



The Richmond Claddagh

Newsletter of the Greater Richmond Irish American Society

<http://richmondias.org/>

August 2010

AUGUST IAS MEETING – Friday 13th - For a change of pace from our normal month meeting and to provide our members with a **Fun Evening** - the IAS will attend a Richmond Flying Squirrels (SF Giants affiliates) game against the Portland Sea Dogs (Red Sox affiliates). To tempt the fates associated with Friday the 13th -It's a give away night – free golf umbrellas to the first 2,000 fans. Very good seats will be \$9 if we get 25 people from the IAS to attend. Best to arrive around 6 – Your guests are Welcome!

PLEASE FOLKS, CALL DAN (804-740-5631) ASAP to let him know as soon as possible if you will attend so we can purchase the seats. We are hoping to get their mascot Nutzy to pose with our group for a photo while the Richmond IAS is announced on the JumboTron. So wear green if you can.. and come for fun! Yikes - does life get any better than this?

IAS PUB SUPPER – August 21ST AT ROSIE CONNOLLY'S Our Pub Lady – Joan Finnegan has another fun supper planned for us. Meet about 6:30 or 7 for some “Meet & Greet” time and we’ll let the evening progress from there. A \$1 off any/all **Tap Beer**. Please email/call Joan at j.finn@hotmail.com – 804-739-7359 with your count so that we can have the seating arranged to accommodate all of us. Directions and the menu at this link. <http://www.rosieconnollys.com/>



SEPTEMBER 16TH IAS MEETING - One of our favorites, Professor Margaret Duckworth will give us a presentation on “Celtic Crosses” – for generations a symbol of the connection to our Irish history and heritage. The program is at the [Tuckahoe Library](#) (click for map) Margaret has previously done wonderful programs for us on the Book of Kells and Celtic Saints. Come for an educational AND entertaining program. 6:30 for “Meet and Greet” with the program starting at 7pm. **Guests are welcome.** The library is at 1901 Starling Drive Richmond, VA 23229. Their phone -804-270-5543

AUGUST 11TH - IRISH HERITAGE NIGHT AT THE DIAMOND Via the grapevine (and Gloria Cahen) – I heard that the Richmond Flying Squirrels were planning an Irish Heritage Night. I called and they sent this invitation to all our members and friends.

Hi Nancy- Thanks for writing in about Irish Heritage Night! Our Irish theme will include traditional Irish music from local group **Turf Fire** – (Note – that’s our IAS members -Mary Smith, John Robison, & Bernard Farrell) an Irish Dance Troupe for some pre-game festivities, Irish fare – including Bangers and Mash & Green Beer in our concession stands! Please include our office number in the newsletter and we would be happy to answer any further questions. Thanks!
Christina Shisler 804-359-FUNN (3866) Ext 321
www.squirrelsbaseball.com

Are ‘ya wishing you could be in Ireland right now?

How about the next best thing? Click on this link <http://www.dlharbour.ie/webcam/dlh1.php> and it will link you to a view of Dún Laoghaire harbor – just southeast of Dublin. Check the weather and enjoy the view. This link is at our IAS website <http://richmondias.org/index.php>

OTHER NEWS FROM IRELAND IRISH HERITAGE CERTIFICATE

- The Irish Government by the end of 2010 plans to introduce a Certificate of Irish Heritage for people of Irish descent who do not qualify for citizenship. Presently, Irish citizenship can be claimed only through an Irish-born parent or grandparent. This new process acknowledges the clause in the Irish Constitution that states: "The Irish nation cherishes its special affinity with people of Irish ancestry living abroad who share its cultural identity and heritage". Applicants will need to prove their claim to Irish ancestry through documents such as a birth certificate, church records of death, marriage, etc. Certificate-holders will also benefit from discounts from Irish businesses and while visiting Ireland.

