



The Richmond Claddagh <http://richmondias.org/>
Newsletter of the Greater Richmond Irish American Society

July 2009

**IT'S CALENDAR MARKING TIME – NOTE –
JUNE, JULY & AUG EVENTS!**

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Thanks to everyone for once again placing your confidence in me to lead the Irish American Society for the next two years.

In order to continue our upward growth and success, we all need to pitch in and work, especially in our tent at the festivals. The same few are sadly doing all of the work. We need new members to volunteer in order to obtain the necessary experience, but we also need the expertise of our long time members to pass their knowledge along to the new ones. In addition, I encourage all members to occasionally attend Board meetings. We are always eager to hear suggestions and ideas for future programs and events. Please feel free to pass along these ideas to me or to any Board member. They will all be considered and voted upon.

I wish to thank all those who have toiled long and hard. Vice-President, Dan Begley has painstakingly scheduled a variety of programs. Our new Treasurer Ann McGehee has provided us with detailed monthly financial reports, which we need and appreciate. Nancy Emig has done an amazing job as our newsletter editor and Membership guru but unfortunately she is being forced to give these up due to time constraints at her job. She has always been an efficient and dedicated member and will be difficult to replace. We have enjoyed a variety of venues scheduled by our Pubmaster Joan Finnegan. Our Secretary, Stephen Gallagher, Awards and Memorials Committee members Larry David, Frank Hardy and Jim Bandeleian have performed their duties admirably. I want to especially thank Karon Bell who has taken away the stress and worry of our Special Events planning. She has been well trained by our previous events chair, Sonya Moore. Karon is always prepared with everything necessary, on the job bright and early and always staying late until the location is spotlessly clean. Thanks also to Denis Maguire who 'herded' the IAS marchers in the St. Patrick's Parade and bravely tackled the job of trying to teach us the Irish language. And finally, our special thanks to Doug Elder and Jim Bandeleian for providing and maintaining our excellent IAS website. [Richmond IAS](http://richmondias.org/)

To all others, please accept my deepest gratitude for making the Irish American Society a viable and dominant force in the Celtic community.

Gloria J. Cahen,
President
June 14 2009

THE JUNE 25th MEETING: Take the night off and come to the IAS Movie Night – Featuring the 1994 film,

“The Secret of Roan Inish”

Come to the Boulevard United Methodist Church, 321 N. Blvd. Richmond and enjoy a wonderful Irish movie with a great story and full of beautiful scenery. There is plenty of parking around the church and it's very easy to get to – it's right across the street from the Virginia Museum between Hanover and Stuart. We'll be down in the basement room – the Social starts about **6:30** or so with the movie/program to start around 7:00 or so. Try and come early to meet and get acquainted with your fellow members. Then sit back and enjoy the movie about a treasured Irish legend. Guests are welcome.

JUNE 27th PUB SUPPER: Pubmaster Joan Finnegan has scheduled the July pub supper at O'Toole's 4800 Forest Hill Ave, Richmond 23225 (804-233-1781). Come at 6:30 or so to enjoy some social time – and then its Pub Grub time! Again, Joan has arranged for a special \$1.00 off Guinness for our IAS members.

AND PLEASE – as OK'd by O'Tooles, any of our musically talented IAS members are free (and encouraged) to **bring your instruments and join in a hoped for session in O'Toole's new Music Hall. Also, per Joan, if our members know non-members who might like to come and play or just get the feel of an IAS pub night - they are welcome to invite their friends to join us. O'Toole's is smoke free and we always have a great time there. This link www.otoolesrestaurant.com will give you directions, the menu and the chance to sign up to receive O'Toole's coupons and event notices.**

If you can – **PLEASE** Contact Joan by June **25th** with a count so that O'Toole's is prepared for the “crowd” with plenty of good and drink. j.finn@hotmail.com or 804-840-0080

Saturday July 25th THE JULY PUB SUPPER: 6:30 **Rare Olde Times-** Busy Joan has also arranged the July Pub Supper and also another Guinness special for us (\$1 off each)!. ROT – truly Irish and truly fun. There's a band on Saturday nights – but it starts later [Rare Olde Times](http://RareOldeTimes.com) (click the link for menus and directions. 10602 Patterson Ave -- (804) 750-1346. Please call Joan by 07/23/09 so we can give ROT a count to arrange seating and supplies – don 't want to run short of Guinness!

