

September 2005
Mi Mean Fomhair

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www.emeraldsocietySFL.com

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Editors

Mary Ann &
Oliver Kerr
305-251-6208

Welcome back from a stormy summer!

We had hoped to bring you a newsletter in mid-August but Hurricane Katrina blew our schedule away, just as Frances did last year. We suffered minor damage, six trees down, and spent a good deal of time with a chain saw. We hope that all of our members in South Florida, especially in the south end of Miami-Dade escaped the worst of the storm. If you have a storm story to tell just send us an email and we will share it via the newsletter.

Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers go out to our brothers and sisters in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and north Florida who faced a much more powerful Katrina than we did. Those of us who experienced the ravages of Andrew 13 years ago know only too well the hardships that lie ahead on the long road to full recovery.

We hope and pray that all hurricanes stay far, far away from land in what's left of this mean season. Hopefully we can look forward now to a peaceful passage through the familiar rites of the fall in South Florida. Kids are back in school and already coming home with the fund-raising wrapping paper and Christmas gift catalogues. Yes, even in South Florida it is once again "the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" and a host of Emerald Society activities.

We have great plans for the year ahead. Bill O'Brien has lined up a string of enticing and exciting venues for our monthly socials. Joe McManus and company has lined up a great series of Irish Cultural events. Keep checking the web site, www.emeraldsocietySFL.com that John Doherty maintains so well for the latest information.

The First Great Social of the Season is set

What better way to end the summer and welcome fall than to meet at Maurice Grondin's place for good food, drink and merriment? Maurice is well known as a generous and gracious host. On Wednesday, September 28 at 6:30 p.m. we'll convene at 2355 South Miami Ave. Please let us know that you are coming so that we will know how many potatoes to put in the pot! Call 305-251-6208 and leave a message, or email the editors, kerr39@bellsouth.net.

This is a gift to you from Maurice, his family, and the South Florida Emerald Society. There is no valet parking, just look for a space on the street. See you there!

July 4th. Celebration in Key Biscayne

Once again the Emeralds proudly marched in the Key Biscayne celebration of the Fourth of July. Approximately 30 members marched in the annual parade dressed in white and emerald green and waving the stars and stripes. Americans of every nationality who filled the sidewalks of Crandon Boulevard warmly greeted us. It was a wonderful celebration of the diversity that makes this country so special.

By the way, we are missing the long pole that we have used to carry the wide banner that identifies and leads the South Florida Emerald Society in the parade. If you know where the sections of this pole are, please contact the editors.

Christmas in Ireland Celebration

The annual holiday celebration returns again to the Coral Gables Country Club this year. On Thursday, December 8, 2005 we will enjoy dining, dancing, and holiday fun with an Irish flavor. We still need volunteers to help make this event the highlight of the season. Contact attorney Pat Novak who is chairing this year's celebration if you can help in any way. You can reach him at 305-799-9750 or by email, Patrickn@admiral-law.com.

Board Members

The September Board meeting was held at the Miami Yacht Club on Watson Island to plan activities for the fall. The next meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 6. Attendance of all Board members is expected. Dinner and drinks, as usual, will be available. Stick around after the meeting and enjoy good company by the water's edge under the stars.

New Members

We are pleased to welcome new members,

Ann McShane and
Jimmy McMillion

Welcome Ann and Jimmy. We look forward to meeting you at the monthly socials and hope that you will enjoy being active members of our Society.

Get well soon, Dave!

Our prayers and best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to our Treasurer, Dave Russell, who has been ill. Get well soon, Dave! Get well cards can be sent to him at 4800 North Kendall Drive, Coral Gables, FL. 33156. In the interim, Board Member John Doherty is serving as Assistant Treasurer.

Law Breakers, Beware! Marge is on the Beat.

Did you see the newspaper story on member, Marge Hartnett, who serves on the Coral Gables police auxiliary? Go get 'em, Marge!

Remember the South Florida Emerald Society

This is something that we have not mentioned before. Why not remember the South Florida Emerald Society in your will? In that way you will help ensure the continuation of our organization and our program of keeping Irish culture alive and well in South Florida.

