



December 2020 Newsletter

General Info:

Mail correspondence to:
The Emerald Association of Putnam County
P.O. Box 141
Brewster, NY 10509
www.emeraldapc.com.

General Membership Meeting Schedule

2nd Friday of each month September through June.
at the Trinity Lutheran Church hall located at 2103 Route 6 in Brewster.
December 11th, January 8, 2021, February 12th, March 12th, April 9th, May 14th, June 11th.
Doors open at 7:15pm – meeting starts at 8pm.

Executive Board:

President: Nuala Donnelly 845.494.9460
Vice President: John Shanley 845.590.3052
Treasurer: Margaret O'Reilly 845.225.7375
Correspondence Secretary: Dympna Zazzero 845.278.8271
Recording Secretary: John Molloy 845.628.3056
Membership Secretary: Sally Ann Comparetto 914.924.4331

Board Members:

Bernie Cummins; Jim Dolan; Pauline Killean; Jim Scully; John Simpson; Mary Thorne

News:

- Congratulations to Ed McDowell, Grand Marshal of the 45th Annual Northern Westchester St. Patrick's Day Parade. Information on Ed's installation will be sent out once details are finalized.

- Congratulations to Geraldine Keegan and family on the engagement of her daughter Jaclyn!

- Sending birthday wishes to Tim Thorne who recently celebrated his 75th birthday!

- The match is set...Dublin will play Mayo in the 2020 All Ireland Football Final. Dublin beat Cavan by 15pts and Mayo beat Tipperary by 13pts. Dublin is looking strong and the Mayo defense is looking weak. Could this be the sixth win in a row for Dublin? We will find out on Saturday, December 19th! Up...you choose!!

- Meeting reminders: Refreshments will not be provided at our meetings until further notice. Feel free to bring your own beverage. The church hall requires that you wear a mask and maintain social distancing. Please don't forget to sign the attendance book upon arrival. We hope you join us.

Help needed

The family of Kitty O'Connor, long time member and former Emerald of the Year, are looking for someone trained in wound care to assist with her care at home. Please contact Kitty's daughter-in-law Susan at 914.804.2091 or via email smoal@comcast.net if you know someone who might be interested in helping.

Emerald Association Scholarship 2021

The Application for our 2021 Scholarship is posted on our website and will also be available at our General Membership meetings through February. The application must be submitted by the March meeting with awards chosen at the April meeting.

Feis 2021

We are optimistic that we will be able to hold our Feis in May. We thank Karyn Oster for once again chairing the Feis – remotely from Nashville and in person the weekend of the event. Karyn will be shadowed by Lorraine Sheeran who will take over the reigns in 2022. Our next meeting will be after the General Membership Meeting in January.

Social Media

“Like” our page on Facebook and share it with your friends! If you have content you would like to see posted please pass it along to Nuala Donnelly or Lisa Scully. Comments or suggestions are always welcome.

Dues:

If you are unsure of your membership status, please contact Sally Ann Comparetto: scomparetto@houlihanlawrence.com. \$30 for Family; \$20 Single

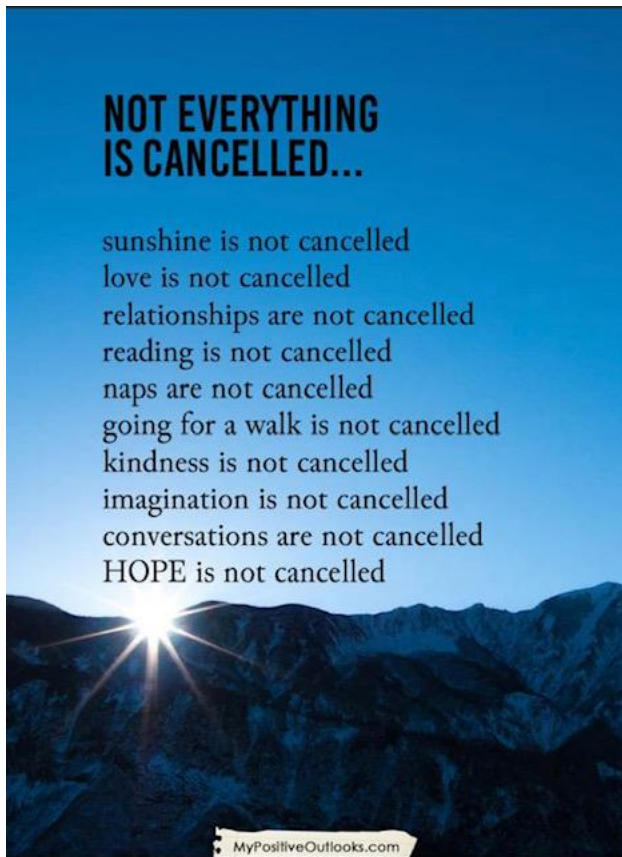
Other:

