



Please- this year make and keep a New Years resolution to become more involved with your IAS. Come to the monthly program meetings, submit an item to the newsletter, call and volunteer to help on a committee or an event - or call IAS President, Gloria Cahen (804-233-2113) with an idea or a suggestion for a program or activity for the group. We need the support of all our members to keep the Society growing.

And with those sentiments – we set off for new Irish adventures in 2009. The first business is to thank all of our members that were able to make it to the Annual Irish Christmas Party. This year’s winner of the IAS MVP Award was Frank Hardy. Kudos to Frank and grateful thanks from the IAS for his hard work in support of the Society. Again this year, the Silent Auction was a great success and there were many happy faces walking away with goodies. Thanks to those from the IAS, Scottish Society and St. Andrew’s who donated goodies for the auction and those tasty treats they brought too! And thanks also to our happy customers at the auction! All of you, keep a thought for next years auction – and if you see a little something – put it away for a donation for the Christmas 2009 party. All the proceeds go to help the IAS with expenses. Finally – and most importantly - thanks to Special Events Chair, Karon Bell for all her hard work in planning and setting up the party. To all of you silent volunteers that helped set up and take down - thank you too!

JANUARY IAS MEETING: Vice-President and Program Chair, Dan Begley has a great program scheduled to kick off our 2009 schedule. 45 years ago in June 1963 President John F. Kennedy visited Ireland, his ancestral homeland - just 5 short months before his assassination. The presentation is a short movie on this trip and highlights the people and places encountered in his tour – Dublin, Wexford (the county of his Great-grandfather), Cork, Galway and Limerick.

The program is Jan. 15th at Bon Air Library ([click for directions](#)) 9103 Rattlesnake Rd Richmond, VA 23235 (804) 320-2461 (It’s Just off Buford Road in Chesterfield Co.) **Meet at 6:30 to socialize and movie starts at 7:00.** As always, visitors are welcome. Mark your calendars now – you don’t want to forget!

As you might know, our IAS Pub Master, Ed Mayers, was forced to bow out of his IAS duties as both PM and Board member due to an increase in his work schedule. First, we want to thank Ed for his efforts in planning fun nights and getting us all together. And second, we want to welcome our

new Pub Master. Joan Finnegan has graciously stepped up to take over Ed’s duties as Pub Mistress Her first planned pub night is all set and she sent me all the details listed below. Let’s all try and attend and get our Irish 2009 off to a good start! Hope to see you there!

JANUARY PUB NIGHT: From Joan - Contrary to popular opinion, a seven-course Irish meal does not consist of a potato and a six-pack" (*from -The Little Green Book of Blarney-The Importance of Being Irish*) and to prove that – we’ve got our first Pub Supper of 2009 planned for you.

Date: Saturday, January 17th

Place: O’Toole’s Pub 4800 Forest Hill Ave.

Time: Gather around 6:00 P.M (it’s ok to come later too). The music starts early with Glen Crone leading a sing-a-long of old fashioned Irish songs from 6:30 to 7:30. Email Joan at j.finn@hotmail.com or call her at 804-840-0080. We need a final count by **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14TH** to make reservations. This is the first IAS pub night of the New Year! (O’Toole’s is a smoke free Pub too)

The Irish pub is a place to get together with friends and talk and tell stories - enjoy a night of laughter and maybe even a song! The IAS members attending our pub nights and the atmosphere they create - provide the Irish craic so; if you have a favorite place, or if you know a unique spot that you would like to try, please let me (Joan) know. I would love for some Irish connection to the place (liquid refreshment or food item i.e., Guinness, Harp, Corned Beef and Cabbage etc.), and also that it is a facility that will provide separate checks. Then we will give it a go! I look forward to hearing from everyone with your ideas and suggestions. Thanks! Joan j.finn@hotmail.com-or call me at 804-840-0080

IRISH GAELIC CLASSES: Dan Begley has asked us to let the membership know that one of our favorite Irish fellas, Denis Maguire has agreed to lead another class of Irish Gaelic lessons for our IAS members. Those attending last time had great fun and you can too! More information coming once we can determine the level of interest. Tentative start schedule is April 2009 **but that will be based on interest and response from the membership.** Please call Dan at 804-740-5631 or email him at dbegley55@hotmail.com

....Please don’t put it off – call or email Dan now to let him know I you are interested in the class.