July 23rd THE JULY MEETING: Tuckahoe library 6:30 social and meeting start at 7:00. This is a repeat of an earlier **hugely** popular IAS meeting program –“Irish Poetry Night”. Members are asked to bring - their personal favorite poem or any sample of Irish poetry. Remember – Irish blessings, Irish songs, etc can be considered examples of the poetry that is the Irish language. If you’d prefer, you can even share some interesting insight into one of Ireland’s favorite poets. Come join us, listen, contribute, or just enjoy learning more about your heritage and culture. Guests are always welcome. The library is located at 1700 N Parham Road. Henrico, VA 23229 (804) 270-5543. If you have a question, call Dan Begley 8040-740-5631. www.co.henrico.va.us To [get directions](#)



4th of July Fun – IAS Members Frank & Pam Hardy (and apparently Uncle Sam too) extend an invitation to **all IAS** members to the Hardys 4th of July picnic/cookout at their home - 15254 Clazemont Road, Montpelier VA. . Sadly, no town fireworks this year, but this is an old fashioned laid-back get together that the Hardy’s host every year. Directions, address and a link to a map are on the calendar at the end of the newsletter. **Please BYOB, Dish to share, chairs and Bug Spray. 6:00 till 9:00**

THE AUGUST 13th IAS MEETING – Bon Air Library: Did you know that an Irishman was responsible for saving the lives of thousands of Jews, civilians and Allied soldiers during the Second World War? Well, join us for another IAS movie night on **AUGUST 13th** and you’ll find out about this Irish hero.

IAS Member Kathy Donovan lent us her copy of the Emmy Award winning film "The Scarlet and the Black" starring Gregory Peck. **Please get to the library by 6:00 or as soon as possible thereafter –This movie is a little over 2 hrs, so we have to start a bit earlier than normal so that we can show the entire movie.** [Bon Air Library www.co.chesterfield.va.us](http://www.co.chesterfield.va.us) - 9103 Rattlesnake Road –off Buford Rd., Richmond, 23235 (804) 320-2461. Click here to [Get directions](#). Remember - Guests are Always Welcome

THE ELECTIONS OF 2009: The Election Slate is approved! Gloria Cahen remains the President for the next 2 years and Dan Begley remains the Vice-President for the same term. We say goodbye and thanks to Jim Kelly and in his place, we welcome new Board Member, Kathryn O’Meara. Congratulations all and – Now Back To Work, - The lot of Ya! ☺.

THE IAS PICNIC: Many thanks to Pat and Helen Burke for again hosting our annual IAS picnic-truly one of the best! Thanks to all who came & we were especially happy to see our newest members make it to their 1st picnic. Tom and Pat Moloney, Neil & Janet Brussard, Gerry Cassidy (who sadly came without Guinevere but with his Mandolin and played with the band! (Sorry you were busy ‘Guin’). One of our newer members – Helen Rogers couldn’t come, but her folks Larry and Marian came and joined the IAS that very day! Again this year, member Dan Quinlan won the distance award – coming from upstate New York. Thanks also to our cooks, Carmel Miney and Pam Hardy who outdid themselves on the cooking job! Kudos also go to Karon Bell for her efforts in having everything at the ready for us. **Great Job!**

The Band: How lucky we were – the Burke’s made arrangements for some folks from Longwood – Frank Howe, Vicki Williams and Dave Ottinger, who make up the Irish band ‘Traditional Voices’ – and what a great group they were. The music was WONDERFUL! If you enjoyed the music – you can send Frank a note here fjhowe@peoplepc.com

Irish Road Bowlers: Well – who knew how much fun this would be? Dave Powell and Martin Twohig from the West Virginia Irish Road Bowlers came to tell us about the ancient Irish sport. They went over the rules, the bowling styles, the how to and the why and then took some of our athletes down to the road for a trial run. What a hoot! Before they knew it, they had road-bowled almost back to Route 360! They all looked pretty tired, but still smiley when they got back to the picnic. Contact Joan F. if you are interested in a team.

