

The American Ireland Fund's Emerald Isle Dinner Dance

Photos by: Lucien Capehart Studio.



Kingsley Aikins, Bill Koch, and Tim Rooney

The American Ireland Fund's Emerald Isle Dinner Dance took at The Breakers and marked the organization's 17th season in Palm Beach. Kay and Peter Lyons, and Jackie and Jim Higgins served as Dinner Dance Co-chairmen. This year, The American Ireland Fund honored Palm Beach resident and philanthropist, William I. Koch with the Leadership and Philanthropy Award; and world renowned suspense novel author, Mary Higgins Clark, with its Arts & Letters Achievement Award. Both were recognized at the Dinner Dance.

The evening kicked off with a cocktail reception that concluded with bagpipers and drummers signaling the start of dinner. Kingsley Aikins, the CEO of The American Ireland Fund, welcomed everyone, acknowledged the special guests and thanked the dinner chairmen. He then introduced Jim Higgins, who presented Clark with her award.

Clark, who served as past president and board member of the Mystery Writers of America, has written more than 25 suspense novels, has been awarded eighteen honorary doctorates and numerous literary achievements and awards, was recognized for her accomplishments as an author, humanitarian, philanthropist and a devoted supporter of Ireland. An active advocate and participant in several literacy programs, Clark attributed to her storytelling talents and abilities to her Irish heritage saying, "I have shamrocks on my DNA."

Tim Rooney, a longtime member of The American Ireland Fund Board of Directors, who along with his brothers, owns the Pittsburgh Steelers, the Palm Beach Kennel Club and Yonker's Raceway, presented his son-in-law, Bill Koch, with his award.



Peter and Kay Lyons, John Conheeny, Mary Higgins Clark, Jackie and Jim Higgins



Ian Dorerty, Sheila O'Malley Fuchs, and Joe Fuchs

The mission of The Worldwide Ireland Funds is to be part of the largest worldwide network of people of Irish ancestry and friends of Ireland dedicated to raising funds to support programs of peace and reconciliation, arts and culture, education and community development throughout the island of Ireland. To date, more than \$300 million has been raised for over 1,000 projects across the island of Ireland.

Since its founding in 1976, The AIF has grown to form a thriving network. Today, The Worldwide Ireland Funds are active in 11 countries and on an annual basis hold more than 100 events in 39 cities attended by over 40,000 people.

For information call Carla Capone at (212) 213-1166 or carla@carlacapone.com.



Mia Matthews and Bridgette Koch



Lore Dodge and Tom Quick



Kingsley Aikins, Mary Higgins Clark, and Jim Higgins



Jerry and Darlene Jordan, Michele Kessler, Nancy and Bill Rollnick, & Howard Kessler