

May 2004  
Mi na Bealtaine

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### Emerald Society Officers

#### President

Tom Dunn

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2<sup>nd</sup> VP James Cooney

Treasurer David Russell

Historian John Kane

Recording Secretary

Carroll Cameron

Immediate Past Pres.

Michael Francis

O'Connor

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Mary Ann Fierro

John Kane

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Patrick Novak

David Russell

Judi Sherry

#### Editors

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### Installation of New Officers

The invitations have gone out. You should have gotten yours already. Judi Sherry, who is chairing the dinner, is eagerly awaiting your response. It's on Wednesday, May 26 at the new Parrot Jungle's fabulous Jacaranda room. Judge Carroll Kelly will preside over the installation of officers and formal recognition of new members. The price? It's only \$35 for an enchanted evening. Come on out and join your Irish friends in saluting our new leaders for 2004 and welcoming our new members.

### Irish Cultural Series

The Cultural Series has special treat for you this month. On Sunday, May 16 at 4:00 p.m. there will be a special session with professional Irish storytellers straight from the Emerald Isle courtesy of the Miami-Dade Public Library system. Liz Weir and her friends will entertain and enthrall you with magical stories from their creative minds.

Liz is a native of County Antrim and has told stories all over Ireland, Scotland, the United States, Canada, Israel, and Australia. She has been the featured storyteller at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee, the Northern Appalachian Festival, the Bay Area Festival, the Toronto Storytelling Festival, and others too numerous to list. Don't miss this one. It's upstairs at John Martin's Irish Pub and Restaurant on Miracle Mile.

Following the presentation members and guests may feel inclined to adjourn downstairs to absorb the convivial atmosphere and enjoy a libation or two..

The Miami-Dade County Public Library Systems is sponsoring this cultural exchange program with Ireland and has generously allowed us to be in their company this day. Thanks to Raymond Santiago, Library Director and the creative and talented library staff.

Free parking is available in the parking garage across Miracle Mile in the garage behind the Miracle Theater with access from Andalusia Avenue. The old parking area behind John Martins is not available because of construction.

The Series is establishing a small lending library in the upstairs room at John Martin's and is acquiring videos of Irish movies, both oldie goldies and more recent productions of merit that you may not have seen. The bookcase is already assembled and we should be operational in June. Donations of materials would be warmly welcomed.

### Congratulations, New Officers

Congratulations to Tom Dunn, the new president of the Society and to the new vice-presidents, William O'Brien, First Vice-president, and James Cooney, Second Vice-president. Our thanks go to our Past President, Michael O'Connor. Michael is the legendary quiet man who is unassuming but who knows how to get the job done. Thanks for a wonderful year, Michael! Our thanks also go to Dan Fitzgerald who yielded his Historian's scrolls and quill pens to John Kane with his digital cameras and computers. Congratulations, John, our new Historian.

### Condolences to the Families of Deceased Members

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of member Pat Clancy who passed away unexpectedly last month. A number of Emeralds attended the memorial service to personally express their sympathy to her son and his wife. May she rest in peace.

Our sympathy also goes out to the family, friends, and colleagues of Judge Francis J. Christie who passed away recently. He was born in Miami-Dade in 1917. May he rest in peace.

### Poetry Corner

What a wonderful month is the merry month of May, the month of flowers and lengthening days. For May, we bring you a beautiful and bright short poem by Winifred M. Letts, born in County Wexford in 1882. In addition to her poetry (much of it about World War I) she was also known for her plays and novels. She died in 1972.

#### To a May Baby

To come at tulip time how wise!  
Perhaps you will not now regret  
The shining gardens, jewel set,  
Of your first home in Paradise  
Nor fret  
Because you may not quite forget.

To come at swallow-time how wise!  
When every bird has built a nest;  
Now you may fold your wings and rest  
And watch this new world with surprise;  
A guest  
For whom the earth has donned her best.

To come when life is gay how wise!  
With lambs and every happy thing  
That frisks on foot or sports on wing,  
With daisies and with butterflies,  
But Spring  
Had nought so sweet as you to bring.

Winifred M. Letts

### Young Emeralds??

Why not? A planning meeting will be held at John Martins in June. The young people would set their own rules, schedules, and dues and formalize their relationship with the Emerald Society. Look for a special email and letter on this in May.

## ReJoyce Miami—2004

Join us in celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bloomsday in Miami-Dade. On June 16, 1904 Leopold Bloom and Stephen Dedalus set out on their epic journeys through Dublin, their adventures memorialized in James Joyce's immortal *Ulysses*. Our Bloomsday celebration will be expanded to a week long observance in recognition of the occasion. Yes, there will be readings at Books & Books with professional actors compliments of Actor's Playhouse. There will be a procession with a piper to a literary Bloomsday feast at John Martins with music and song and another little reading to send you home to bed. There'll be children and family activities at the Coral Gables library on the Saturday before. There'll be a humorous talk on Ulysses on the Sunday before. A reading from a Joycean play is planned for the Monday before. Look for more information next month.

### **Editors' Note**

If you got a printed copy of this newsletter it's because we do not have your email address. If you have an email address please let us know. It will save time and money in our distribution. An added bonus will be your ability to see the photos and pictures in color that we hope to add in future editions. The printed copies will be black and white only for now.

We welcome your comments, questions, literary submissions, and praises or complaints. Letters of praise will be framed and hung on the wall. Complaints? Well . . .

### Now is the time to renew your membership.

You should have received your membership renewal notice by now. 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. Thanks!

### Join us in welcoming our new members.

We continue to grow with a steady stream of new members. This month we welcome to stalwart men of Irish heritage.

1. Paul Reilly, sponsored by Dan Fitzgerald
2. James M. Walsh, sponsored by John Doherty.

Welcome, gentlemen! Failte! We look forward to seeing you at the installation of officers when all new members will be formally recognized..

### Board Members Meeting

The monthly Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 3 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 half way to Christmas? Planning for the annual celebration is about to get under way. We will need volunteers for the various committees needed to make this event a success. Look for more information next month.

**The South Florida Emerald Society, Inc.**  
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