

the emerald Society shamrock news

February 2010
Mi Feabhra

www.emeraldsocietySFL.com
Member Tel: (305) 949-8400

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Only 5 Weeks to the St. Patrick's Day Festival!

Here are the lively Breffni Dancers in 2008, schooled by Michael and Nicola O'Hara

This is the Showpiece of Irish Culture for the Community!

The Dancers. The Drums and Pipes. The Singers and Fiddlers.

The Craic. The Crowds. The Soda Bread & Corned Beef.

Join with the St. Pat's Committee and make this Festival a success!

We need volunteers for Saturday, March 13.

- Ladies, we need you at Soda Bread Booth, the Tinker's Faire and the Leprechaun Corner for 2 hours anytime from 12noon to 6pm.
- Men, we need you for 2 hours to join Charlie and Chuck anytime from 7am to noon for general setup and stocking; from noon to 6pm for general appearance and maintenance, and from 6pm to 8pm for knock down, stacking and clean -up. To sign-up, call Mary Ann Kerr at (305) 251-6208

We need you to contact your friendly neighborhood merchant and sell Festival Book ads . We need to sell \$15,000 in ads. The Ad form is on our Website at the top of this page-see Souvenir Book Advertiser. (See page 2)

Upcoming.....

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Feb 14 | Celtic Cultural Series, <i>Shadow of the Glen</i>, by J.M.Synge, a reading, JohnMartin's, 253 Miracle Mile, Coral Gables |
| Feb 17 | Social: Scully's Tavern, 9809 Sunset Drive, Kendale Lakes |
| Mar 4 | SFES Board Meeting, Miami Yacht Club, MacArthur C'way |
| Mar 13 | St. Patrick's Day Festival, Ponce Circle Park, Coral Gables |
| Mar 20 | Celtic Cultural Series, Irish Stories for Children, Coral Gables Branch Library, 3443 Segovia St. Coral Gables |

**They're Back! The Celtic Cultural Players
in a Reading of Synge's Shadow of the Glen
at 4pm, Sunday February 14**



Dan Fitzgerald, Oliver and Mary Ann Kerr, and Sean Glynn

Synge's hilarious one act play, about a corpse coming to life, the deceased's widow, a traveling tramp, and a would-be gigolo, has been delighting audiences for over 100 years.

The Players will read in costume (as above) and will be directed by our resident author and star of stage and screen, Dan Fitzgerald.

The presentation will commence at 4:00pm at JohnMartin's Irish Restaurant, Tipperary (Upstairs) Room, 253 Miracle Mile, Coral Gables. Parking is available on Miracle Mile and at the City parking garage behind the restaurant.

Let's Meet at Scully's Tavern !

Our next social will start at 6:30pm Wednesday, February 17 at Scully's Tavern, 9809 Sunset Drive, (SW 72nd Street) South Miami (305) 271-7404. Venturing into South Miami, Bill O'Brien, Paul Reilly and Chuck Daley have arranged for a private room, 2-for-1 libations, and generous hors d'oeuvres.

The location is on the north side of Sunset, approximately one block west of SW 97th Ave. But allow enough time to get there as Sunset is slow at that time of day. If street parking is taken by thirsty early arrivals, try driving around to the ramp at the back of the building and parking on the roof.

The St. Patrick's Day Committee, In c.

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.

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Message from President **Janice McKay**:

SPDC meetings will be every **Monday at 6:30 pm at Phil Morrissey's office, 2800 Ponce dr Leon Boulevard, 13th Floor.** We are meeting every Monday until the Festival at the same time, same location. Can you spare an hour or two to volunteer at one of the booths such as Leprechaun Corner, Tinker's Faire or Soda Bread Booth? . Please call **Janice Mc Kay** (305-256-0233) or **Mary Ann Kerr** (305-251-6208) for information on how you can help.

Melissa O'Rourke has agreed to become the Secretary of the St. Patrick's Day Festival Committee.

WANTED!

