

the emerald Society shamrock news



December 2013

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Mi Na Nollaig

www.emeraldsocietySFL.com

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Editors

Joe & Barbara McManus

561-338-8848

"Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain Shona duit!"

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



The South Florida Emerald Society, Inc. Christmas in Ireland Gala

Friday, December 6, 2013
Knights of Columbus Hall
270 Catalonia Avenue
Coral Gables, FL

7:00 PM - Cocktails
8:00 PM - Dinner & Dancing
Open Bar

The invitations are out; because the final number was due November 22, the dinner reservations are closed. This year's raffle is a Merry Mega 50/50. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or a book of 5 for \$20. Try to sell at least 2 books . (Continued to page 2)

Upcoming:

Sun	Dec 1	6pm	Junior	Orange Bowl Parade , Coral Gables
Thurs	Dec 5	6:30pm	SFES	Board of Directors Meeting MYC
Fri	Dec 6	7pm	Christmas	in Ireland, K of C Hall, 270 Catalonia
Thur	Jan 2	6:30pm	SFES	Board of Directors Meeting MYC
	Jan		Social	TBD

Christmas in Ireland (Cont'd)

Prepare for a great night of dining, dancing, socializing, live band, and open bar.

The cocktail reception begins at 7pm; parking is free. Dinner is: chicken piccata in a raspberry chipotle sauce or grilled flank steak, served with Cesar salad, yummy side dishes, and dessert. Dancing is at 8pm. Our band is Irish Mayhem—the same as last year minus the drums. Our bagpiper will return—thanks to the Co-Editors.

This year's raffle is a Merry Mega 50/50. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or a book of 5 for \$20. This supports the South Florida Emerald Society. The more tickets sold, the higher the jackpot! If you need more raffle tickets, please contact Ann Eustace at 305 582 0375 or ann.eustace@gmail.com

Additionally, we will have a silent auction, featuring gift baskets, gift certificates, sporting tickets and more. If you can help please call Kassie Doyle (305) 333-5225.

Junior Orange Bowl Parade

I am honored to announce that the South Florida Emerald Society has once again been invited to march in the Junior Orange Bowl Parade in Coral Gables this Sunday, December 1st! We welcome all Emeralds to join us in the parade!

This is going to be a great time for Emeralds of all ages! The parade route goes 8 blocks through downtown Coral Gables and this year we are marching with the St. Andrews Pipe Band! It's a day for the wearing of the **Green!** or your Emerald shirts! We will be carrying our parade banner and already have a bunch of kids lined up. It's going to be great fun!

We will meet on Alhambra Circle between LeJeune Road and Salzedo Street from 4:30-5PM. The parade starts at 6PM and then afterwards we can gather at John Martin's to recap the event and get ready for Christmas in Ireland.

Wear your **GREEN!**

RSVP to Hugh Ryan (305) 978-0983

Christmas in Ireland

We Need YOU!

Do you love the Breffni Dancers and want to see them at Christmas in Ireland this year??

Can you donate a gift certificate or pair of sporting event tickets to the Christmas Raffle & Silent Auction??

The only way to guarantee your favorite parts of Christmas in Ireland will be back this year is to sponsor them!!

The Christmas Committee is looking for Emeralds, individuals, or groups to sponsor the event, or the Breffni Dancers.. We are also looking for sponsored or donated Raffle Prizes and Silent Auction Items, such as gift cards from your favorite restaurant or retailer, tickets to shows or sporting events, gift baskets, etc.

Christmas in Ireland Wish List

 Emerald Sponsors - \$2,000

 Silver Sponsors - \$500

 Gold Sponsors - \$1,000

 Breffni dancer sponsor – approx. \$250

If you are interested in being a Christmas in Ireland 2013 Sponsor, please contact Kassie Doyle at kassandra.doyle@gmail.com or 305-333-5225.

Celtic Cultural Series: Philip Morrissey

On Sunday November 10, at John Martin’s, **Philip Morrissey** led Emeralds and guests through a thorough PowerPoint presentation of the Irish economy. Fifty percent of the Irish population is under the age of 35 and well-educated; but the total unemployment rate is 14.5%. Ireland’s public debt is high—now 124% of GDP. Ireland was forced to seek €67.5 billion in loans three years ago. Among the audience were: **Patty O’Rorke** and **Ted Ausmus**, **Bill O’Brien**, **Pat Villacorta**, **Mary Jane Thompson**, **Oliver** and **Mary Ann Kerr**, **Bill Owens**, **Hugh Ryan**, **Pam Edwards**, **Joe**, **Barbara** and **Catherine McManus**, and **Noel McManus Stillings**,

Imagine if the Celtic Cultural Series were to offer Irish-themed movies, such as “The Quiet Man,” “Michael Collins” or “My Left Foot” . All we need is a volunteer to operate a DVD projector and cable—and the continued cooperation of JohnMartin’s

