



The Richmond Claddagh <http://richmondias.org/>

Newsletter of the Greater Richmond Irish American Society

November 2008

The November 13th IAS Meeting- PLEASE NOTE- LOCATION CHANGE

– Vice President, Dan Begley continues to set up great programs for the membership. At the Gayton Library, Raymond Cormier, Visiting Professor and “First Gent” at Longwood University will be our Guest Speaker. As a medievalist, one of his areas of specialization is Early Irish tradition. He is now working on a book, “The Medieval Hero”, which focuses on Cú Chulainn and his literary peers. The presentation for us covers “**The Cattle Raid of Cooley—Crown Jewel of Early Irish - Epic Poetry—but Under-appreciated.**” This legendary early Irish epic tells of a war against Ulster, waged by the Connacht Queen Medb and her husband Ailill, who intend to steal the stud bull Donn Cuailnge and are opposed only by the teenage Ulster hero Cú Chulainn (koo-hoo'lin). In light of a new translation from the Early Irish that appeared this year, it seems the time is right for a re-appraisal of this wild, amusing and difficult heroic narrative. Ulsterman Cú Chulainn's arduous battle against the forces of Connacht (led by Queen Medb/Maeve) evokes vividly an ancient era. The presentation will also offer a few images and one audio recording of a great Old Irish scholar reading the opening lines of the Táin Bó Cúailnge -Cattle Raid of Cooley. (Directions: **From Parham and Quioccasin Roads**) Take Patterson Avenue west to Pump Road. Turn Right on Pump road and continue to the intersection of Gayton and Pump Roads, Gayton Library is on the right side at 10600 Gayton Road

IAS CHRISTMAS PARTY & SILENT AUCTION – DECEMBER 13,

This year the “*Not to Miss Party of the Season*” is at St. Edwards Catholic School located at the intersection of 2700 Dolfield and Huguenot Road in Richmond. It's easy to get to and there's tons of close parking. So dust off those party duds and get ready for a great party. The party will start at 6:45 – No arrivals before 6:30 -why the odd time you ask - there is a Saturday night Mass at St. Ed's and that time will give a chance for the parking lot to clear for IAS folks. This year, members of the Richmond Scottish Society and the St. Andrew's Society of Richmond will join us in our annual holiday festivities. PressGang - IAS member Jeff Beatman and his partners Chris Craig and Keith Southall, will be singing – not for their supper – but for our enjoyment at the party. Speaking of supper – the usual fee for the party stands – you are asked to bring a dish to share - an appetizer, a dessert, a homemade specialty - whatever you want to bring, the more the

variety - the better! ALSO - This is a BYOB party – and that means beer or a bottle and mixers – an ice machine is there.

Also, Again this year, our Christmas party will feature **the 3rd Annual Irish Silent Auction**. In the past, we've enjoyed wonderful donations from our members – like - Irish books, Coupons for Massage Therapy, One week stay at a cabin in the Shenandoah Mountains, One week in a cottage in Ireland, a handmade Guinness Bar sign, An Irish Santa, and more. This year should be just as fun and just as exciting. We are asking our members to please start searching for Irish items to donate for the Silent Auction. **Please call our President, Gloria Cahen at 804-233-2113 and let her know the item that you are donating** - so that she can prepare the Bid Sheets for each item before the party. Please plan to bring your Auction donations to the Christmas Party. If you have any questions about your donation or if you want to donate something but are not able to attend the party, please contact Gloria so that other arrangements can be made to get the items to the Christmas party. **This is our IAS major fund-raiser for the year** – so dig deep folks! Also, if you happen to have any Scottish items - remember we have guests from two Scottish societies in Richmond that may have a yen for something you are willing to surrender!

