



January 2009
Mi Einair

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Emerald Society

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A Happy New Year to All Emeralds!

A happy New Year to all Emeralds and to your families and friends! May this New Year of 2009 bring us out of the economic troubles that we are experiencing; restore our housing/credit markets, and usher in a return to normalcy with a new administration under President-Elect Obama. And, please God, may we remain free of hurricanes!

It is Novecento on the 21st, But in Coral Gables!

Our January social event will be held at the new Novecento restaurant, 121 Alhambra Plaza, Coral Gables (305-557-0900) on Wednesday January 21st starting at 6:30pm. Do not be confused with the other Novecento that we visited in July; we are moving on to this Coral Gables location of the Novecento family. This is also the site of the former Splendido restaurant (Allen Morris Building) where we have met in the past. Executive Chef Gabriel Medici is famous for his blend of Argentine, European, and Pan-Latin cuisine, best called Argentine Bistro; appetizers will be served. Happy Hour is from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. The good news is the prices--cocktails \$5-6, wine \$4, draft beer \$3, sodas/tea \$2.50. Novecento is located on the north side of Alhambra, on a triangular block between Galiano and Alhambra Circle/Merrick Way. Street meter parking is available on Alhambra; valet parking (fee) is available at the restaurant. To the south, a City parking garage is located at Aragon and Galiano or public parking by BankAtlantic at Alcazar and Ponce.

What a Grand Time We Had at our Christmas in Ireland Dinner Dance!

Our change in venue to the Rusty Pelican was welcomed by 176 Emeralds and guests: a surplus of \$1816

was achieved. The Dublin City Ramblers led by Sean McGuinness, the Breffni Dancers, pianist Peter Fuchs, and, of course, amiable Dan Fitzgerald, were all outstanding. Most memorable
(Continued on next page)

What a Grand Time (Continued)

was the closing--the singing of the Irish National Anthem in Gaelic led by Oliver Kerr and Ann McShane. Our party hats are off to Erin Ashley, who chaired this event and her band of Christmas elves who worked to bring this event off--Ann McShane, Mary Gerhardt, Mary Ann and Oliver Kerr and as always John Doherty.

Special thanks to Ann McShane, who obtained the pairs of round-trip airline tickets from Continental Connection operated by Gulfstream and also, from Spirit Airlines; to Mary Ann Kerr, who provided the crystal and basket of cheer prizes; to Nabil Salem, who provided the hospitality baskets, and to Sharif Salem, who made printing the event invitations and raffle tickets possible. As for the winners of the raffle, the two sets of airline tickets were won by C.L.

Conroy and Doug Yoder; Barbara Bonard won Sgt. Killdooy, Guarda Rod Bell the cruise; Maria Angel, Tom Lynch's guest, won the Waterford crystal, and Bill O'Brien won the basket of cheer. Gary and Judy Tomeny came down from Jacksonville; Peter and Bonnie O'Connell drove up from the Keys. Peter has the honor of being the Parade Master for our last St. Patrick's Day Parade in 1998 in Miami Springs.

Time to Go Arrived on Time

That magical cast of Emeralds put on a great reading of Sean O'Casey's one-act play, *Time To Go* to an audience of 32 at the Celtic Cultural Series program last Sunday, January 4th at John Martin's. These screwy yet good-hearted characters were all involved in the wrangling over the price of a cow.

Civil Guard Billy Cameron
Young Woman Carroll Cameron
Young Man Jeffrey Bailey
(Gloria Cooke was indisposed)

Riders to the Sea Arrives in February

The Celtic Cultural Series features Phillip Church, Head of the Performance Program at Florida International, who will discuss John M. Synge's famous one-act play, *Riders to the Sea* at 4pm, Sunday February 22 at John Martins in Coral

Upcoming.....

- Jan. 21 Novecento, 121 Alhambra Plaza, Coral Gables
- Feb. 5 Emerald Board of Directors Meeting, Miami Yacht Club
- Feb. 22 *Riders to the Sea*, John M. Synge, Celtic Cultural Series
- Mar. 14 St Patrick's Day Festival, Fred Hartnett Park, Coral Gables

Gables. This is a multi-media presentation combining video, live commentary by Professor Church, and short action scenarios by actors of the Performance Program.

Widda Machree (Janice McKay) sold her cow to Kelly (John Kane in kilts) and whether the price was too high or too low is the heart of the play.

OTHERS IN THE CAST

Flagonson, tavernkeeper Dan Fitzgerald
Farrell, storekeeper Oliver Kerr
Mrs. Flagonson Mary Ann Kerr
Barney O'Hay, farmer Jeffrey Bailey
Cousins, farmer Chuck Daley
Conroy, farmer Jon Lindeman

The St. Patrick's Day Committee, Inc.

The Tinker's Faire Needs Your Old Treasures!
Less Is More! How is your "Donate Box" doing?