Do you have a hard time remembering ALL these Irish activities? Use this link to take you to our IAS website calendar –

<http://www.spectrumdata.com/cgi-bin/foxweb.exe/fwcalendar?dbf=rias>

Nancy -- Here's some info I found while planning our Ireland trip comparing Richmond to Shannon Airports. Doggoned if it doesn't appear that we may get more rain in Richmond than Shannon! Jim Mahone

	Avg. Temperature (°F)		Avg. Rainfall - Inch	
	Richmond	Shannon	Richmond	Shannon
Jan	35.6	41.5	3.2	3.9
Feb	38.7	41.9	3.1	2.9
Mar	47.8	45.0	3.8	2.7
Apr	57.2	48.0	3.0	2.3
May	65.8	52.5	3.8	2.4
Jun	73.8	57.4	3.4	2.6
Jul	77.9	60.3	4.9	2.9
Aug	76.6	59.9	5.0	3.5
Sept	70.0	56.7	3.4	3.3
Oct	58.5	52.0	3.5	3.8
Nov	49.5	45.7	3.2	3.8
Dec	40.1	43.3	3.2	4.2
Annual	57.6	50.4	43.5	38.4

From Irish Central – 10 things you might not know about Ireland

- Technically, it's an offense to be drunk in public in Ireland
- Bobby Sands Street in Tehran is the location address of the British Embassy
- The Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast is a world leader in kneecap reconstruction
- More Guinness is sold in Nigeria than in Ireland
- Only two members of U2 were born in Ireland
- Playboy magazine was banned in Ireland until 1995
- Irishman William Brown founded the Argentinean Navy
- Despite the stereotypes, until around the early 1990s, Ireland had a low per capita consumption of alcohol
- Dublin's Croke Park, the headquarters of the Gaelic Athletic Association, is the fourth largest stadium in Europe
- In the summer of 2007, it rained in Ireland for 40 days straight

Irish Wisdom

. "Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall." *Oliver Goldsmith*

"Vision is the art of seeing things invisible". *Jonathan Swift*

"You know it's summer in Ireland when the rain gets warmer." *Hal Roach*

Hey did anyone read last month about the Irish Zorro?

The Fastnet Lighthouse



On Clear Island or Cape Clear Island sits The Fastnet Lighthouse. The lighthouse sticks up out of the Atlantic like a finger pointing at the heavens and marks Ireland's most southerly point. The Fastnet is the tallest and widest lighthouse in Ireland or Great Britain. It's also known as the “**Teardrop of Ireland**” being the last piece of Ireland that emigrants saw as they sailed for a new life in America. The Irish name, Carraig Aonar (the lonely rock) well describes it, as it is situated four and a half miles from Cape Clear.

Clear Island officially known by its Irish name **Cléire** lies south west of County Cork in Ireland. It is the southernmost inhabited part of Ireland and has a population of over 100 people. The island is known as the birthplace of Saint Ciarán, and for the Dún an Óir Fort. Seals, basking sharks and dolphins are found in the surrounding water. Local folklore relates how a giant picked up the rock, which is now the Fastnet from Mount Gabriel near Ballydehob and hurled it into the sea. However it got there, the Fastnet is invaluable as a mark for large ships following Atlantic routes, and it is also useful to locals who judge what the weather is about to do by checking on the rock's visibility

Every first weekend of September, Cape hosts the Cape Clear Island International Storytelling Festival, which has been running annually since 1994. The festival features professional international storytellers from all over the world. (From Internet notes)

(You may click on the link below to see photos of the lighthouses of Ireland. Wonderful photography ☺

<http://indigo.ie/~eaglejr/map.html>

PSSSSST - Don't forget to mark your calendars for the August Monthly Meeting/Event at the Diamond – on the 13th & the August Pub Supper on the 21st – and call Dan & Joan and let them know you're coming! It's always fun with your Irish friends! (I promise!)