\$15,000 in Festival Book Ads

We have continued our email blasts and used big mouth to reach out to you. We have also been hoofing the pavement and burning up the phone lines to reach out to past advertisers and potential advertisers to support our Festival. We are hopeful that we will meet our goal before the **deadline of**

Friday February 19.

We are going to redouble our efforts to meet this goal. However, we welcome your help!!! To meet our goal ,all we need is:

- 84 business card ads (\$85) or**
- 47 quarter- page ads (\$150) or**
- 26 half-page ads (\$275) or**
- 14 full-page ads**

If everyone reading this, took out a business card, we would meet our goal! **Jeff Bailey** (305-520-8626) says it's time to buy an ad. The Website is (www.EmeraldSocietySFL.com); look for "Souvenir Book" for ad applications and instructions. Make out your checks to The St. Patrick's Day Committee, Inc. and mail them to The St. Patrick's Day Committee, c/o Jeffrey Bailey, P. O. Box 140848, Coral Gables, Florida 33114.

She's Number Two In Line!

St. Brigid, also known as Bridget, Brighid, or Bride, is second to St. Patrick in the line-up of leading Christian saints of Ireland. There is much exaggeration in the folklore about Brigid. Although she was a leading Christian saint, her name was linked with a Celtic fertility goddess. Many of these Celtic myths were converted into Christian beliefs. However, it is fairly certain that Brigid was very generous and did much to advance Christianity in Ireland.

St. Brigid was supposedly born February 1, 453, of a pagan father but latter converted to Christianity. All the many legends about Brigid tell of a kind and saintly woman. It is believed that Brigid established a large monastery in Kildare under an oak tree held sacred to the druids. Kildare means "church of the oak."

Her monastery was renowned for its hospitality and care for the poor. At that time, women in the Celtic Church held a significant place, and many Celtic monasteries were mixed with monks and nuns and as well as married couples. Brigid traveled widely and spoke at Church synods and seemed to have performed all the duties of a priest. Legends about her generosity abound. Today in County Louth there is hill designated as a shrine to St. Brigid. There is a stream where Brigid performed miracles, a path with Stations of the Cross, and a grotto containing a statue of the Virgin Mary visiting Brigid. Across the field from the shrine, there are stones resembling body parts with supposedly magical healing powers.

It is believed that Brigid, who supposedly died in February, first made the small cross out of dried rushes. According to the legend, Brigid made the cross with rushes found on the ground beside a dying man in order to convert him. A new cross is made every February in many Irish homes, mounted on a wall and is believed to protect one's home from fire. At a Celtic Cultural program two years ago, we learned how to make these St. Brigid crosses.

Dues are Due

Annual dues invoices for the South Florida Emerald Society were mailed mid-month to all members. To date, 82 of the 182 members have paid. Please remit a check to the South Florida Emerald Society by mailing it to The South Florida Emerald Society, PO Box 836225, Miami FL 33283-6225



Poetry Corner

We present here a short incantation or prayer which calls for the intercession of St. Brigid (Bride) for protection. This prayer is ancient and translated from the Gaelic; "dart of fay" could be a light spear thrown by an elf. Here are the last two verses.

Every day and every night
That I sing the genealogy of Bride
Shall I not be killed, nor harried,
Nor shall I be put in cell, nor wounded,
Neither shall Christ leave me in forgetfulness.

No fire, no sun, no moon shall burn me,
No lake, no water, no sea shall drown me,
No arrow of fairy nor dart of fay shall wound me,
And I shall be under the protection of Holy Mary.
And my gentle foster-mother my beloved Bride.

The St. Patrick's Day Committee, Inc.

The Tinker's Faire Needs Your Donations

Hidden treasures of the Festival can be found for pennies at the Tinker's Faire. So rummage through your closets and dressers and bring your forgotten treasures to the Festival early on March 13th. Someone will be there to accept your cast-off goodies.

The Tinker's Faire will accept everything--except stuffed animals and used clothing unless it is still new and in its original wrapping.

