



February 2008
Mi Na Samhain

Patricia O'Regan Rios
David (Skip) Russell
Nabil Salem

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St. Patrick's Day is only five weeks away

Here it comes again, another glorious celebration of Irish culture, food and friendship! Join us on March 15, 2008 at noon at Fred B. Hartnett Park on Ponce Circle in the Gables, just four short blocks south of Miracle Mile. The St. Patrick's Day Committee, Inc. has been meeting weekly, planning for another memorable festival with music, songs, the Breffni Irish dancers, clowns, face painting, rock climbing, a giant slide, Irish soda bread, Irish whiskey cake, Irish coffee, a Miss Colleen Pageant and an excellent selection of Irish food, beer, and spirits. Best of all, there's that wonderful feeling of pride in highlighting the Irish contribution to that cultural kaleidoscope that makes South Florida special. Join us and help in making it a success!

Ladies, we could use your help at the Soda Bread booth or at the Tinker's Fair for two hours any time from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. Call Mary Ann Kerr at 305-251-6208.

Men, we need your help with the set-up from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, from noon until 6:00 p.m. for general appearance and maintenance and from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. for knockdown, stacking, and cleanup. Call Joe McManus at 561-338-8848 or Oliver Kerr at 305-251-6208. Many hands make light work; we could really use your hands even for an hour or two.

“Spreading the News”

Celtic Cultural Series brings you Irish playwright Lady Gregory’s timeless comedy “Spreading the News,” a short and funny one-act play featuring Dan Fitzgerald and a dozen Irish and Irish-American actors and actresses. Join us upstairs at John Martin’s on Sunday, February 17, at 4:00 p.m. Free parking is available in the parking garage on Aragon Ave directly behind John Martins. In this play rumor and gossip turn a simple favor into murder by pitchfork in an Irish town whose only business is minding each other’s business. The Celtic Cultural Series is produced by the St. Patrick’s Day Committee, Inc. and co-sponsored by the South Florida Emerald Society, Inc. All Celtic Cultural Series events are free and open to the public. Come and join for a fun-filled hour on Sunday afternoon!

Fundraiser at Macy's

Saturday, March 1 is the day when you can raise money for the St. Patrick's Day Committee, Inc. and get 20 percent off on your purchases at any Macy's in Florida except downtown Miami. You need to buy a card (\$5.00) from Mary Ann Kerr or Janice McKay and present this when you make a purchase specifying the St. Patrick's Day Committee, Inc. as your charity. Your \$5.00 contribution goes to the Committee. Last year this program raised \$750.00. Call Mary Ann or Janice McKay if you can help staff a table at the Falls Macy's on that day. If you can give an hour or two that would really help. And you might pick up some good bargains.

Poetry Corner

Each month the Shamrock News presents a poem by an Irish poet. This month on St. Valentine's Day we give you a little love poem by William Butler Yeats, whose life and writings were reviewed a few months ago in the Celtic Cultural Series.

A Memory of Youth

The moments passed as at a play;
I had the wisdom love brings forth;
I had my share of mother wit,
And yet for all that I could say,
And though I had her praise for it,
A cloud blown from the cut-throat north
Suddenly hid Love's moon away.

Believing every word I said,
I praised her body and her mind
Till pride had made her eyes grow bright,
And pleasure made her cheeks grow red,
And vanity her footfall light,
Yet we for all that praise, could find
Nothing but darkness overhead.

We sat as silent as a stone,

We knew, though she'd not said a word
That even the best of love must die,
And had been savagely undone
Were it not that Love upon the cry
Of a most ridiculous little bird
Tore from the clouds his marvelous moon.

March Board Meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 6, at 6:30 p.m. at the Miami Yacht Club on Watson Island on the McArthur Causeway. Members are welcome to attend.

A ballot for new officers for the Emerald Society will be in the mail and on the website shortly. Look out for it and either vote online or return the completed ballot as requested.