Also the 2008 MVP Award will be presented to the one deserving IAS member in recognition of outstanding individual efforts in the past year to both promote and support the Irish American Society and its activities and endeavors through enthusiasm, volunteering and involvement. This is an important award to present. As Gloria says, this is not a popularity contest – this is to recognize the time, effort and sacrifice that a particular member has given in order to help the Society grow and prosper. Please – it will only take a moment to recognize someone you feel has worked hard for the IAS. In order to have the trophy ready to present at the Christmas Party, **please submit your nominations to Jim Bandlelean by November 13th**. You can contact Jim at 804-347-0924 or e-mail Jim at jbandelelean@gmail.com

PBS Telethon Time: The IAS has been asked to man phones on Dec 1st and Dec 10th at the PBS station on Sesame Street in Chesterfield County for their telethon.

On 12/1 – arrive at 7:30 and work all/some of the 8-11 shift. - On 12/10 – arrive by 6:45 and work all/some of the 7 – 10 shift. Its fun work and it puts the IAS out in front of the public. So we hope you can help us out. Please call Karon Bell at 804-517-3249

The Highland Games - What a weekend the IAS had at the Highland Games –arguably the highlight event of the Richmond Celtic year. Oh yes, there was that little episode with the torrential downpour and the mini-Katrina winds on Saturday, but geez that was nothing compared to the excitement on Sunday when the IAS tent was declared the **“The Best Clan Presentation of the 2008 Richmond Highland Games**. And - we have the blue ribbon, the engraved pewter plate and for a fleeting bit we even had the beautiful trophy in our tent. It’s now gone back to the Games folks to get our IAS particulars engraved for the historical records. Many, many IAS folks worked to help secure the win for the Society. President Gloria Cahen convinced some of the folks to come in Irish dress or costume. Our famous Irish characters were: Richmond’s own St. Patrick/Jack Cassells, Our IAS Irish Leprechaun/Glen Crone, and fresh from the pages of James Joyce’s *Ulysses* -Leopold Bloom/Frank Hardy, and finally the legendary Irish warrior and hero Finn McCool/Jim Bandeleen. Adding to the Irish atmosphere in their Irish garb were Karon Bell, Sonya Moore, and Brenda Daugherty.

In addition to our standard information on the Society and our heritage items, this year Gloria and Jim worked on a new poster tracing the origin of Halloween back to old Ireland. The display was completed with an illuminated Jack-o-Lantern – carved with shamrock eyes! Sonya Moore brought her beautiful collection of miniature replicas of **The Rock of Cashel, Blarney Castle and a typical Irish Fishing Village** and everyone enjoyed seeing them. Notebooks, made by IAS members, on Irish Legends, Irish Whiskey, Irish Sweaters & Clan Histories, A pictorial History of the 1916 Rebellion and even more subjects were available for our visitors to look over and enjoy. It was wonderful to see so much positive information on Ireland and our Irish heritage available for our tent visitors

But the best part of the display – was the warm and friendly greeting that was extended to each visitor to our IAS tent. New members were recruited and new friends were made – whether they joined the IAS or not. In typical Irish fashion, good feelings and good conversation were the tone of the weekend. Through the efforts of our members – the ones that worked Friday night to get the display up, and the folks that worked in the tent over the weekend – the IAS did ‘real’ good. Huge congratulations to our new Special Events Chairperson, Karon Bell –it was a great presentation of our Irish themes and of our Society

We do send a big thank you to all those members who were able to offer their time, talent and effort to make this presentation such a success for our IAS.

HOW SWEET IT IS!!



Richmond Highland Games and Celtic Festival
2008 BEST CLAN PRESENTATION

The Old Dominion Firefighter’s Emerald Society **Pipes and Drums**



Bill Riddell, R. C. Stevens, Lee Edwards, Ray Nevill and Dave Mylum.

These fellas, in the just forming local Emerald Society, are all professional firefighters in the area and they were kind enough to act as Color Guard and Escorts for the IAS in the Parade of Clans at the Highland Games. Note they are wearing the Irish-American tartan. While the organization is geared toward promoting Irish-American culture, Irish heritage is not listed as a requirement for membership. The new group is forming with the assistance of the St. Andrews Pipe & Drums and because I neglected to get their contact information – I’m thinking that you can get information by contacting Tim Batten at pipesofargyll@aol.com

Special Events Chairperson – Karon Bell extends her deepest thanks to all of the folks who worked to hard to set up our IAS displays at both the Williamsburg and Richmond Highland Games. And more thanks go out to those that worked in the tent and also brought items for display. Thanks to all for making each event such a success.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW IAS MEMBERS!