Poetry Corner

Each month the Shamrock News presents a poem on an Irish topic or by an Irish poet. This month we bring you a poem by the great 19-century American poet, Walt Whitman. It's a romantic, if somewhat dated look at Ireland from an American perspective. It is a modest but genuine salute to Irish immigrants to America in the 19-century. It is another of those poems that we love to bring you—good ones that you may not have read before.

Old Ireland

**Far hence amid an isle of wondrous beauty,
Crouching over a grave an ancient sorrowing
mother,
Once a queen, now lean and tatter'd seated on
the ground,
Her old white hair drooping dishevel'd about her
shoulders,
At her feet fallen an unused royal harp,
Long silent, she too long silent, mourning her
shrouded hope and heir,
Of all the earth her heart most full of sorrow
because most full of love.
Yet a word ancient mother,
You need crouch there no longer on the cold
ground with forehead between your knees,
O you need not sit there veil'd in your old white
hair so dishevel'd,
For know you the one you mourn is not in that
grave,
It was an illusion, the son you love was not really
dead,
The Lord is not dead, he is risen again young
and strong in another country,
Even while you wept there by your fallen harp
by the grave,
What you wept for was translated, pass'd from
the grave,
The winds favor'd and the sea sail'd it,
And now with rosy and new blood,
Moves today in a new country.**

Walt Whitman

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, in turn, is a 501 (c) 7 organization in the IRS code. During the summer we submitted a grant application on behalf of the St. Patrick's Day Committee to the Coral Gables Cultural Development Board for support of the St. Patrick's Day Festival. We are preparing another application to the Miami-Dade Department of Cultural Affairs in support of the Festival and the Irish Cultural Series. We plan to devote a separate section of the newsletter to the activities conducted under the umbrella of the St. Patrick's Day Committee so that we can fully meet the reporting requirements of the IRS and the rules of the community grants programs. We hope to have this as a separate page of the newsletter perhaps with its own masthead and logo.

St. Patrick's Day Festival

We are looking for a member to chair this year's St. Patrick's Day Festival. The job is an executive position and involves coordinating the various committee chairs that plan for and make the festival the success it has been in recent years. Would you recommend someone that would do an outstanding job in this position? If you have a suggestion or need to know more, please contact President Carroll Cameron at the phone number listed on the front page or email her, cameronc@bellsouth.net.

Bloomsday Celebration was Brilliant!

The celebration of James Joyce's *Ulysses*, the Bloomsday readings, the procession to the pub, and the literary feast, were celebrated again on June 16 in Coral Gables in what is now becoming an annual tradition for the South Florida Irish and their friends. Books & Books was filled to capacity for the readings dramatically rendered by professionals from Actors Playhouse. A piper, an Irish drummer and national flags led the merry march around the block to John Martins for the Bloomsday feast, more readings and music. Dr. James Kerr and Ms.

Pat Kinsman of Books & Books won the baskets of cheer donated by the bookstore and by the Irish pub. The City of Coral Gables presented a Bloomsday proclamation, the Coral Gables branch library hosted readings, Irish music, and a proper afternoon tea for all. Media coverage of the event was the best ever, including a full color front-page cover photo in the Miami Herald's Neighbors newspapers. Don't miss it next year.

Irish Cultural Series Kicks Off a New Season

The Irish Cultural Series inaugurates its sixth season with a presentation on an ancient Irish tradition at the onset of winter. The topic is Oidche Samhain, pronounced Eeha Souwen, meaning the night of Samhain, the pre-Christian Celtic observance of the coming of winter's long dark nights. Traces of this observance are found in some Halloween traditions and in the November 2 observance of All Souls Day.

Join us at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 23 at John Martin's Restaurant and Irish Pub, 253 Miracle Mile in Coral Gables. Parking can be found at the new parking garage immediately behind the pub on Aragon, just across the street from Books & Books. You can enter John Martins by the back door and see Billy Cameron in living color saluting you from a local newspaper posted on the wall. No need for secret passwords. The door is always open

.

**The South Florida Emerald Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 144844
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