

the emerald Society shamrock news

February 2011
Mi Eabhra

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

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305-256-0233

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Co-Editors

Barbara & Joe McManus
561-338-8848

Only 6 Weeks to the St. Patrick's Day Festival !



Lads and Lassies, this is the showpiece of Irish culture for the community.

The Dancers. The Pipers. The Singers.

The Craic. The Fiddlers. The Soda Bread.

Join with the St. Patrick's Day Committee and make this Festival a success. We need volunteers for a couple of hours on Saturday, March 12.

- Lads, we need you for 2 hours to join Charlie, Chuck and Jon.
- Lassies, we need you for 2 hours at the Soda Bread Booth, Tinker's Faire or Leprechaun Corner. To sign up call Mary Ann Kerr at 305 251 6208.

We need \$15,000 in Festival Book ads: contact your friendly neighborhood merchant. See our website emeraldsocietySFL.com for the application form or contact Jeff Bailey at 305 520 8439.

Our February Social is at the South Miami Elks Club

Cahir O'Doherty, Irish folk singer, will be the attraction at the Saturday February 19, social at the Elks Club, 6304 SW 78 St. South Miami. This Emeralds-only event with cash bar will start at 7pm.

The Informer to be Shown on Sunday February 13

In a change, the Celtic Cultural Series will show John Ford's Academy Award winning film of 1920's Irish betrayal at 4pm, Sunday February 13 at John Martins Irish Pub, 253 Miracle Mile, Coral Gables. Professor Pat McCarthy of the University of Miami will offer an introductory commentary. Admission is free. Parking is available on Miracle Mile or in the City Garage behind John Martins.

Upcoming:

Feb 13	4pm <i>The Informer</i> Prof. Pat McCarthy, John Martins
Feb 19	7pm Social, Elks Club, 6304 SW 78 St. South Miami
Mar 3	6:30 pm SFES Board of Directors Meeting, Miami Yacht Club
Mar 10	7pm Council of Past Presidents, Key Biscayne Yacht Club
Mar 12	10-6 St. Patrick's Day Festival, Fred Hartnett Park, CG

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 *Shamrock News* to the activities conducted under the umbrella of this organization.

* * *

Message from President Janice McKay:

Our next meeting is at 6:30pm, Monday, February 7th at Judi Tierney Sherry's house; SPDC pictures are scheduled. We will be meeting weekly until the Festival.

WANTED **\$15,000 in Festival Book Ads**

Festival Book ads are due February 18; reminder—these ads fund our St. Patrick's Day Festival. Buy one, buy several. See the Website for details, application and prices www.emeraldssocietySFL.com or contact **Jeff Bailey** at 305-520-8439.

On Saturday, March 12, we need volunteers for the Soda Bread Booth and the Leprechaun Corner for a couple of hours. Call Janice McKay or **Kassie Doyle**.

We are looking for all those Miss Colleens. The Miss Colleen Pageant is an opportunity to promote our young girls with a sense of Irish spirit and unity to the Irish community. If your Ms. Colleen is between the ages of 4 and 12, she is perfect! The application is on the website. Call **Ileane Renfro**

Sylvia Breton and **Dolores Fitzgerald** want you to save your good, slightly used, white elephant, regifted stuff for the Tinkers Faire. But please, no used clothing or stuffed toy animals. Bring your white elephants early to Fred Hartnett Park on March 12.

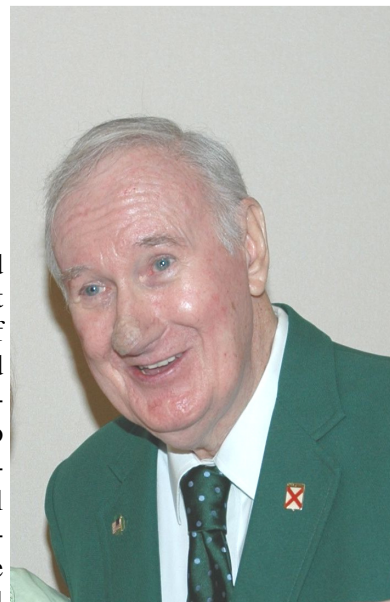
We usually have high school volunteers who need service hours. But we don't have a Volunteer Coordinator. Can you help? Call Janice McKay at 305 733 0831

SPDC Elections are coming up. If you are interested, call Janice McKay.

