saw from the Beach."
3. Seamus Heaney, "The Railway Children."
4. William Butler Yeats, "The Lake Isle of Innisfree."

5. Campbell McGrath, "Maizel at Shorty's in Kendall."
6. Elizabeth Shane, "Wee Hughie."
7. James Joyce, "Ladies and Gents, Your Are Here Assembled."
8. Anonymous, "The Wren Boy."
9. Oliver Goldsmith, "The Village."
10. Samuel Ferguson, "The Lark in the Clear Air."
11. Anonymous, "The Wearing of the Green."
12. Joseph Campbell, "I Will Go with My Father."
13. Winifred M. Letts. "To a May Baby."
14. Oliver St. John Gogarty, "Golden Stockings."
15. William Butler Yeats, "The Fiddler of Dooney."

Fame and glory and a prize will go to the first reader to provide us with the name and some biographical details about the Miami poet on this list.

Last year we ran a couple of contests and we were delighted to get some responses. Congratulations to Ed Cook, Carroll Cameron, and Joe McManus who came up with correct answers and received their prizes at the installation ceremony last month.

Looking to the year ahead we plan to offer more contests. We also look forward to featuring some of you contributions. Talk to us. Tell us what you like and what you don't like about the newsletter. We want to hear from you.

Have a cool and relaxing summer. See you in September.

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