Welcome New Members

We welcome four new members.

1. Josephine Burke of Palmetto Bay, is a member of the Marian Center Auxiliary and Rotary of Coral Gables, and is sponsored by member, Mary Ann Kerr.
2. Irish-born musician, Tricianne Garrihy from Boca Raton, leader of "Avalon," is sponsored by board member, John Doherty.
3. Yolanda Woodbridge of Miami, is a member of the Marian Center Auxiliary and is sponsored by Mary Ann Kerr.
4. Dickson Prew, sponsored by member, Bella Kelly.

Look out for these new members at the next social or Celtic Cultural Series event and extend a warm Irish welcome to them.

February Social

The February Social is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 28 at Mr. Moe's Restaurant and Bar, 3131 Commodore Plaza in

Coconut Grove. Telephone 305-442-1114. This is a wonderful watering hole in the Grove. Please join us.

May they rest in peace

Long-time member, **Father Bill Kidwell, SJ**, passed away on January 13, 2008 in New Orleans and was buried in the Jesuit cemetery at Spring Hill College in Mobile. He was an ardent proponent of the right to life and led groups to the marches in Washington, D.C. May he rest in peace.

Louise Owens, wife of long-time member Bill Owens, passed away at her Coral Gables home on January 30, 2008. She was a Coral Gables pioneer and with her husband was active in the Miami Beach Rotary Club. Her funeral mass was at Little Flower Church in Coral Gables. May she rest in peace.

John Francis Conroy, father of member C.L. Conroy, passed away on February 7, 2008, five months short of his 100th. birthday. He lived in Miami for 64 years and was a Commander in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He made 42 invasions, including Salerno, Sicily, and Normandy and brought his entire crew home safely. May he rest in peace.

We also extend our sincere condolences to the Judy Russell, wife of President Dave Russell, on the recent passing of her mother. May she rest in peace.

The St. Patrick's Day Committee, Inc.

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. We are devoting a

separate section of the newsletter to the activities conducted by this Committee.

St. Patrick's Day Festival

We are well along in our planning for the next Festival on Saturday, March 15, 2008. A modest grant has already been awarded by the City of Coral Gables and we have been soliciting vendors. We could use the help of members to serve on one of the committees that have been established. Please call Jon Lindeman at 786-853-2697.

We need some volunteer bakers, men or women, who would be willing to bake some Irish Whiskey cakes (the recipe was in last year's souvenir book). Call Mary Ann Kerr if you have questions.

Ads for the Festival Souvenir Book are our primary source of income for this event. We congratulate member Chris Kelley for placing the first ad in the book. Good going, Chris! Of course, we need many more and we are looking for every member to find advertisers. If you need information on ad sizes and prices please contact Mary Ann Kerr at 305-251-6208.

The Celtic Cultural Series Seventh Season

The series enters its seventh, magical season directed by members John and Dorothy Kane, assisted by the McManuses and the Kerrs. The series opened on Sunday, October 7, 2007 with Paddy Kelleghan, Irish singer and guitar player. Paddy took us on a musical tour of the City of Dublin, "In the Rare Ould Times."

Then Dr. Pat McCarthy, chairman of the University of Miami English Department gave a great talk on William Butler Yeats on November 4, 2007 providing insights into the poetry the Nobel Prize-winning dramatist and poet.

In January we were introduced once more to the Irish music and mythology of the Wren Boys and

their musical mission on St. Stephen's Day. More than 50 members and guests enjoyed the stories and the music delivered by Dan Fitzgerald and the Kerr "boys."

Now we bring you a play by Lady Gregory, who with William Butler Yeats and J. M. Synge, was an architect of the Irish literary revival at the turn of the last century. See the story on page 1 above.

All Celtic Cultural Series are free and open to the public. Plenty of parking is available on Miracle and in the City parking garage (free on Sundays) behind the pub, accessible from Aragon.