SAG Honors Dan Fitzgerald with Howard Keel Award

Los Angeles (February 3, 2011)

“Screen Actors Guild announced today that actors **Dan Fitzgerald** of the Florida Branch and Will Lyman of the Boston Branch will be the co-recipients of the 3rd Annual Howard Keel Award for their significant contributions to the Guild. The Howard Keel Award is the highest honor given by the Screen Actors Guild Regional Branch Division, and will be presented in May at the Regional Branch Division's annual Regional Branch Conference in Orlando, Florida .



“**Dan Fitzgerald** joined SAG in 1957, a year before Howard Keel took the reins as national president, and is also a member of AFTRA, and a former Actors' Equity Association member. He has worked steadily in films, television shows and commercials *since then – meanwhile* while juggling Board , SAG Foundation, and community service over the course of three decades. As a performer, he's had featured roles in the television series, “*Wiseguy*,” and “*Miami Vice*,” as well as theatrical films “*In Her Shoes*,” “*Mean Season*,” and “*The Greatest*,” to name a few.

“Fitzgerald *currently* serves as a Branch councilor (*since* from 1982-95 and again from 2003 - 2010, *with a prior stint from 1982-95*). He also served five terms as Florida Branch vice president (1984-94), three terms as Florida Branch president (1994-2000) and three terms on the National Board (1989-98). He has chaired and served on many national and local committees, and was often on the frontlines during the 2000 Commercials Strike.

“In 2001, Fitzgerald received the Florida Branch's highest accolade, the Bruce McLaughlin Award. He has been deeply dedicated to spreading literacy through the Screen Actors Guild Foundation's BookPALS, and was instrumental in bringing the program to the state of Florida. *Since its inception*, he's been a tireless volunteer reading to children in schools on a regular basis. In 2008 he was awarded 'Florida BookPal of the Year'.

“In addition, Fitzgerald is a military veteran, having served during (Continued to Dan Page 4) 2

She Is Second Only to St. Patrick in The Hearts of The Irish People

St. Brigid, also known as Bridget, Brighid, or Bride, is second to St. Patrick in the line-up of leading Christian saints of Ireland. February 1st, a Celtic feast day, is dedicated to this fertility goddess. Rigid represented the virgin aspect of the major goddesses, the Celtic equivalent of the Roman Minerva or Greek Athena. There is much exaggeration in the many legends about her.

St. Brigid was supposedly born February 1, 453, of a pagan father, an Irish Celtic king Dujbhlach, but she latter converted to Christianity. However, all the folklore about Brigid tell of a kind and saintly woman, and one who did much to advance Christianity in Ireland. The Irish incorporated this Celtic goddess as well as many aspects of the Celtic religion into their version of Christianity

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. She 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. There are also many holy wells in Ireland dedicated to St. Brigid.

It is believed that Brigid, who supposedly died in February, first made a small cross out of dried rushes. 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.

John Doherty will conduct the election electronically. Opportunity is offered for write-in candidates. Election results will be announced at the next Board meeting (March 3). In-coming officers and directors will assume office in April and be installed in May.



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."

2011 Slate of SFES Officers and Directors

Please vote on this slate of Officers and Directors online during February through SurveyMonkey starting this week. If you don't have a computer, the last page (Page 7) is a paper ballot which you can complete and return by mail. Please mail so it can be received by midnight, Monday February 28.