Tinker guru **Delores Fitzgerald** chairs this vital part of the Festival and needs volunteers. Contact her at 305-665-1812 or dannyfitz230@aol.com.

Would you like to place your business card in this space?

\$10 for one-time insertion; \$25 for a quarter (3 months).

Send your check and business card to The South Florida Emerald Society, PO Box 836225, Miami FL 33283-6225 and **John Doherty** will make the arrangements.

Ireland Froze like a Popsicle



Ireland experienced the coldest January in 25 years. Stores closed; schools dismissed students. Fortunately, our new member, **Laura Edgeworth**, who is Operations Manager of a pilot flight training school in Palm Bay FL, was on hand to supply a photo of her car in January. Her car is parked in front of her house in County Kildare on January 10; the temperature was 12 degrees (F).

Emeralds visit Mike's at the Venetia

Some 32 Emeralds enjoyed Mike Shelow's hospitality in January at his Irish Pub at the Venetia in what-used-to-be-called the Omni Area and is now dubbed for Adrienne Arsht

Among Emeralds and guests participating were: **Carroll and Billy Cameron, Sean Ferrell, Mary Gerhardt, Sean and Teresa Glynn, Chuck Harty, Joe and Linda Healey, Mary Jo Henderson, John and Dorothy Kane, Dan and Gisela Kelly, Chris Kelley, Oliver Kerr**, new member **Amy Law, Jon Lindeman** in an appearance before departing for Hawaii and the Far East, **Phil Morrissey, John, Eva and Jim Murphy, Patrick Novak, Bill O'Brien, Dick O'Connell** who is a resident of the Venetia, **Bill Owens** and his daughter **Anna-Louise, Paul Reilly** who has volunteered to help **Bill O'Brien** on the Social Committee, **Betty Sweeney, Sheila Sweeney Lopez** and **Richard Welch**. [The Editors have to acknowledge the assistance of **Sean Glynn** who took the names of attendees and alphabetized this list]

Emeralds meet Irish Sailors



Bill O'Brien, Mary Ann Kerr, Sabine Steiner, John Twomey
Oliver Kerr, James Whelan and Bill Cassidy

Bill and Reata Cassidy led a group of Emeralds including **Bill O'Brien, Oliver and Mary Ann Kerr, Patty O'Rorke** and **Ed Asmus** in greeting the visiting Irish sailors, in Miami for ROLEX Miami OCR (Olympic Class Regatta) 2010. Here they are at John Martin's on Thursday January 28 after sailing on Biscayne Bay from Sunday January 24. **John Twomey** is from Cork, as are his two friends, **Sabine Steiner** and **James Whelan**; their home port is Kinsale. Other visiting Irish sailors were: **Amy Kelehan** from Dublin and **Tiffany Brien** from Holywood, County Down. Other contacts which **Bill Cassidy** maintains back in Ireland are **Paul Ryan, Paul McCarthy, and Richard Whealey**.

* * *

Question.

Why do you Irish always answer a question with a question?" asked President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

"Do we now?" came New York Mayor Al Smith's reply.

* * *

Fair Verdict

In an Irish courtroom 12 men sat on the jury. At the trial, the Judge asked for their verdict. 'We find the man who stole the horse 'Not Guilty',' said the foreman .

Emerald Election Iminent

At the Board meeting of February 4, the Nominating Committee of **Bill O'Brien, David (Skip) Russell** and **Chris Kelley** announced the following slate of Officers and Directors:

President: **Janis McKay**
1st Vice-President: **Jeffrey S. Bailey**
2nd Vice President: **Judi Sherry**
Treasurer: **John Doherty**
Historian: **Dan Fitzgerald**
Recording Secretary: **Hugh A. Ryan**

Directors (3-year term)

Erin Ashley	Christopher Kelly
Mary Gerhardt	Mary Ann Kerr
Sean Glynn	William O'Brien

John Doherty will conduct the election electronically through the website at SurveyMonkey, starting this week. Ballots will be mailed to those without web access. Opportunity is offered for write-in candidates. The deadline for voting is February 25. Election results will be announced at the next Board meeting. In-coming Officers and Directors will assume their places at the April meeting and be installed May 12.