Joan got this email from Dave - We had so much fun with all the Richmond folks on Sunday! Please let Pat and Helen Burke know how much we appreciated their hospitality. As you know we are hosting the best Irish Road bowlers in the USA at the National Championships in Ireland West Virginia on August 7, 8, and 9. If any Richmond players want to come up for the contests, they would be seeing the best. Thanks again Joan, we hope to visit again. Dave- Email your questions to WDP320@aol.com or Phone -202-387-1680.



Durn—The bowlers needed this sign on Burke’s road!

The Richmond Irish in the St. Pat's Parade: Perhaps the 2010 contingent of IAS marchers in the St. Patrick's Festival Parade in Richmond will see our own Finn McCool joined by other famous figures from the pages of Irish History. Jim Bandleian has long suggested that a great addition to the festival's parade would be a contest for the best Irish costumed character – historical or fictional – and Gloria Cahen has taken steps to help members get involved in just that. Members are invited to come in costumes that relate to famous Irish figures – historical or fictional – from any time period. Gloria Cahen contacted two of our members for assistance in researching costumes associated with historical figures: Kathy Donovan for her knowledge of Irish historical figures and Colleen Callahan for her background in period clothing and costumes. Neither will create the costumes, but they can offer some insights on both the character and what would have been the dress of that period.

More information will be coming on this, but for now – just think of the possibilities – Grace O'Malley, Queen Maeve, Saint Brigid, those Irish monks of "Book of Kells" fame or St. Brendan the Voyager (the true discoverer of North America?) Cuchulainn, Brian Boru, Wolf Tone, Michael Collins and the list goes on.



(Finn McCool—currently oldest living Mythical Irish hero and a proud IAS member)

Hi Nancy- Just thought you might want to pass along this (sad) news so members can take advantage. Aer Lingus released a press statement about discontinuing service out of Dulles after mid October. This is a shame as it is so much more convenient (and less costly) than "Jet Blueing" up to Boston or New York to go to the Olde Sod! I don't know if the media has picked up on it yet but thought I would give everyone a heads up so if they are thinking of traveling to Ireland, this might speed up their plans. Who knows, maybe if there is an upsurge in business, Aer Lingus might reconsider.

By the way, my son who just graduated from college has taken a job with Aer Lingus at Dulles! He has his private license, but hopes to be a commercial pilot working for Aer Lingus! So if anyone is at Dulles and you see a tall red head checking you in, say hello and let him know you are an IAS member. Best regards. **Bob McCarthy**

Truly – One for the History Books: Did you ever get the urge to toast an Irishman who fought in the Battle of the Little Bighorn in Montana in 1876? Hey more than that - did you know that you have your choice of sides?

In this famous battle, George Custer and his 7th Calvary unit were wiped out by a force of Sioux and Cheyenne Indians. One of the officers serving under Custer was Capt. Myles Keogh, a native of County Kilkenny, Ireland. Keogh had plans to return to Ireland after the pesky Sioux were subdued, but like Custer and the approximately 250 other men of his unit, he died at Little Bighorn. A Sioux chief named Red Horse is said to have called Keogh the bravest man he ever fought against.

And like all Good Stories – There is a Twist - On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Little Bighorn, in June 1976, Capt. Keogh was the subject of a newspaper story in an Irish newspaper, the Dublin Evening Herald. The Irish Press of Dublin also had a story about a Little Bighorn participant, but this time with a surprise ending. The Press found relatives of a man named Eoin O'Cathail, who said that O'Cathail had not only fought in the Little Bighorn River battle, but had survived the fight because he was on the side of the Indians!