Emerald Social at John Martin’s

Over 30 Emeralds and guests enjoyed the ambience and camaraderie November 21 at one of our favorite Irish pubs. Joining in the festivities were: new member **Johni Hardiman**, **Richard Welch**, **Bill O’Brien**, **Dan** and **Dolores Fitzgerald**, **Megan Walsh**, **Carroll** and **Billie Cameron**, **Jan Paris**, **John** and **Katie Schultz**, **Gerald**, **Helen** and **Kassie Doyle**, **Charlie** and **Mary Ann Nichols**, **Mary Ann Kerr**, **Frances Baboun**, **Ann** and **Catherine Eustace**, **Jim Weber**, **Ellie Telford**, **Roberta Scott**, **Sean Ferrell**, **Bob Seitz**, **Paul Reilly**, **Kathleen Slesnick Kauffman**, **Joe** and **Barbara McManus**, **Noel Stillings**, **Martin Lynch** and **John Clark**.

St. Patrick’s Day Festival!

The St. Patrick’s Day Committee has decided to go ahead with the 2014 Festival on Saturday March 8. However President/Chairman Charles Davis stressed that this Festival depends on the demonstrated commitment of Emerald volunteers. The Festival organization is shown below, but we need more help. If you can volunteer call Hugh Ryan .

This Festival is a \$30,000 undertaking; we need to sell \$25,000 in ads for the Festival Book to support this Festival. Show your support: take out an ad.

Position	Volunteer Chairs
1.Bar Chair	?????
2.Entertain-ment Coors.	Dan Fitzgerald & Hugh Ryan
3.Ad Sales.	Bill O’Brien
4.Soda Bread Chairs	Mary Ann Kerr & Jan Paris
5. Volunteers	Sean Hayes
6.Site Coor.	Clodagh Michel
7.Vendor Ch.	Rosie Hart
8.Festival Bk.	Judi Tierney Sherry
9.Publicity	C.L. Conroy
10. Miss Colleen Pageant	Melissa Davis
11.Info Booth	Sean Hayes
12.Grants Ch.	Noel McM Stillings
13. Advertising	John Kane
14. Site Clean-up	Sean Ferrell

Tom, How Lucky We Were To Have Known You

SIR THOMAS EDWARD FLYNN

Tom Flynn died November 6 at Miami Veterans Hospital. Tom was a proud Emerald for the past 55 years, our President in 1986-87, a Leprechaun supporter of our St. Patrick's Day Parades, and the leader of the Emeralds marching in the 4th of July Parades on Key Biscayne. Tom was among the first U.S. Army troops (24th Infantry Division) called to action in Korea in 1950; he was awarded the Purple Heart and Combat Infantryman's Badge, accompanied by many medals and recognitions reflecting his combat service. (See page 5)

Tom was born in St. Louis , Missouri and graduated from the University of Miami in 1956 and in 1959 founded Thomas E. Flynn, freight forwarders and ship charterers, which he ran for the next 49 years. Tom's accom-

plishments and honors in the field of international commerce are numerous and significant as described in Tom's obituary in the Miami Herald of November 10. In international diplomacy, Tom was appointed by Australia as Australian Consul to Florida in 1999 and was knighted Order of Australia by the Queen of England and the Prime Minister of Australia in 2005.

Our condolences are extended to daughters Victoria Jane Flynn and Mary Ann Flynn, sisters-in law Mary Ann Price and Barbara Young and nieces and nephews. R.I.P.

Tom's wake was held the evening of November 12 at Stanfill's and the funeral was November 13 at St. Agnes Church, Key Biscayne. A reception followed at the Key Biscayne Yacht Club. Internment was to be in St. Louis.

Tom's family and friends followed our piper, Bob Ritchie, into St. Agnes Church , Key Biscayne and filled the Church. Tom's daughters recited the readings and the U.S. Army servicemen presented the flag from the coffin to them. Following the service, everyone joined the reception at the Key Biscayne Yacht Club. Among the Emeralds were: Robert Meyer, Pat Duffy, Bill Gregory, Bill O'Brien, Bill Owens, Bill and Reata Cassidy, Don Harrington Jr., Joe and Linda Healey, Peter and Bonnie O'Connell, Sean Hayes, Henry and Carmen Kissane, Chris Kelley, Martin Lynch, Ann McShane, Judi Sherry, Hugh Ryan, Frank O'Dowd, Joe and Barbara McManus, Carroll and Billy Cameron, and Dan and Dolores Fitzgerald.

At the wake at Stanfill's the preceding evening, Emeralds attending were: Bill Hartnett, Woody Woodside, Bill Cassidy, John and Dorothy Kane, John Doherty, Ann Eustace, Sean and Thelma Hayes, Peter O'Connell, Richard Welch, Jerry Jones, Mayor Don Slesnick, Oliver and Mary Ann Kerr, Bill O'Brien, Billy Cameron, Pat Novak and Dan Fitzgerald.