The IAS extends a very warm welcome to our newest IAS members – some added at the Highland Games:

Michael, Donna, Ben and Parker Hohman. The Hale-Cooper family, Patricia & Allen Davis, Ryan Roark, Carole Fenwick, Joe O'Brien and Susan and Craig Edwards. And finally - Sean and Jennifer Bell, (son and daughter-in-law of Karon Bell, IAS Special Events Chair)

We are delighted to have you all join us and we can't wait to see you at an upcoming event. Hey, how about that Christmas Party? -Some might call that a Golden Opportunity to come out and meet your new Irish family!

FREE IRISH SHOWS IN DECEMBER: Please be sure to check the calendar at the end of the newsletter. There are **two** FREE Irish/Celtic flavored shows coming to the restored Henrico Theatre. These are free – family oriented shows. The holiday season is busy - but it would be nice to have a strong showing from the Celtic groups in Richmond, so that we encourage the presentation of more shows of this nature. Please check your schedules and call today for reservations. For any questions or to make reservations, contact **Jen Watkin** Phone: 804-328-4491 www.co.henrico.va.us/rec

THE CULTURAL ARTS CENTER AT GLEN ALLEN. Just Added! Celtic Crossroads - Tuesday, January 20, 7pm. Tickets: \$25 Just when you think that you have seen the best that Irish music has to offer, an emerging group of traditional Irish musicians are about to take the art form to an entirely new level. Incorporating seven world-class musicians, playing over twenty instruments on stage, the show is a fantastic display of talent. From start to finish experience a wonderful fusion of musical genres, such as eastern European Gypsy, North American Bluegrass, world Classical and Jazz, and the various forms of Celtic music from around Europe and the rest of the world. (Senior citizen (65+) discount: \$2 off ticket price.) Group discount available for 20+. A pre show buffet dinner is also available at the Center Call the Box Office: 804-261-ARTS (2787) The Cultural Arts Center 2880 Mountain Road, Glen Allen, VA 23060. (Located in northern Henrico County between Staples Mill Road and Woodman Road, just south of 295). For directions to the Center click this link http://www.artsglenallen.com/ca_directions.htm (Note - If you are interested in attending the Celtic Crossroads show – call me at 804-323-6415 or email me at bearfan46@verizon.net and I'll check on getting the group discount. Nancy)

EVER WONDER WHO HAS BEEN CHECKING OUT OUR IAS WEBSITE? –Well, By Country -

3759	United States
69	Germany
61	Canada
37	United Kingdom
29	Uruguay
17	Sweden
13	Italy
13	China
11	Brazil
9	Korea, South
8	Netherlands
8	France
7	Japan
6	Spain
5	Taiwan
4	Switzerland
4	Russian Federation
4	Ireland

Many thanks go to our Webmasters Jim Bandeleian and Doug Elder for helping us to make a great presentation on the web. And you need to check out the wonderful links and the great photos of past IAS events and members past and present. Click here to visit our site. <http://www.richmondias.org/>

WHEN IT RAINS.....Just look at this – **2** – Count'em **2** new Irish Dance Schools opening up in the Richmond area. We had lots of inquiries over the years – so I hope that this will give all our little lads and colleens the chance to learn some Irish dance steps!