The IAS lost a treasured friend and long time member with the passing of "Our Hutch" in December. So often at our Irish story nights, his booming voice and colorful stories would fill the hall and provide such fun. We'll miss his affection for the IAS, his Irish stories, that booming Actor's voice and above all his love for all things Irish.

May he Rest In Peace

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam

[View a video tribute to Hutch](#)



HUTCHINSON, William R "Hutch," has made his exit stage left from his Earthly stage. He was born April 25, 1931 and died December 11, 2008" He is survived by his daughter and son-in law, Diane and Steve Ratcliffe; his grandchildren, Katherine, Kristoffer and Kayleigh; and his beloved dog, Kerry. Hutch is also survived by his sisters, Barbara,

Helene and Peggy; his daughter-in-law, Pat; and good friend, Chris. Hutch was "Mr. Boys Club" and was Executive Director of various Boys Clubs from 1947 to 2000. With his late wife, Gloria, he began the Richmond International Food Festival. Hutch founded the Experiential Theatre, and was planning to start a young person's magic guild. A prominent part of the Richmond Theater for over 30 yrs – his roles included Big Daddy in "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" and Willie Loman in "Death of A Salesman". (Can't you just picture it?) He loved the arts, unicorns and traveling, especially to Ireland. He graced many people, friends and children with his love, patience and guidance. In lieu of flowers, help make a child smile.

(Adapted from the Richmond Times Dispatch article)

Irish High Crosses are freestanding, monumental crosses (sometimes up to 17 feet high) and are associated with many of the early medieval monasteries of Ireland. Remnants of more than 200 of these so-called high crosses remain, often with several at the same site, and it appears that repetition of design was apparently avoided. Although they are found in Great Britain, the style is characteristically Irish. Some are relatively plain; others are decorated with abstract ornament (Celtic interlace and spirals, geometric patterns, inhabited vines, and entangled figures). The most sophisticated have panels with figural sculpture on Christian themes. These, however, do not "illustrate" the Bible; rather, the stories were chosen for their symbolic meaning (especially the Crucifixion and Christ's Passion) or their typological significance (stories from the Old Testament which foreshadowed events associated with Christ). The iconographic sources include early Christian art (especially manuscript illumination), Coptic Egyptian art (textiles), and animal motifs from the Near East and Migration period art and artifacts. Most of the crosses were made of various types

of sandstone, which is somewhat easy to carve. Today many are in an eroded state with details barely discernible.

Typical form: These high crosses often consisted of separate pieces of stone--a massive block serving as the base, a shaft and ringed cross head which fit into the socket at the base, and a cap (sometimes a miniature house with a gabled roof) from a smaller piece of stone. Some taller crosses used an additional joint just below the ring. The mortise and tenon system, reminiscent of carpentry, was used to join the separate pieces. The ring is a distinctive feature--or the circle intersected cross, and within the arcs are sometimes small rolls. Some art historians believe the rings were introduced as a method of support for the cross arms since the lower sections can provide reinforcement. Others point out that the circle, or wreath, was a symbol of triumph, used in the 4th-5th century in Roman and Early Christian art. The ring would have been difficult to carve; sometimes the ring was left as a solid block.

This famous high cross, the so-called Muiredach Cross, is at Monasterboice, County Louth, Ireland.



From IAS member Kathleen Donovan - "In the last issue of "Ireland of the Welcomes", there is an article on the Dublin Philharmonic saying that it will "Storm America" in 2009 with a 49 city coast to coast tour. The orchestra was curtailed at the outbreak of WWII and reconstituted under Music Director Derek Gleeson. Gleeson states that it puts together the finest of Irish and European orchestral musicians with Irish and international soloists. The program in Charlottesville is billed as "A Celtic Spectacular" An Evening of Celtic/Traditional and Contemporary Irish Music" and one of the musicians is regarded as the leading string banjoist in Irish Traditional music today. The website is www.dublinphilharmonic.com The entire itinerary is listed as a link...one of the venues is in Charlottesville and others scattered geographically close enough for us to consider. Thank you for passing this on. We're going to try for tickets at the Paramount in Charlottesville in early February. Kathy (See more on Events Calendar)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – Click on links in calendar and you can hear song selections from the artists

And ALWAYS click the links below to get the latest updates on upcoming events

<http://richmondias.org/events.php> or for a full month calendar of current events click here. [IAS Calendar](#)