Officers: (vote for one)

President: Jeffrey S. Bailey, Christopher P. Kelley

1st Vice President: Hugh A. Ryan

2nd Vice President: Mary M. Gerhardt

Treasurer : John P. Doherty

Secretary: Judi Tierney Sherry

Historian: Daniel L. Fitzgerald

Immediate Past President: Janice McKay

One Year Directors: (continuing-no vote required))

John P. Doherty

Patrick Novak

Daniel L. Fitzgerald

Jeffrey S. Bailey

Charles J. Daley

Sean Ferrell

Two-Year Directors (continuing-no vote required))

Erin Ashley

William J. O'Brien Jr.

Mary M. Gerhardt

Donald E. Harrington Jr.

Christopher P. Kelley

Joseph W. McManus

Three-Year Directors (vote for 6)

Patrick L. Duffy

Phillip F. Morrissey

William "Bill" Gregory

Jan Paris

Sean P. Hayes

Paul Reilly

Phillip Humphries

David "Skip" Russell

Oliver Kerr

The Eurozone's Debt Crisis is Set to Claim its First Government Scalp

Ireland Faces a Rude Awakening as Five Parties Jostle For Power in Feb Election

Taoiseach Brian Cowen (Prime Minister) will remain in power until the February 25 election, when his party (Fianna Fáil) is expected to be replaced by a coalition of Fine Gael and Labour.

Fianna Fáil (“Soldiers of Ireland”) has been in power for 60 of the past 88 years since Ireland won its independence from Britain in 1922. In the upcoming elections, Fianna Fáil is expected to drop to at least 3rd place. The party is populist: pro-market on economic policy but conservative on social policy. It had the support of builders and property developers during the past economic boom. Michael Martin is their new leader.

Fine Gael (“Kindred of the Irish”) a center-right party, is set to become Ireland’s biggest parliamentary party after 14 years out of power. Enda Kenny, its leader, is set to become Taoiseach or prime minister. Traditionally seen as the party of big farmers, rural businesses and Dublin professionals, Fine Gael is relatively socially liberal and pro-European.

The Labour party is the main center-left party in Ireland, composed of Dublin civil servants, teachers and trade unionists. Its leader, Eamon Gilmore, is currently the most popular politician in Ireland, according to polls.

Sein Féin (“Ourselves Alone”) is a leftwing party with a working class support base, known for its role as the political wing of the Irish Republican Army during the troubles in Northern Ireland. Gerry Adams, its leader, is well-known here in the U.S. for his fund-raising efforts.

The Greens are a largely urban party, advocating such environmental policies as wind energy and electric cars. Taken in whole or in part from John Murray Brown, *Financial Times*, January 25, 2011

Condolences

Helen Mulligan Whittaker

Helen Whittaker, 83, of North Miami, Florida, died on Tuesday, January 4, 2011. Helen was the wife of deceased long time Emerald member Ken Whittaker. Ken was involved early in the formation of the Emeralds and Helen was active in supporting the Parades and other Emerald activities. A Mass to celebrate Helen's life was held on Saturday, January 8, 2011 at Saint Rose of Lima Catholic Church. Our condolences are extended to Helen's six children, eight grandchildren, her sister, and numerous nieces and nephews. R.I.P.

Dan (continued from Page 2)

the Korean War, and he entertained the troops during his military service and after, including shows performed with Eddie Fisher.

* * *

“I can’t think of two finer examples of actor-activists serving in our Regional Branches today than Dan Fitzgerald and Will Lyman,” said SAG 3rd Vice President David Hartley-Margolin, chair of the Regional Branch Division. “Their service exemplifies the contributions Howard Keel envisioned in his championing of a national union.

“Named for the legendary actor-singer and former SAG president serving from 1958_ to 1959, the Howard Keel Award is annually presented to persons who make a significant contribution to the promotion of Screen Actors Guild and to the welfare and benefit of members in their Branch, or nationally, as part of the Regional Branch Division.”

Dan Fitzgerald is a past President (twice) of the SFES.