“BOOK WE LIKE” by our IAS Members - -In the past I’ve invited our members to tell us about their current Irish reads... Now as we draw near to the doldrums of summer - Helen and Marian Rogers (our dynamic and multi talented IAS mom/daughter duo) recommend a little relief in the form of a "Good Summer Read/Beach Book ". And it just might fit the bill for some.

Now & Then (2009)

"With the overwhelming popularity of books with other-worldly themes, such as vampires, werewolves, shape-shifters, etc., it’s not too farfetched to find a novel about a contemporary heroine getting caught up in time travel. In **Jacqueline Sheehan’s** latest novel, ***Now and Then***, she hones this quirky subject to a finer edge with a brilliant tale that will captures reader’s imaginations.

Anna O’Shea was at a point in her life where things had to get better, because they couldn’t get much worse. A recent divorcee, Anna had just returned from a harrowing flight from Ireland when she learned her only brother had been in a horrendous accident resulting in massive head injuries, and her 16-year old nephew, Joseph, needed to be picked up from jail.

After checking on her brother and retrieving her errant nephew, Anna hopes to be able to squeeze in a few hours of sleep before hitting other family crises head on. But her plans go awry when she wakes up to find Joseph going through her suitcases. As Anna and Joseph tussle over a partially opened package, the two suddenly find themselves hurtling through time and space to wake up separated in 19th century, pre-potato famine Ireland.

As Anna and Joseph adjust and adapt to their new situations, they both soon discover new strengths and qualities about themselves that had long been buried. But as fate and circumstances work to pull the two visitors from another era together, both find that it will be hard to return to their lives in the 21st century, if they can get back at all.

Jacqueline Sheehan has taken the subject of time travel, and combining it with an in depth look at Irish/British history to deliver a novel that is thoughtful, passionate and fascinating. There is an element of romance, as Anna and Joseph both find love in the most unlikely place, but bear in mind – this is no flighty romance novel. *Now and Then* is an amazing work of literary fiction to be savored and enjoyed." (*Wichita Times Record- Sharon Galligar Chance*)

Please members; send in your recommendations or your review of any good Irish read. Historical, Fun, Drama, any and all recommends are heartily welcome and we’ll share with the members, just send to bearfan46@verizon.net.

Many thanks to Jim Mahone for this fun course in English vs. Irish English - Enjoy! (I will say that if someone said to me, “Go Mall” – I’m thinking shopping. ☺ (Which might explain why I’m a little worried about driving in Ireland!)

Hi Nancy - One advantage for the American tourist in Ireland is that virtually every Irishman speaks English ... in Irish fashion, of course. During our May trip to the Emerald Isle, we learned these interesting twists on our “native” language. Jim Mahone

- | <u>American</u> | <u>Irish</u> |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| • Bicycle rental..... | bike hire |
| • cookie..... | biscuit |
| • carryout (food)..... | take away |
| • divided highway..... | dual carriageway |
| • drunk driving..... | drink driving |
| • drive slowly..... | go mall |
| • French fries..... | American fries |
| • gasoline..... | petrol |
| • house for rent..... | house to let |
| • intersection..... | junction |
| • no passing..... | no overtaking |
| • open house..... | show house |
| • parking lot..... | car park |
| • pharmacist..... | chemist |
| • police force..... | the Gardaí |
| • police officer..... | Garda |
| • 4-seat pony cart..... | trap |
| • pony-back rides..... | pony trekking |
| • Railroad crossing..... | level crossing |
| • Sharp road curve..... | severe bend |
| • shopping center..... | retail park |
| • soft drinks..... | minerals |
| • speed bump..... | ramp |
| • speed zone..... | traffic calming |
| • tire..... | tyre |
| • tow truck..... | recovery truck |
| • traffic circle..... | roundabout |
| • welfare..... | the dole |



Christmas in August? It’s never too early to remind our members – The 2010 Christmas party is scheduled for December 4th and we will be hosting our “Silent Auction” again this year. Keep us in mind with your Irish themed donations for the auction. We’re ready to collect whenever you have something to donate. It’s a great fundraiser for the IAS and helps us to meet the expenses. Contact any Board Member -

The Story of The Rose of Tralee -

Mary O' Connor, born about 1820, was the original "Rose of Tralee". Her parents' house was in Brogue Lane in the Rock. Her father was a brogue (shoe) maker. Her mother worked as a dairymaid at Cloghers House owned by the Mulchinocks, a wealthy merchant family. One of their sons was William Pembroke, a dreamer and poet.