Jan 3rd, 17th 31st	Java Jodi's Coffee Café – Old Time and Celtic Slow Jam, 2918 West River Road, Goochland - 1st, 3rd, and 5th Saturdays, noon to 4 p.m.
January 10 th – Saturday Seven Nations at Dublin's in Mechanicsville	Several of our IAS members are also members of the St. Andrew's Legion Pipes & Drums and they will be opening for Seven Nations at Dublin's in Mechanicsville – 7526 Mechanicsville Turnpike -804-723-5582 for directions and time. Dublin's is under new management – so don't know if it's still Irish themed, but know that many of our members like Seven Nations and St. Andrew's!
Jan 10th	Longstreet's Deli – Celtic Slow Jam 302 North Sycamore Street, Petersburg (corner of West Bank & North Sycamore Streets) 2nd Saturday in January, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
January 11th - IAS Board Meeting Members Welcome	IAS Board meeting – 7:00 at President Gloria Cahen's home. All IAS members are welcome to attend any Board meeting. Please call 804-233-2113 for directions or with any questions or suggestions for the Board.
January 14th & 28th	Rosie Connolly's Pub & Restaurant – Irish Session 1548A East Main Street, Richmond 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 8-10 p.m. or 11 p.m. or so
January 15th IAS Program Meeting Visitors Welcome! Bon Air Library - Gather at 6:30 to meet & greet and the "show" will start at 7:00	IAS Monthly Meeting at the Bon Air Library. The presentation will be a short movie on the visit of President John F. Kennedy to Ireland in 1963. (This is the 45th Anniversary of that visit. Highlights will include the people and places included in his tour. Mark your calendars! 9103 Rattlesnake Rd Richmond, VA 23235(804) 320-2461 (Just off Buford Road. Meet at 6:45 to socialize and movie starts at 7:00
January 17th IAS PUB SUPPER – O'Toole's – Forest Hill Meet around 6:00 or when you can make it.	Date: Saturday, January 17TH Place: O'Toole's Irish Pub 4800 Forest Hill Avenue 804-233-1781 Time: Gather around 6:00 P.M.(ok to join us later too!) The music starts early with Glen Crone leading a sing-a-long of old fashioned Irish songs. Please email Joan Finnegan j.finn@hotmail.com or call Joan at 804-840-0080 to let her know how many are coming. We need a final count by WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14TH to make reservations so that we can be seated as a group..
January 20th 7pm Celtic Crossroads	Tickets: \$25 - an emerging group of traditional Irish musicians Incorporating seven world-class musicians, playing over twenty instruments on stage. (Senior citizen (65+) discount: \$2 off ticket price – Discount for Groups of 20 & over.) Box Office: 804-261-ARTS (2787) The Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen, 2880 Mountain Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060. (Located in northern Henrico County between Staples Mill Road and Woodman Road, just south of 295). http://www.artsglenallen.com/ca_directions.htm
Jan 31, 2008 – 8 pm Richmond Folk Music	Phil Cooper and Margaret Nelson describe what they do as "Strong Old Music" and sometimes as "songs of love, sex, greed, betrayal, death, revenge and more death". - The result is a lively and entertaining concert with something for everyone. They have a planned tribute to Robert Burns and also a heavy helping of Irish tunes. You can visit Phil and Margaret's Myspace Page to listen to samples of their music. Richmond Folk Music at the Congregation Or Ami, 9400 West Huguenot Road, Richmond, Virginia. Tickets \$12.00 in Advance \$15.00 at door Phone: 804-647-7856
Monday, Feb 9th -8 pm The Dublin Philharmonic Orchestra. Paramount Theater Charlottesville, VA.	Celtic Program: Casey: "In Spirit" (Uilleann Pipe soloist), Cassidy: "Aughrim Suite" (Uilleann Pipe Soloist), Cassidy: Aria from "Deirdre of the Sorrows" (Soprano Soloist), Whelan: Double Violin Concerto "Inishlacken" (Classical Violin and Traditional Fiddle Soloists). Arrangements by Carl Hession (for Traditional Fiddle Soloist), Bardinerie - 1920's Jig, Queen of Sheba Gala Performance featuring Traditional Irish Instrumentalists, Vocalist, and Symphony Orchestra in works specially commissioned and arranged by leading Irish Composers for the occasion Tickets on Sale NOW! \$33.50 - \$36.50 - \$39.50 - \$44.50 215 East Main Street, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902 Box Office: 434.979.1333 Administrative Office: 434.979.1922 Email: info@theparamount.net