* Hello! My name is Daniel Nelson and I am starting the Nelson Academy of Irish Dance in Chester, Va. I am hoping to begin building relationships around the community to promote Irish dance and culture. I have already seen much success in the Yorktown & Williamsburg area and I am excited to bring this wonderful art form to the greater Richmond area. We are at Rivers Bend South Shopping Center on Rte 10 between 95 & 295. Sincerely, Daniel Nelson - Nelson Academy of Irish Dance – The Website is <http://nelson-academy.com/> Email: nelson.acad@gmail.com Phone: 804.943.8165

* IAS member Denis Maguire (Dad of the two daughters engaged in Irish Dance & and winners in US and Irish contests) told us about the 2nd new Irish Dance school in town which is the Muggivan School of Irish Dance, at Shuffles Dance Center, 9130 Dickey Drive, Mechanicsville, VA 23116. Phone 804-550-3624 for more info. I picked up a card at the Highland Games that says "First Class is Free" so you might mention that - You can check out the website too <http://www.freewebs.com/muggivanschoolva/index.htm>

LANDED ON ELLIS ISLAND: New Immigration Buildings Opened Yesterday

On January 1, 1892, Annie Moore, a rosy cheeked Irish 15 year old girl from County Cork, Ireland, made headlines as the first immigrant to be processed at Ellis Island. She is honored by bronze statues in New York Harbor and in Cobh, County Cork, Ireland, and is cited in story and song. Her image will forever represent the millions who passed through Ellis Island in pursuit of the American dream, and is a symbol for immigrants of all nations that have contributed to the rich fabric of the United States.

There were three big steamships in the harbor waiting to land their passengers, and there was much anxiety among the newcomers to be the first landed at the new station. The honor was reserved for Annie Moore, fifteen years of age, lately a resident of County Cork, and yesterday one of the 148 steerage passengers landed from the Guion steamship Nevada. Her name is now distinguished by being the first registered in the book of the new landing bureau. The steamship that brought Annie Moore arrived late Thursday night [Dec. 31, 1891]. Early yesterday morning the passengers of that vessel were placed on board the immigrant transfer boat John E. Moore. The craft was gaily decorated with bunting and ranged alongside the wharf on Ellis Island amid a clang of bells and din of shrieking whistles.

As soon as the gangplank was run ashore, Annie tripped across it and was hurried into the big building that almost covers the entire island. By a prearranged plan she was escorted to a registry deck, which was temporarily occupied by Mr. Charles M. Hendley, the former private secretary of Secretary Windom. He asked as a special favor the privilege of registering the first immigrant, and Col. Weber granted the request.

When the little voyager had been registered Col. Weber presented her with a ten-dollar gold piece and made a short address of congratulation and welcome. It was the first United States coin she had ever seen and the largest sum of money she had ever possessed. She says she will never part with it, but will always keep it as a pleasant memento of the occasion. Her two younger brothers accompanied her. The trio came to join their parents, who live at 32 Monroe Street, this city (From the **New York Times, January 2, 1892;**



(Jeanne Rynhart's Ellis Island statue of Annie Moore, holding her hat in the harbor breeze, unveiled in 1993.)

Overdue Salute to Ellis Island's First Immigrant – Irish Annie Moore

A Celtic cross carved from Irish blue limestone was placed Saturday, October 11, 2008 on the Queens gravesite of Annie Moore, just a teen in 1892 when her trip through the Immigration Center at Ellis Island made headlines worldwide. . More than 80 years after her death, the first person to pass through Ellis Island finally has a marker on her last resting place.



Her descendants, clergy and Irish personalities dedicated the memorial inside Calvary Cemetery in Woodside Saturday during an emotional ceremony that featured bagpipes. "Annie's our great-grandmother and ought to have a proper headstone. We feel we've been given a piece of our history back," said Julia Devous, 43.

As a 17-year-old from County Cork, Ireland, Moore was given \$10 in gold when she passed through Ellis Island on Jan. 1, 1892. Historians long believed that Annie Moore moved West and settled in Texas, but a dedicated genealogist debunked the myth while researching a documentary.

It was just two years ago that Annie Moore's descendants discovered she provided a face for America's immigrant story. Moore was the first immigrant to be processed at Ellis Island, in 1892. On Saturday, she'll finally get a marker on her grave. The Irish immigrant made a new life in America but died poor. Annie married the son of a German-born baker at St. James Church on James Street in 1895. Her husband was identified as an engineer and salesman at the Fulton Fish Market. They had at least 11 children, 5 of whom survived to adulthood.