-All Emerald Association members are invited to help by recruiting family members, friends, co-workers, etc.... to join our organization, and encouraging entrepreneurs, store owners, etc.... to place an ad in our newsletter.

-If you have any news/information regarding our members (engagements/marriages, births, death notices, hospitalized/sick/injured members, etc...) that you would like to be included in the newsletter, please contact John Shanley at jtsconstruction@aol.com.



Please keep in your thoughts and prayers All those working on the front lines and their families during this pandemic: our First Responders, Doctors, Nurses, Women and Men in the Armed Forces, Grocery store and Pharmacy workers.



Please Protect Yourself and Others

Practice Social Distancing:

Even if you feel well, stay at home as much as possible. In public, wear a mask and keep at least 6 feet distance from others. Avoid unnecessary appointments.

Wash Your Hands. Cover Your Cough

Cover your cough and sneezes. Use your elbow or a tissue. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

Take Caution

Take special caution to avoid exposing the elderly and people with underlying health conditions. Avoid visiting those most at risk, call instead. Offer help with groceries and other goods.

Please Patronize our Advertisers:
Ad rates: Member \$30; Non-member \$50 for 10 months

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The Life and Times of Emerald Snow Birds in Florida.

Hello boys and girls and children of all ages.

Christmas is coming and the geese are getting fat.
Please put a penny in the old man's hat.
If you haven't got a penny, a halfpenny will do,
If you haven't got a halfpenny,
May God bless you.

Ahh yes, Christmas is around the corner and all the election stuff is in the history books. Hopefully all will have a peaceful, blessed and enjoyable Christmas season.

This month I will briefly describe what Christmas was like in Ireland in days of yore when I was growing up. The truth be told, there was not that much difference. Santa Claus was just as old back then as he is now. There was less gifting, probably because parents did not have the money to indulge in much shopping, Santa did not have to carry around computers, x-boxes, *I-phones* or *I-pads*. We put lighted candles on the window sills with candle holders made from turnips and decorated with a sprig of holly. We always had a goose for Christmas dinner. Since we did not raise geese, the source of the goose was unpredictable. But we always had one, be it one that my father won in a card game or a gift from an aunt who raised geese.

Since the goose arrived alive, it had to be slaughtered and then prepped for the oven. The feathers were used to stuff a pillow and the pin feathers were burned off to make the skin edible. My mother used to stuff the goose with mashed potatoes that were deliciously spruced up with various spices and vegetables.

A contingent of the family usually went to midnight mass. Who went was determined by the number of bikes and flashlights available? It was too spooky to go out at midnight without a light, especially with all the fairies meandering around. If midnight mass was missed, there was always either first mass, (early mass) or second mass, (late mass), the next day. One of my sisters and myself usually went to first mass. That way the dinner would be ready when the second mass folks got home.

Christmas back then was always a happy time. The neighbors would drop in, in dribs and drabs for a libation, be it, a bottle of Guinness, a glass of port wine or sherry and of course tea and sweet cake. My mother would have baked a number of fruit cakes sometime in December. Back then, the store keepers where most of the grocery shopping was done would give some little gift as a token of appreciation. What was received depended on the generosity of the store keeper and it was usually a bottle of wine, a fruit cake or some rashers and sausages. All much appreciated. No doubt about it, Christmas was much better back then. Less stress and less shopping.

For a change of scenery, Claire and myself spent a week in Hilton Head, South Carolina. We were guests of Claire's sister and husband. They have membership in some vacation club and they invited us to join them.

That is all for now. Keep them cards and letters coming and we will chat again next month. Maybe an Emerald will show up. Otherwise, I will have to pull something from the sky that is both informative and interesting.

God Bless and Merry Christmas. Stay healthy.
Pat Farrell.