<p>February 17th</p>	<p>To keep the Spirit of St. Patrick's Day alive - O'Toole's Irish Restaurant & Pub holds an Irish Sing a long on the 17th of every month from 7:00pm till 8:30pm – it's located at 4800 Forest Hill Ave. Richmond, VA 23225</p>
<p>February 28th Richmond Folk Music In Concert – Southern Horizon (featuring IAS member – John Robison.</p> <p>Tickets \$12.00 advance/\$15.00 at door</p> <p>Doors Open 7:15 pm Concert – 8:00 pm</p> <p>Congregation Or Ami, 9400 West Huguenot Road, Richmond, Virginia 23235</p>	<p>Widely considered to be one of the finest groups on the East Coast specializing in authentic music of the 19th Century, with special emphasis on the Civil War era, Richmond based Southern Horizon has firmly established its reputation over more than twenty years of performing at concert venues, reenactments, museum, schools, and period dances. The band performs in costume, using instruments and arrangements similar to what would have been found in the mid 1800's. But these songs and tunes are not treated like museum relics! Each piece is arranged and performed with spirit and verve. The music is drawn on the traditions of the people who played it: Scottish, Irish and English influences combine with the turbulence, joy and sadness of this period in American history.</p> <p>Featuring IAS Member and Southern Horizon Founding Member - John Robison on Vocals, banjo, guitar, autoharp, pennywhistle and harmonica. John's musical career began in the folk boom of the 1960's in the coffeehouses in and around Washington, D.C. He is experienced as a solo performer and with folk, country and bluegrass groups. John also performs with the Irish music duo Turf Fire.</p> <p>Hope you'll c'mon out and support our fellow IAS member!</p>
<p>THE CHIEFTANS! March 11th – 8pm 215 East Main Street, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902 info@theparamount.net</p>	<p>The Chieftains are the finest practitioners of traditional Irish music in the world, icons without peer or parallel. Lyrical songs, haunting melodies, barn-burning reels and rollicking step-dances no matter where you come from, tonight, you're at home in Ireland. Come home to Ireland with The Chieftains! www.thechieftains.com Tickets on Sale NOW! \$58.50 - \$61.50 - \$64.50 - \$69.50 215 East Main Street, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902 Box Office: 434.979.1333</p>
<p>Saturday, March 21, 2009 7:30 pm Camp Concert Hall, Booker Hall of Music – U of R</p>	<p>Danú Hailing from historic County Waterford, Danú is one of the leading traditional Irish ensembles of today. Their standing-room-only concerts throughout Ireland are true events, featuring high-energy performances and a glorious mix of ancient Irish music and new repertoire. For over a decade, Danú's virtuosi performers—on flute, tin whistle, fiddle, button accordion, bouzouki and vocals (Irish and English)—have appeared on stages throughout the world and recorded seven critically acclaimed albums. Danú guides its audiences on a musical journey through Ireland, offering a moving and memorable concert experience in celebration of the lingering spirit of St. Patrick's Day. Tickets: \$34 adults, \$32 seniors, \$17 children, Tickets go on sale February 6, 2009 (campus) or February 20, 2009 (public).</p>
<p>May 23rd – 8:00 pm Richmond Folk Music Irish Uilleann Piper Paddy Keenan Tickets \$12.00 in advance/\$15.00 at the door</p>	<p>Paddy Keenan – Legendary Irish Piper and arguably the best of the best uilleann pipers currently performing. Appearing with Paddy is guitarist/vocalist John Walsh – trained in Kilkenny Ireland. Congregation Or Ami, 9400 West Huguenot Road, Richmond, Virginia 23235</p> <p>Doors Open 7:15 pm Concert – 8:00 pm</p>
<p>June 14th Landmark Theater Celtic Woman Richmond 8:00 pm</p>	<p>Spanning over two hours, the show “ A New Journey” contains selections from both of their platinum albums. The Celtic Women themselves are as beautifully, quintessentially Irish as the music they perform. Make no mistake this is entertainment on a spectacular scale. It is, however, the poignant, deeply stirring songs and the unforgettable voices of the Celtic Women that will remain with you long after the lights have died down and the dazzling images have faded from view.</p>