Annie died of heart failure in 1924 at 47 and is buried with six of her children at the cemetery in Woodside, Queens. Moore was found in an unmarked grave at the cemetery, buried with six of her children. Brian Andersson, New York's commissioner of records, says the new headstone will honor a person with a very specific "spot in history". "She stands for the countless hundreds of thousands of Irish people who crossed the Atlantic and settled here in New York," said Niall Burgess, Irish consul general. (From the New York Times)

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

Nov 7,8 & 9th	Maryland Irish Festival The Maryland Irish Festival" in "The Cow Palace" at the "Maryland State Fairgrounds," 2200 York Rd., Timonium, MD 21093.
November 7 th & 8 th	The 51st Urbanna Oyster Festival http://www.urbannaoysterfestival.com - Urbanna, VA 23175 Friday & Saturday, November 7 and 8, 2008 For Information - 804-758-0368 IAS Member Jonathon Austin appears Friday Nov 7th & Saturday Nov 8th at 10am to 12pm IAS members w/The Saint Andrews Legion Pipes & Drums march in the parade/ Sat. 2:00
Nov 7 th Richmond Irish/Celt/ Scottish Group - Albafaire	Albafaire will have it's first performance of traditional Irish/Scottish/Celtic music with a new lineup of local and area musicians at Tanglewood Ordinary, 2210 River Road West, Maidens, VA 23102 804-556-3284. Tanglewood Ordinary is a family style dining establishment that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places & also the Virginia Landmarks Register. It is located 16.5 mi West of Parham Rd on Patterson Ave (It's just a wee short hop beyond Rare Olde Times on out Patterson.)
Nov 11th	Your nomination of an IAS member for the 2008 IAS MVP Award is due to Jim Bandlean by November 13th – So - if you haven't sent your choice in yet, Please call Jim at 804-347-0924 or send your choice by email to jbandelean@gmail.com
Nov 11 th	Virginia War Memorial – St. Andrews Legion Pipes & Drums appearing –starting at 10am.
November 12 th Irish Music Jam	Rosie Connolly's Pub & Restaurant 1548A East Main Street, Richmond Rosie's Faces the 17 th Street Farmers Market Next to Havana 59 restaurant Start times are approximate... Visitors and Musicians welcome. 2 nd and 4 th Wednesdays, Time 8-10 p.m. or 11 p.m. or so
November 13th Program at 7pm Hospitality 6:30)	IAS Meeting – PLEASE NOTE - LOCATION CHANGE - Gayton Library 10600 Gayton Road Henrico, (804) 740-2747) Professor Raymond Cormier, Longwood, presents the wild, amusing and totally Irish tale “The Cattle Raid of Cooley—Crown Jewel of Early Irish Epic Poetry—but Under-appreciated.” This legendary early Irish epic is the central text of the tales known as the Ulster Cycle. There will be images, an interesting audio by a great old Irish scholar and a narrative to tell the story of this ancient battle! DON'T MISS IT!!!
November 17 th	Word from IAS Advertiser – (see the website) Glen Crone – To keep the Spirit of St. Patrick's Day alive - O'Toole's Irish Restaurant & Pub holds an Irish Sing a long on the 17 th of every month from 7:00pm till 8:30pm – it's located at 4800 Forest Hill Ave. Richmond, VA 23225
Nov. 23 rd .	Ashland Olde Time Holiday Parade. Start your holiday season with some hometown merriment. The Parade starts at Thompson Street and ends at John Gandy Elementary School. Organized by the Ashland Kiwanis Club, free. Route 54 & Henry Street, 2:30pm. (804) 798-7134. St. Andrews Legion Pipes & Drums will appear in the parade
Nov 28 th - 30th	Coyote Run – Irish/Celtic Music. Christmas With the Coyotes - Williamsburg, VA Kimball Theatre - Call (800) HISTORY for tickets and information!
December 10 th - Irish Music Jam	Rosie Connolly's Pub & Restaurant 1548A East Main Street, Richmond Rosie's Faces the 17th Street Farmers Market Next to Havana 59 restaurant Start times are approximate Visitors and Musicians welcome. 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, Time 8-10 p.m. or 11 p.m. or so
December 13th 7:00 – 11:30	IAS Annual Christmas Party and Silent Auction – This year at St. Edwards Catholic Church (*School building) located at the intersection of 2700 Dolfield and Huguenot Road Dr. Richmond. Sharing the Christmas Spirit with the IAS will be the Scottish Society and St. Andrew's Society. Press Gang will be singing at the party (IAS member Jeff Beatman). Be searching items to donate for the Silent Auction. Admission Fee- One Dish to Share and BYOB.