The Press account said that O'Cathail was from Templeglantine in County Limerick. He emigrated to the US in the 1860s and became a farmer in Michigan. Later he developed an interest in Indian problems and he went west to join the Sioux tribe under Sitting Bull. He is supposed to have lived on to the mid-1920s.



An **Irishman**, an Englishman and a beautiful girl are riding together in the same train car. The train goes through a tunnel and it gets completely dark. Suddenly there is a kissing sound and then a slap!

The train comes out of the tunnel. The woman and the Irishman are sitting there looking perplexed. The Englishman is bent over holding his face, which is red from an apparent slap.

The Englishman is thinking, "Damn it. That Mick must have tried to kiss the girl, she thought it was me and slapped me."

The girl is thinking, "That Englishman must have moved to kiss me, and kissed the Irishman instead and got slapped."

The Irishman is thinking, "If this train goes through another tunnel, I could make another kissing sound and slap that Englishman again!! (Patrick Dennis)

Irish Wisdom -You can't kiss an Irish girl unexpectedly. You can only kiss her sooner than she thought you would.

THE GLENS OF ANTRIM One of the most beautiful areas that Mary Rose and I visited in Ireland would be the Glens of Antrim (*Gleannta Aontroma*) or, simply, the **Glens**, or **Antrim Mountains**. This is a region of County Antrim, Northern Ireland, comprising nine glens, or valleys, that radiate from the Antrim Plateau to the coast. The inhabitants of the several glens are descended primarily from native Irish and Hebridean Scots. The Glens are an area of outstanding natural beauty and are a major tourist attraction in north Antrim. Principal towns in the Glens are [Ballycastle](#), [Cushendun](#), [Cushendall](#), [Waterfoot](#) and [Carnlough](#). The Glens are:

- Glentaisie - - - - - Glen of Princess Taisie
- Glendun - - - - - Glen of the Dun River or Brown Glen
- Glenshesk - - - - - Glen of the sedges or reeds
- Glencorp - - - - - Glen of the dead
- Gleanaan- - - - - Glen of the proverb or Blue Glen
- Glenballyeamon - - Glen of Edwardstown
- Glenariff - - - - - Glen of the plough or arable glen
- Glencloy - - - - - Glen of the stone ditches or dyke
- Glenarm - - - - - Glen of the army

Glenravel is often called a tenth glen, although it is not officially a Glen because it does not open directly onto the sea. It lies to the southwest of Glenballyeamon and Glenariff being separated by the Glenariff forest park.

The Glens of Antrim are naturally unique – within twenty or so square miles you can enjoy a variations in natural landscape that includes glacial valleys, sandy beaches, vertical cliffs, tundra plateau, wooded glens, waterfalls and picturesque villages. Ancient sites and places of intrigue abound - it is well worth taking a couple of days, investing in a standard ordnance map and go exploring the small roads that weave throughout the Glens. From Ballycastle you ascend up to Ballyvoy - here you have a choice of two roads. The more narrow, winding but extremely beautiful and spectacular Torr Scenic Road which will take you past the small lanes leading to Fair Head, Murlough Bay and Torr Head itself. The road then follows the coast at an altitude which allows you to enjoy some wonderful views across to Scotland and the Mull of Kintyre; the road passes the ancient cashel of Altagore and descends past Carra Castle into Cushendun. The other route follows the main Antrim Coast Road through Ballypatrick Forest Park and past Loughareema - the vanishing lake. At the highest point of the road you will get a superb panoramic view over Glendun, Glencorp, Gleanaan, Glenballyyemon and Glenariff before descending into Glendun and over the famous Charles Lanyon viaduct bridge - this is well worth seeing as it is a classic example of bridge design and construction dating to 1832. The road continues through Castle Green where the Cushendun road rejoins and takes you through the length of Glencorp and into Cushendall. Information from - www.northerntrim.com/abouttheglens



It's so gorgeous – it's even pretty from the window of our moving bus!

This information is from two wonderful websites with lots of photos, videos, with general and historical information about the Glens. If you don't have a computer at home, you can take the newsletter to the library and use their computers to access these sites for free – and you can enjoy a “trip” to Ireland.