Mary was a dark haired beauty with alluring eyes, but beautiful or not, she would only obtain a position as a maid or helper. At seventeen, she was employed as a kitchen maid to the Mulchinocks. Later, Maria Mulchinock chose her as maid to two small children.

William occupied himself with pastimes that wealthy young gentlemen pursued, one being a trip to the horse fair at Ballinasloe. At a ball there, he met Alice Keogh. In spite of his protestations of love, he soon returned home. When he arrived home, his sister Maria took him to see her children in the nursery where he got his first glimpse of Mary O' Connor and was completely smitten by her. He used every opportunity to meet her and eventually, they became a couple. He spent many evenings in her parents' house where he was well liked. But his family disapproved - after all she was a Catholic peasant and he a wealthy Protestant.

One night by the pure crystal fountain, he took her in his arms and asked her to marry him. She declined because she was afraid that such a marriage would end in disaster even though she loved him. One evening, he took her to the same place and sang to her the first two verses of "The Rose of Tralee".

The following evening, Daniel O' Connell held a meeting in Denny Street and William was the leader of one of the repealer groups. A fracas broke out involving a man called Leggett, who was badly hurt. One of the policemen informed Mulchinock that he would be held responsible if Leggett died.

After the meeting, he went home where he met Mary and produced a ring, which she accepted. They were now betrothed. Suddenly his best friend, Bob Blenerhasset rushed in and told him Leggett was dead and the police would arrest him. Bob gave William a hundred gold sovereigns and his horse and told him ride to Barrow Harbour and take a ship anchored there.

William ended up in India in 1843 as a war correspondent. He became friendly with the British Commander in Chief known as "Old Gough". When Mulchinock told him the story, the general saw the injustice of it all and used his influence to enable William to return to Tralee.

In 1849, he checked into the King's Arms in the Rock. The proprietor, George Cameron served him a Cognac and then drew the curtains as a funeral was passing by. When Mulchinock inquired who was dead, the landlord said it was Mary O' Connor, The Rose of Tralee. She was approximately 29 years of age.

The only thing left to him now was to visit the grave constantly at Clogherbrien. In time he became reacquainted with Alice Keogh and married her and they eventually went to America in 1849 where they had two girls, Alice and Bernadette. But eventually, they separated and he returned to Ireland in 1855 where he found solace in drink. He never forgot his one true love and he wrote the final verse for her.

William Mulchinock lived in a lodging house in Ashe Street run by a woman named Old Biddy. He died on 13th October 1864 and was buried in Clogherbrien beside his "Rose of Tralee".

The Rose of Tralee

The pale moon was rising above the green mountains;
The sun was declining beneath the blue sea;
When I strayed with my love by the pure crystal fountain
That stands in the beautiful Vale of Tralee.

She was lovely and fair as the rose of the summer,
Yet 'twas not her beauty alone that won me;
Oh no, 'twas the truth in her eyes ever dawning,
that made me love Mary, the Rose of Tralee.

The cool shades of evening their mantle were spreading,
And Mary all smiling was listening to me;
The moon through the valley her pale rays was shedding
When I won the heart of the Rose of Tralee.

Though lovely and fair as the Rose of the summer,
Yet 'twas not her beauty alone that won me;
Oh no, 'twas the truth in her eyes ever dawning,
that made me love Mary, the Rose of Tralee.