David "Skip" Russell decided to take some time off; **Oliver Kerr** and **Jon Lindeman** remain on the Board as Directors.

Welcome these New Emeralds

At the same Board meeting, the following new Emeralds were nominated and approved:

- **Kassandra "Kassie" Doyle** is an attorney at McAlpin & Conroy PA. Her paternal side—the Doyles—come from Castlereagh, Co. Roscommon; her mother hails from Bogata, Columbia. **Bill O'Brien** is her sponsor.
- **Amy K. Law** is a technician at Doctors Hospital in Coral Gables. Her Duffy ancestors are from County Mayo; her maternal side includes McGlews. **Billy Cameron** is her sponsor.
- **Clodagh "Clo" Michel**, born in England, is a Realtor with Century 21. Her paternal side traces

Condolences

Our sympathy is extended to John Doherty on the death of his sister, Maureen Gates. R.I.P.

Emerald J. Dudley Moylan, 88, died on December 25, 2009, at Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. Dudley was born in 1921, in Albany, New York, moving with his family to Miami, Florida, in the 1930's. After graduating from Duke University in 1943, Dudley joined the U.S. Navy, and served as an officer on a destroyer, the Samuel B. Roberts, in the Pacific theater of WW II. On October 25, 1944, his ship was sunk during a heroic attack on the Japanese fleet during the battle of Leyte Gulf, one of the largest naval battles in history. Dudley and other survivors floated for 5 hours in shark-infested waters before being rescued. Dudley lived in St. Louis Park for almost 60 years, and was a charter member of the St. Louis Park Housing Authority, serving on that and other city committees for many years. He taught English at the University of Minnesota in the 1950's and was active in local and national organizations. Dudley delighted in meeting and knowing young people, and he will be remembered and missed by countless friends, both young and old, whom he has known over the years. Dudley had been an Emerald since 2001 while living on Biltmore Way in Coral Gables. He is survived by a brother, Ted Moylan (Lena), nephews, Edward and Clinton, all of Coral Gables, Florida, and niece, Molly Perkins, Monticello, Florida. A memorial service was held at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, Minneapolis, January 12, Dudley will be buried in his beloved Adirondacks where he spent most of his summers. Memorials may be sent to St. Mark's Organ Renovation Fund or to donor's choice. R.I.P.

.. From Miami Herald

from the Stacks of Westport, County Mayo; maternally, her McCarthys come from Dublin. Her spouse is James and they are blessed with two children. Her sponsor: **John Doherty**.

- **Sean M. Singletary**, a native of Miami, is a property manager in South Dade. His ancestors trace from the Drew, Harris and Mackin families. **Bill O'Brien** is his sponsor.

March Emerald Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will be at **7:00pm Thursday March 4** at the Miami Yacht Club on Watson Island on the MacArthur Causeway. Election results will be announced and the Budget will be finalized.

Membership Committee has a Goal of 200

Sean Glynn, Chair (far right in photo on page 2) has emerged from the OrangeBowl/Super Bowl unscathed to gather his elves to seek new members. His helpers are: **Jon Lindeman, Sylvia Breton, Katherine O'Connor-Schultz, Melissa O'Rourke, Jeffrey Killian, Carroll Cameron and Sean Pickett.**

The South Florida Emerald Society, Inc.

PO Box 836225

Miami, FL. 33283-6225.

Emeralds Welcome at Miami Yacht Club

Emeralds are always welcome to stop in at the MYC, which is located behind Parrot Jungle Island. Push the button and the gate will open. Park your car, enter the bar and announce that you are an Emerald. **Sean Ferrell** or **Tom Wilson** will greet you.

Opportunity for "Wearing of the Green"

Carroll Cameron has found a website—hugestore.com—which has polywool Augusta green sport coats for the Masters at \$159.50. From the picture, the green looks right for Emerald events. Can someone try it and report back to Carroll & Editors?