<http://www.antrimhistory.net/index.php>

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – Click on links in calendar and you can hear song selections from the artists
 And ALWAYS click the link directly below to get the latest updates on upcoming events
<http://richmondias.org/index.php?content=upcoming>

<p>June 25th – IAS Monthly Meeting – Blvd Movie starts at 7 or so. Come early 6:30 –or so for a “Social” before</p>	<p>Movie Night – Featuring the 1994 film, “The Secret of Roan Inish”. “Between Land &* Sea – There is a Place Where Myths are Real”. Come to the Boulevard United Methodist Church 321 N. Blvd. Richmond and find out what “That’s All About”! Social starts about 6:30 or so with the program to start around 7:00 or so. Try and come early to meet and greet your fellow members, then sit back and enjoy a beautiful Irish movie.</p>
<p>June 27th – IAS Pub Supper – Come at 6:30 or join us when you can.</p>	<p>O'Toole's Restaurant, 4800 Forest Hill Ave, 23225 804-233-1781- There is Special \$1.00 off Guinness for IAS. AND PLEASE our musically talented IAS members – bring your instruments and join in the O’Toole approved Irish Music Jam in their new Music Hall - O’Toole’s is smoke free and we always have a great time there. This link will give you directions, the menu and the chance to sign up to receive coupons and event notices.</p>
<p>June 28th – IAS Board Meeting – 7:00 pm</p>	<p>IAS Board of Directors meeting. All IAS Board meetings are open to the general membership of the Society and members are invited to attend and bring suggestions and ideas. Meetings start at 7pm. Agenda items may be presented to the Board by notifying the President in writing not less than 7 days before a Board meeting. For directions to attend or to present an item for the agenda, contact President Gloria Cahen, 804-233-2113</p>
<p>June 30th Dogwood Dell Main Stage 12:30 FREE Concert</p>	<p>Free Concert – Eve Watters – Celtic Harp and Stories - With Celtic harp, storytelling, and an array of instruments; Eve Watters celebrates timeless tradition with new spirit and sparkling style, to resonate with all ages. Tales-with-a-twist interlace with ancient airs, songs in a dozen languages, and historic harps, Native-style flute, concertina, banjo, autoharp, pennywhistle or dulcimer.</p>
<p>July 4th 15254 Clazemont Road (map) Montpelier, VA 6 pm – 9pm</p>	<p>Frank & Pam extend an invitation to all IAS members to the Hardy annual 4th picnic/cookout. Take Rte 33 to end (Valero) left @ 2 miles, past pharmacy, bank and PO, take nest left at old school (Rte 715 Oilville) go past ball field, 1st house on left – White frame RSVP – 883-6230. No town fireworks this year. ☺ BYOB, dish to share, chair & bug spray</p>
<p>July 6 & 20th Williamsburg Irish Session</p>	<p>Barnes Noble, 345 Duke of Gloucester St, Williamsburg in the W&M college bookstore (757-564-0687). This is an Irish traditional music session. Planned for the 1st & 3rd Mondays of every month. – 7-9 pm Newcomers who know the music and keep up with intermediate to fast tempo – YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN IN!!!</p>
<p>July 8th & 22nd Irish Session 8pm – 10 pm Rosie Connolly’s</p>	<p>Rosie Connolly's Pub & Restaurant – 1548A East Main Street, Richmond Faces the 17th Street Farmers Market Next to Havana 59 restaurant 804-343-1063 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 8-10 p.m. or 11 p.m. or so...All Irish musicians invited and welcome!</p>
<p>July 10, 2009 VCU Concert Hall Celtic Concert with Maggie Sansone & Friends \$10</p>	<p>Celtic Concert with Maggie Sansone, Paul Oorts on mandolin and harp-guitar; Rob Greenway on Irish flute & guitar and Matt Bell on bodhran & percussion. VCU Guitar and Other Strings Series. Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall, W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts, 922 Park Ave, Richmond, VA 23284. General admission: \$10.For Information - 804 828-1166. Click to hear her music More info http://www.vcu.edu/arts/music/dept/events/strings.html</p>
<p>July 11, ‘09 5:30 –7:30 Long street Deli Petersburg, VA Celtic Session</p>	<p>Longstreet’s welcomes all levels of players – OF CELTIC MUSIC. All are welcome – Directions from I-95 Petersburg Exit 52 (Downtown/Washington Street/Wythe Street) Follow signs toward Washington Street Turn right on Washington Street (US 460 West) Turn right on Sycamore Street</p>
<p>July 18th & Aug 1st Old Time & Celtic Jam</p>	<p>Saturday, July 4 2009 12:00pm - 4:00pm Java Jodi's Coffee Café – 2918 West River Road, Goochland 15 miles west of Route 288 and Route 6 (Patterson Avenue) Info at 804-556-7979 1st, 3rd, and 5th Saturdays, noon to 4 p.m.</p>