An Irish Blessing

May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm about your face.
And the rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the hollow of His hand.

Committee on
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

<http://foreignaffairs.house.gov>
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

March 14, 2011

Sgt. Thomas E. Flynn
The South Florida Emerald Society
PO Box 836225
Miami, FL 33283

Dear Tom:


It is my distinct pleasure to congratulate you on being honored by the Past President's Council of the Emerald Society of South Florida at the Key Biscayne Yacht Club on March 10, 2011.

As an elected public official, I understand the great effort and personal sacrifice that go along with trying to make a difference in our community. Your involvement in the Dade County Irish-American community has been outstanding and I thank you for being so engaged.

Furthermore, your time spent serving your country in the Korean War was an even greater testament to your desire to serve others. Being one of the first American troops sent from occupied Japan to engage the North Korean army, you served your country well and survived despite incredible odds. Your sacrifices for your country are very much appreciated and will never be forgotten. It is people like you, so selfless and brave, who make this country great.

Once again, congratulations on your most recent award. It is the perseverance and compassion of people like you who make me so proud to represent Florida's 18th Congressional District. Your hard work is fundamental in making our community better for years to come. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,


Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress


IRL:lar/sac

PLEASE REPLY TO:
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MIAMI COUNTY
1201 NW 77th St
Miami Beach, Florida
(305) 324-8441

The Last King of Ireland

Dublin

..The Gathering, as they call this year, is a campaign backed by the government and the tourism industry to induce the clamorous clans of Erin to pay a visit here...Yet what should be a year of discovery, a diaspora of 70 million summoned to the home of their not-so-distant ancestors, is clouded by a bittersweet anniversary. Fifty years ago the last king of Ireland, President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, came to the land of his great-grandfather Patrick. A few months later, he was gone, shot by an assassin in Dallas.

...Kennedy was mobbed. Over several days, he delighted a lyrical people with his wit and his one-liners. He charmed old ladies, nuns and schoolgirls. He lifted hearts by his very presence: here was the leader of the free world, the descendant of people who fled a famine that killed a million Irish. To see what time and good fortune had done to produce that youthful leader was to believe that anything was possible.

...The Ireland he toured was the youngest of old countries, an independent nation barely 40 years on, finding its footing after 750 years of British occupation enforced by hangman's noose and cannon.

...The crucifixes are gone from many homes... The belief in government as a force of good has been displaced as well...Once again, the numbers are up regarding the greatest of all Irish exports—people. Since 2008, more than 300,000 have left.

...What remains, in homes and shops and pubs, are pictures of President Kennedy. He is forever frozen at age 46, when the American century was in full flower. ...These days, Kennedy's visage is on posters and pamphlets at the Dublin Airport—an effort to use him to inspire others to help Ireland....Both countries would do well to recall the feeling of doubtless possibility from Kennedy's era.

(Excerpted from "The Last King", Timothy Egan, NY Times, Oct. 20, 2013)



Poetry Corner

An Irish Welcome

'Twas Christmas Eve at St. Mary's and the pastor, Father Gibb

Was watching Michael, the sexton, as he carefully fixed the crib.

The sheep and oxen were standing guard—the straw was neatly piled;

And Mary and Joseph were kneeling, admiring their little child.

The star that guided the Magi flooded the stable with light.

"Tis beautiful, Michael," the pastor said, "It looks like that first Holy Night."

"Ah, faith and I think it is terrible," the sexton replied with a frown,

"The way that our Savior had to be born in that miserable pagan town."

"Sure there isn't an Irishman living, much less is there one in the grave,

From County Derry down to Kerry that'd let him be born in a cave."

"If the Irish were living in Bethlehem, Joseph need not have knocked;

Sure Mary and he could have walked right in, for our doors are never locked."

"And if they had come to my cottage, they'd have found the door full wide—

'Cead mile failte, 'I'd say to them, 'God bless ye and step inside.' "

"I'd shake up the ould turf fire, and make them as warm as could be,

And I'd have my wife, God rest her, make them a pot of tea."

"And if the soldiers of Herod came after the baby, the fakes:

"Me and my neighbors would rout them like Patrick drove out the snakes"

"Tis a pity, Father, I tell ye, without a word of lie,

That there wasn't an Irishman livin', when Joseph and Mary passed by."



December Board Meeting

The Board of Directors will meet at **6:30pm Thursday December 5** at the Miami Yacht Club to make final preparations for Christmas in Ireland and may be followed by a discussion of the St. Patrick's Festival. All Emeralds are welcome.

The South Florida Emerald Society, Inc.

PO Box 836225

Miami, FL. 33283-6225.

Board Appointments

President **Hugh Ryan** has accepted the resignations of **Jeffrey Bailey** and **Donald Slesnick III** and appointed **William O'Brien** as a Director. Our appreciation for all the good work of Jeff and Don; we hope to see you at future events. 7