<p>Thursday, December 18th Two Shows – 5:30 & 7:30</p>	<p><u>HOLIDAYS WITH THE CROSSROADS IRISH DANCE TROUPE</u> - This show is acceptable for all ages. This dance troupe prides itself on combining an exciting blend of both traditional Irish step and the present-day "Riverdance" style. They continue to capture audiences with both the gracefulness and complexity of Irish dance. Join us for this great holiday show! The Henrico Theater is located in Highland Springs at 305 E. Nine Mile Road. Henrico County purchased the Theatre, which originally opened in 1938 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A \$5.8 million renovation and expansion project has converted the one-time movie palace into a fine-arts venue capable of hosting a variety of activities, including live theater, music, dance, film, group meetings and multimedia presentations. The historic, 400-seat theater features a vintage movie projector and restored art deco details. The Henrico Theater FREE ADMISSION</p>
<p>Friday, December 19th 6:30 pm .</p>	<p><u>THE HUNT FAMILY FIDDLERS</u> For all ages. Come see Virginia's own Hunt Family Fiddlers! This holiday show keeps everyone entertained with great diversity featuring fiery Celtic dancing and fast fiddling. Song selections include themed music from The Nutcracker, a special Trans-Siberian Orchestra tribute, and other popular Christmas traditionals - a miniature Elvis even shows up to sing Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree! The Henrico Theater FREE ADMISSION</p>
<p>Saturday Dec. 20th 7:00 to 9:30 pm</p>	<p><u>The Press Gang</u> – IAS's own Jeff Beatman and his two singing cohorts –Chris Craig and Keith Southall - sing at Brickhouse Run for Christmas - 407 - 409 Cockade Alley, Old Towne Petersburg, Virginia (804) 862 – 1815. The IAS has been down to Brickhouse in the past and it was a fun place to be and a good place for supper. (Look out! Those PressGang fellas love to drag the unsuspecting onto the stage with them!</p>
<p>December 27th - 8:00 pm Richmond Folk Music.</p>	<p>Winter Revels! Songs and Tunes from the Celtic Traditions - Moch Pryderi is based in Fredericksburg, Virginia and their specialty is the traditional music of Wales and Brittany, but they also draw upon Irish, Scottish and Appalachian sources to present a varied, in depth program that never fails to please an audience. A lively celebration featuring Celtic songs and tunes! Click here for Richmond Folk Music Congregation Or Ami, 9400 West Huguenot Road, Richmond, Virginia. Tickets \$12.00 in advance/\$15.00 at the door. Phone: 804-647-7856</p>
<p>January 17th</p>	<p>Word from IAS Advertiser – (see the website) Glen Crone – 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>January 20th Celtic Crossroads Cultural Arts Center in Glen Allen</p>	<p><u>Just Added! Celtic Crossroads - Tuesday, January 20, 7pm. Tickets: \$25</u> Just when you think that you have seen the best that Irish music has to offer, an emerging group of traditional Irish musicians are about to take the art form to an entirely new level. Incorporating seven world-class musicians, playing over twenty instruments on stage, the show is a fantastic display of talent. From start to finish experience a wonderful fusion of musical genres, such as eastern European Gypsy, North American Bluegrass, world Classical and Jazz, and the various forms of Celtic music from around Europe and the rest of the world. (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). For directions to the center http://www.artsglenallen.com/ca_directions.htm</p>