In the far fields of India, 'mid wars dreadful thunders,
Her voice was a solace and comfort to me,
But the chill hand of death has now rent us asunder,
I'm lonely tonight for the Rose of Tralee.

She was lovely and fair as the rose of the summer,
Yet 'twas not her beauty alone that won me;
Oh no, 'twas the truth in her eyes ever dawning
That made me love Mary, the Rose of Tralee

I THINK I LIKE THIS BECAUSE MY FAVORITE NAMES ARE ROSE AND MARY 😊

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>

Friday – Aug 13th – Richmond Flying Squirrels Baseball Game – at the Diamond - \$9 seats. Gold Umbrella Night.	For a Fun Evening - the IAS will attend a Squirrels game against the Portland Sea Dogs (Red Sox). Its golf umbrella night to the first 2,000 fans. Very good seats will be \$9 if we get 25 people from the IAS to attend. PLEASE FOLKS, CALL DAN ASAP to let him know as soon as possible if you will attend so we can purchase the seats. Hope to get a picture with "Nutsy" with our IAS group. Any questions call Dan Begley at 804-740-5631.
August 20th Irish Tenors with Ronan 8pm Wolf Trap Vienna, VA (Great Venue! Nancy)	Breathing new life into Irish & Irish American classics like "Danny Boy" and "My Wild Irish Rose (absolutely my very favorite)," this trio of Ireland's finest celebrates the joys, heartaches, and gaiety of their rich Celtic tradition. Tickets - \$22-52 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jnwSzeGKemw - (click to Listen) http://www.wolftrap.org/Home/Find_Performances_and_Events/Performance/10File/0820show10.aspx
August 21st IAS Pub Supper Rosie Connolly's 1548 East Main Street 804 343-1063	Our Pub Lady – Joan Finnegan has another fun supper planned for us. Meet about 6:30 for some “Greetin” time and we’ll let the evening progress from there. Please call or email Joan – 804-739-7359 or j.finn@hotmail.com with your count so that we can have the seating arranged to accommodate all of us. Directions and the menu at this link. http://www.rosieconnollys.com/
August 21st Irish Tenors REUNION (Ronan's Back!) Portsmouth, VA	The Irish Tenors started in 1998 by television producer, Bill Hughes, for a PBS special <i>The Irish Tenors</i> . They have since recorded 5 PBS specials and 7 albums. The group's current line-up for this reunion tour is Anthony Kearns, Finbar Wright, and Ronan Tynan. Orchestra: \$59.75 Gold Circle: \$44.75 Lawn: \$25 -One Child 12 or under admitted FREE on the lawn with each adult lawn ticket. http://www.pavilionconcerts.com/page.aspx/pageid/39317/irish-tenors.aspx
Tues – Aug. 24 10:30 am IAS Member – Jonathan Austin - Free Show – Henrico Theater	Grab the kids and the grandkids! Our IAS Favorite and fellow member – JONATHAN AUSTIN (Richmond's Premier Juggler!) Presents a FREE Show suitable for all ages. Jonathan is a Richmond fixture and has even performed at the White House and Walt Disney World! You won't want to miss this spectacular show! The Henrico Theater, 305 East 9 Mile Road, Highland Springs, VA 23075-1837 (804) 328-4491
August 29th – 7pm IAS Board Meeting	All members are welcome to attend IAS Board meetings and bring your ideas, suggestions, complaints, etc. Call President Gloria Cahen for directions. 804-233-2113
Sept. 6th Irish Festival Blackthorne Inn, in Upperville, Virginia,	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 Irish Mass, Pittsburgh PA Irish Festival/
Sept. 16th IAS Meeting Tuckahoe Library “Celtic Crosses” 7pm – Guests Welcome	IAS Favorite, Professor Margaret Duckworth presents a program on “Celtic Crosses”. Arrive at 6:30 for meet and greet – Program starts at 7pm 1901 Starling Drive Richmond, VA 23229-4564- (804) 270-5543 – All of our Monthly Meetings are open – so please feel free to bring guests to the meeting.
September 17th O'Toole's Irish Music at 9 pm Uisce Beatha	Uisce Beatha (ish keh ba ha) brings their distinct brand of Irish American Pub Music to O'Tooles... starting at 9:00 O'Toole's Restaurant & Pub 4800 Forest Hill Ave. Richmond, VA 23225 804-233-1781 http://www.otoolesrestaurant.com/home.html
Sept. 26 7:30 Cherryholmes Camp Concert Hall - Booker Hall of Music –	There has never been a family or a Bluegrass Celtic inspired band quite like Cherryholmes . The parents and children began their musical journey in 1999, and all six family band members pull their creative ideas together, forming a dynamic sound and style that is unmistakable. Their concerts feature a unique blend of techniques