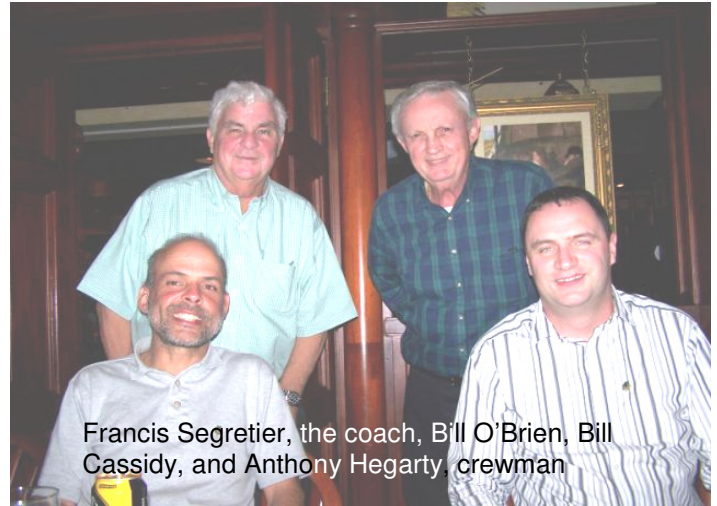
Helen's Quiz

Helen Lennon has suggested that we have an Irish Quiz—so here it is

1. Which Irish writer is the only person to have won both the Nobel Prize and an Academy Award?
 2. How many people worldwide claim Irish ancestry?
 3. What breakfast food did the Irish introduce to America?
 4. What is the other title of the song “Danny Boy”?
 5. On what river does the city of Cork stand?
- (Answers on page 6)



Ian Costello, crewman from County Kerry; Francis Segretier, the coach from the Caribbean and the panhandle in Florida; Anthony Hegarty, crewman from Kinsale, County Cork, and John Twomey, the captain/leader from Kinsale.



Francis Segretier, the coach, Bill O'Brien, Bill Cassidy, and Anthony Hegarty, crewman

Emeralds Greet Irish Sonar Sailing Team

Bill and Reata Cassidy led a group of Emeralds including **Bill O'Brien, Oliver and Mary Ann Kerr**, in greeting the visiting Irish Sonar Sailing Team, in Miami January 19-29 for the ROLEX Miami OCR (Olympic Class Regatta) (Paralympics Sonar Class) 2011. Here they are at John Martin's on Thursday January 27 after sailing on Biscayne Bay . John Twomey, the captain/leader is from Kinsale; other sailors were Amy Kelehan and **Stephen Frenknall from Dublin, two family members and the three pictured above**. Contacts which **Bill Cassidy** maintains back in Ireland are Paul Ryan, Paul McCarthy, and Richard Whealey.

Let's Welcome a New Emerald

At the January Board meeting:

- **Roy E. Mevers IV**, a yacht captain, was nominated and accepted. Roy and his wife Margaret live in Miami Shores just a couple of doors away from **Mary and David Gerhardt**. Roy's great-grandfather (same name) was instrumental in starting the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Charleston, SC. His sponsor is **Billy Cameron** and co-sponsor is **Tom Wilson**.

On any given day, 5.5 million pints of Guinness are consumed, on St. Patrick's day, that swells to 13 million pints —Beth Davies Ryan, Guinness

Cooke Convenes Conclave of COPPs

The Council of Past Presidents (COPPs) will meet at the Key Biscayne Yacht Club on Thursday March 10 for the second year. Dan Fitzgerald and Tom Flynn will be honored for their service; Janice McKay, Immediate Past President, will be inducted. Green jackets are desirable. Attendance is restricted to the past presidents and their immediate families in the interests of keeping confusion to a minimum. For details, call or contact Ed Cooke at 305-576-8462 or at escooke1@aol.com

Lester Goren Wows Audience at JM's

Fifty-one Emeralds, guests and members of the general public assembled at John Martins on January 9, enjoyed hearing Lester Goren reminisce about the festivities (imagined and otherwise) at the Ancient Order of Hibernians clubhouse in his neighborhood in Pittsburgh. These recollections have been transcribed in Goren's *Tales from the Irish Club*. Professor Goren developed the curriculum for the Creative Writing Department, University of Miami.