July 21st - Dogwood Dell Ha'Penny Stage Free Show!	Jonathan Austin - Long time IAS Member and World Class Juggler/Entertainer – appears at 4 pm – He gives a great show and is a super crowd pleaser. Give yourself and any kiddies you know a treat by going to see his performance. For Info call 804-646-DELL.
July 23rd – IAS Meeting Irish Poetry/Poets Tuckahoe Library - 6:30 pm social – 7 pm Meeting	A repeat of an earlier hugely popular IAS meeting program - Irish Poetry. Members are asked to bring their personal favorite, or a sample of Irish poetry. Remember – Irish blessings, Irish songs, etc can be considered examples of the poetry that is the Irish language. Come join us – contribute, listen and enjoy. 1700 N Parham Rd. Henrico, VA 23229 (804) 270-5543 www.co.henrico.va.us Get directions
July 25th 6:30 Pub Supper Rare Olde Times	Rare Olde Times, 10608 Patterson Ave., Richmond, Virginia 23238. 804-750-1346 http://www.rareoldetimespub.com/ - Guinness special for IAS Members! They have a band on Saturday night – but- that starts later -Call Joan 804-840-0080 with your count so she can reserve our IAS “area”!
Aug 3rd & 17th Williamsburg Irish Session	Barnes Noble, 345 Duke of Gloucester St, Williamsburg in the W&M college bookstore (757-564-0687). This is an Irish traditional music session. Planned for the 1 st & 3 rd Mondays of every month. – 7-9 pm Newcomers who know the music and keep up with intermediate to fast tempo – YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN IN!!!
August 13th – Bon Air Library – IAS Meeting come at 6:30 Bon Air Library – 9103 Rattlesnake Rd., Richmond, 23235 804-320-2461 – For directions	The Emmy Award winning movie –“ The Scarlet & The Black ” based on the true story of Irish Hero - Monsignor Hugh O’Flaherty born in County Kerry. Fr. Hugh O’Flaherty was a Vatican official in 1943-45 working to help the victims of the Nazis. His diplomatic status in a Catholic country prevented his arrest, but he became the target of the Nazis in other ways. Based on a true story, the movie stars Gregory Peck, Christopher Plummer, Sir John Gielgud (and T.P. McKenna of County Cavan). – The movie is a little over 2 hours so please come on time and we’ll start the showing as soon as possible and will (hopefully) schedule a short intermission. 804-320-2461
Irish Festival Blackthorne Inn, in Upperville, Virginia, Sept. 6th	The Prodigals, Solas an Irish American band playing traditional tunes, The Dublin City Ramblers, Pittsburgh based Ceann Shannon Lambert-Ryan & RUNA, an Irish Dance stage, & kids activities http://www.theirishfestival.com/bands.htm
Sept. 11, 12 & 13th Pittsburgh PA Irish Festival	Scythain, Gaelic Storm and more Irish music – Vendors, Sunday Mass, Pittsburgh PA Irish Festival/

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CONTACT INFORMATION FOR NEW IAS BOARD MEMBERS