Poetry Corner: 250th Anniversary of Celtic Poet

Sunday, January 25 marks 250 years since the birth of Robert Burns, whom Scots revere as "The Bard". Burns composed what amounts to the Scottish National Anthem: "Scots Wha Hae wi' Wallace Bled". Burns is remarkable both for the number of his poems composed over a fairly short lifespan (37 years) and that his poems and songs are in Gaelic, light Scots' dialect, and English. Here, we present his most well-known song.

Auld Lang Syne

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to min'?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And days o' lang syne?

Chorus

For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet
For auld lang syne.

And surely ye'll be your pint-stowp,
And surely I'll be mine!
And we'll tak a cup o' kindness yet
For auld lang syne.

We twa hae run about the braes,
And pu'd the gowans fine;
But we've wander'd monie a weary fit
Sin' auld lang syne.

We twa hae paidled i' burn,
From mornin' sun till dine,
But seas between us braid hae roared
Sin' auld lang syne.

And there's a hand, my trusty fiere,
And gie's a hand o' thine;
And we'll tak a right guid-willie waught
For auld lang syne.

SE Florida-Scottish Festival & Highland Games

The Scottish American Society of South Florida brings this all-day festival to Ft. Lauderdale

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 under the umbrella of this Committee.

Message from President **Janice McKay**:

The St. Patrick's Day Festival will be held **Saturday March 14, 2009**, at Fred Hartnett Park in Coral Gables. The Festival Committee will meet **at 6:30 or 7:00pm every Monday at the Jack Thompson's office in Coral Gables**. If you are thinking of becoming more active in our organization, volunteering now gives you that opportunity. It is not too early to think that next year you could take a leadership role.

We need volunteers in the following areas; give an hour or two to make this Festival successful.

-Directors for committees, a Vendor Chair and a Secretary.

-For the Soda Bread Booth, we need volunteers who can brew Irish coffee, and bake Irish whiskey cakes the day before.

-For the Corned Beef Booth, we need a volunteer(s) who makes good corned beef and can organize the booth.

-Early on the 14th, we need men who are willing to work, setting up tables and chairs. Call **Chuck Daley** at 305-310-5087 or chasd763@aol.com.

-We also need volunteers in other areas as we finalize the Festival.

Please contact President **Janice McKay** at 305-733-0831 or mckaycoantrim@aol.com

Our Festival book is based on the ads you sell and funds the Festival. Our goal is \$20,000 in ads. **Jeff Bailey** needs your help your ad to ensure that that Festival is a success! This year we will be offering a cash prize in the amount of **\$500.00** to the individual who sells the highest dollar amount of advertisements! Please visit our website at www.emeraldsocietysfl.com to review the full details. Make out your checks to the St. Patrick's Day Festival and mail to P.O. Box 140848, Coral Gables,

Stadium and Event Site, west of I-95 on Commercial Blvd. Call 954-460-5000 or go to www.sassf.org.

Irish Shoppers Head North

Newry, Northern Ireland---...Since the onset of the Global financial crisis, the euro has surged in value against the British pound which circulates in Northern Ireland, making prices in northern stores so irresistible that southerners are flocking over the border in record numbers. So popular has this picturesque city 65 miles north of Dublin become that it has lent its name to the phenomenon now widely called the "Newry Effect"...

TimesDigest Dec.18,2008

Irish Economy Heads South.

Dublin---...Everything, it seems, has grown worse here. The recession started earlier and its bite has been deeper. Housing prices have fallen...Bank shares have plummeted...Unemployment is approaching 10 percent...The Irish Government recently announced a \$7.5 billion bank bailout and took majority stakes in the country's largest banks, a move that followed the government's earlier promise to guarantee all bank deposits...

The New York Times, January 4, 2008

In Memoriam

Saturday, January 24, a gathering celebrating his life will be held at the American Legion in South Miami from 2-5 pm. Our condolences to his family. R.I.P.

The South Florida Emerald Society, Inc.
PO Box 836225
Miami, FL. 33283-6225.

Long-time Emerald Charles S. Matthews passed away peacefully on December 19, 2008. On **Emerald Dues are Due.**

Reminder letters have been sent out to those Emeralds who, to date, have not paid their 2009 dues which are due January 31. Please make out your checks to "The South Florida Emerald Society" and mail them to the South Florida Emerald Society, P.O. Box 836225, Miami FL. 33283-6225

February Emerald Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will be at the Miami Yacht Club on Watson Island on the Macarthur Causeway on Thursday, February 5, 2009, at 7:00 pm. All Board members are expected to attend. *Uachtaran* (President) Oliver Kerr urges all Board members to review the 2009 proposed budget (e-mailed by John Doherty) before this February meeting and be prepared to discuss it (at some length), and adopt it. Upcoming Emerald elections will also be addressed. Our *Uachtaran* has admonished all Board members to respect the dignity of, and to share fellowship and courtesy with all Board members. The January meeting was cancelled owing to the BCS National Championship game between the Gators and Sooners