Social —Also at John Martins

Emeralds returned to familiar surroundings, next to the library, on Wednesday January 20. Proprietors **Martin Lynch** and **John Clark** hosted the following Emeralds and guests: **Carroll and Billy Cameron, Dan and Dolores Fitzgerald, Noel Stillings, Catherine McManus, John Doherty, Don Harrington Jr., Chuck Daley, Paul Reilly, Ed Cooke, Jake Jacobson, Jeffrey Bailey, Mary Gerhardt, Chris Kelley, Pat Duffy, Bill O'Brien, C.L.Conroy, and Oliver and Mary Ann Kerr**. There may have been others who enjoyed the hospitality but our reporter/leprechauns did not want to interrupt their conversations.

March Board Meeting

The next Board meetings will be at **6:30pm Thursday March 3** at the Miami Yacht Club on Watson Island on the MacArthur Causeway. President **Janice McKay** will preside and expects a sense of decorum and respect for the opinions of others. The election returns will be announced. Attendance of all Board members is expected and all members are welcome.

Get Well Wishes

Tom Flynn is recovering from the accident at Christmas in Ireland. **Charlie Davis, Henry Kissane, Pat Desbiens** and **Carroll Cameron** are also recuperating.

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

2011 Dues are Now Past Due

Treasurer **John Doherty** has sent two invoices to members who are late in sending in dues. In January, **John** sent a “Big Mouth” message and an e-mail. Third and final notices were mailed February 1. **Mary Gerhardt** volunteered to call the 53 members who are behind. Send checks to the address at lower left in the next column.

Answers to Helen’s Quiz (page 4)
(Taken from Cahir O’Doherty, *Irish Voice*,
Dec. 22, 2010)

1. George Bernard Shaw.
2. 70 million people
3. Oatmeal
4. “Londonderry Air”
5. The River Lee

The South Florida Emerald Society, Inc.

2011-12 Ballot

Return ballot by midnight, Monday February 28, 2011, to SFES Nominations ,

Mrs. Mary Ann Kerr, 8305 S.W. 169th Terrace, Palmetto Bay , Fl 33157.

Alternatively, ballots may be completed by responding to an e-mail Survey Monkey, sent by John Doherty, SFES Treasurer, the weekend of February 4-6. The Emerald WEB site is not available for casting ballots.

The ballot lists people who have been nominated and have agreed to serve as OFFICERS if elected. If you write in a candidate, be sure you have asked your candidate if he or she is willing to serve.

Officers	Nominated	X (to Vote For)	Nominated	X (to Vote For)	Write In	X (to Vote For)
President	Jeffrey S. Bailey		Christopher P. Kelley			
1 st Vice President	Hugh A. Ryan					
2 nd Vice President	Mary M. Gerhardt					
Treasurer	John P. Doherty					
Historian	Daniel L. Fitzgerald					
Recording Secretary	Judi Tierney Sherry					
Immediate Past President (not an elected office)	Janice McKay					

Nominations for NEW DIRECTORS. Vote for up to 6 for the three-year term. You can always write in the name of your candidate in the open rows at the bottom of the boxes. Once again, be sure write-in candidates have expressed a willingness to serve

**Directors Nominated X
(vote for 6)**

Patrick Duffy	
William "Bill" Gregory	
Sean P. Hayes	
Phillip Humphries	
Oliver Kerr	
Phillip F. Morrissey	
Jan Paris	
Paul Reilly	
David "Skip" Russell	

2011-12 Continuing Board Members (This section is for information only. Do not vote for the following DIRECTOR positions

One year left on current term	Two years left on current term
John P. Doherty	Erin Ashley
Daniel L. Fitzgerald	Mary M. Gerhardt
Charles J. "Chuck" Daley	Christopher P. Kelley
Patrick Novak	William J. O'Brien Jr.
Jeffrey S. Bailey	Donald E. Harrington Jr.
Sean Ferrell	Joseph W. McManus