Univ. of Richmond. 804 289-898	including twin fiddles, Irish step dancing, classic country yodeling, old-time clawhammer banjo, and soulful gospel singing in addition to their signature Grammy-nominated bluegrass. Adult \$32, Senior \$30, Child \$16. Ticket Information <u>Tickets will go on sale August 23, 2010.</u> Listen up for some Appalachian/Celtic . http://cherryholmes.musiccitynetworks.com/index.htm?id=9505
October 1st & 2nd Williamsburg Scottish Festival	Your Richmond IAS teams with The Irish in Virginia – Friends of St. Brendan to present an Irish heritage tent at the festival. http://www.wsfonline.org/
October 23 & 24th 15 th Annual Richmond Meadow Highland Games 1 mile E of Kings Dominion	Sat – 9am – 6pm, Sunday – 9am – 5pm. Athletic Competitions –or Large Men throwing Heavy Stuff, Pipe & Drum Competition, Highland Dance, Scottish Fiddle, Irish Fiddle, and Harp Competitions. Great Celtic Music all weekend. Over 80 vendors and artisans featuring handmade clothing, jewelry, crafts, collectibles and other authentic Celtic wares. Rugby game Sunday 25 th – 11:30 am For directions http://www.richmondceltic.com/maps-lodging or (804) 994-2800
December 3rd 7:30 Danú Christmas In Ireland An Nollaig in Éirinn University of Richmond Modlin Center 804 289-898	This acclaimed Irish ensemble celebrates a traditional Irish Christmas. Celtic music lovers continue to be thrilled by the ensemble's virtuoso players on fiddle, flutes, button accordion, percussion, and the gorgeous voice of Muireann Nic Amhlaoibh. Danú returns to the Modlin Center with dancers and other special guests. Bring the entire family to enjoy this glorious Irish celebration of Christmas. Tickets – Adults - \$34, Seniors - \$32, Children \$17 –Click on the link below for a taste of their music It is the best 4 minutes you'll spend this week.. Keep a sharp eye for the dancing couple at the end – Those Irish tunes - you just can't sit still! <u>Tickets on Sale – October 22nd</u> http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0RInGkoMQk&feature=related This is one that I've wanted to see for a long time)
March 1st -7:30 pm The Irish Rovers Christopher Newport University Ferguson Center 1 University Place Newport News, Virginia 23606	For more than four decades, The Irish Rovers http://www.irishrovers.info/ have charmed and entertained audiences around the world with their exciting stage shows. These international ambassadors of Irish music, with original members George Millar and Wilcil McDowell, have maintained their timeless ability to deliver a rollicking, rousing performance of good cheer—one that will soon have you singing and clapping along. Their songs have become anthems of revelry and joy among generation after generation of fans. Like the Unicorn, the Rovers are legendary and magical, and a good time is guaranteed for all. http://fergusoncenter.cnu.edu/visitors.htm TICKET PRICES - \$44, \$39, \$34, \$29

IAS OFFICERS & BOARD

President	Gloria Cahen	804-233-2113	zebagus@comcast.net
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