



The Richmond Claddagh

NOVEMBER 2011

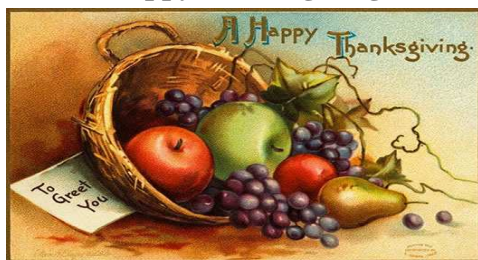
<http://richmondias.org/>

The Richmond Irish American Society

[Click for the Calendar of Events](#)

It's November! – and in Gaelic that would be ...Samhain

Lá Altaithe faoi mhaise! Happy Thanksgiving



From The President's Desk: As most of you know, it has been our practice for several years to give a "Most Valuable Person" award at the Christmas Party. It was to recognize a member who had done "above and beyond" for that calendar year. Nominations were from the entire membership and the final decision was from a committee. Our intent was a good one, but it did not really work in reality. Too many of the membership did not know who had done what and what constituted "above and beyond". All of the awards have gone to Board Members whom I assure you, do go above and beyond, as do the others who have not won.

The award has been changed to a President's Award and is to cover a long-term effort and not just that one year. The IAS has many unsung heroes and this is to recognize their contributions. I would still like to hear from the Membership – especially long term members – as to whom they would like to see rewarded. Please let me hear from you before November 15th. The award will still be given at the Christmas Party on December 3rd at the Boat Club. Sonya S. Moore President -804-272-4138, email me at sonyasmoore@comcast.net

Bad News/Good News: The bad news is that we are sorry to report that Joan Finnegan has stepped down from her position on the Board and as Pub Master. Joan remains a member and we hope to see her at upcoming IAS events. We wish her well on whatever projects she may take on and we offer many thanks for the good times and fun evenings she set up for us. .

The good news is that Mary Smith, who is a former Board Member and Newsletter Editor, has agreed to take on Joan's position on the Board and as Pub Master. We look forward to hearing from Mary on where our next Pub Night will be and when. You can contact Mary with ideas or suggestions at MARYRRF@yahoo.com or 804-746-8173

November 17th - IAS Meeting – A Rousing Good Time is On Deck - Dan Begley has arranged for "Turf Fire" – IAS members Mary Smith and John Robison to present an evening of Irish & Celtic music for our enjoyment. They will be joined for the evening by Marcy Horwitz of Klezm "Or" Amin'm on the accordion/squeeze box. The music of Turf Fire is rousing, fun and traditional. They take their inspiration from groups like The Clancy Brothers, The Corries, The Dubliners, and the Kingston Trio. Their repertoire is wide and varied - lively Irish sing-alongs, sea chanties, Scottish ballads, old style Appalachian music, and everything in between. John Robison is an accomplished banjo player and teacher, and is a founding member of local group [Southern Horizon](#). [Mary Smith](#) is an accomplished solo musician specializing in traditional ballads and our new IAS Pubmaster! Click on this link to listen to and enjoy a taste of their music. <http://www.myspace.com/turffire>

The meeting is at the Glen Allen Library, 10501 Staples Mill Road, Glen Allen (23060) – 804-290-9500. The meeting starts at 7 pm – but come early for Nosh & Natter (meet & eat!) Click here for a map & directions [Glen Allen Library](#)

There was quite an article in the Richmond paper recently about Chimborazo Hospital and its close ties to Richmond and the Civil War. IAS member Marie McGranahan sent me this little "aside" from Chimborazo.

Civil War view of Irishmen at Chimborazo Hospital

From Phoebe Pember, chief matron of the hospital, about the deadliness of amputations performed at the hospital:

"The only cases under my observation that survived were two Irishmen, and it was really so difficult to kill an Irishman that there was little cause for boasting on the part of the officiating surgeons."

(Yikes! – is that a positive or negative statement about the Irish boys? Hmm – I think I know)

IRISH PROVERBS

- * Don't let your tongue cut your throat.
- * He may die of wind but he'll never die of wisdom.

Nollaig Shona
Merry
Christmas

**IAS CHRISTMAS
PARTY
December 3rd!
6pm – 11pm**

This years Christmas party will again be held at the Virginia Power Boat Club, a warm and festive setting for us, located at 4051 Old Gun Road East, Midlothian VA 23113. From Huguenot Bridge into Chesterfield Co: Stay on Huguenot Road until you reach the intersection of Old Gun Road. There's a traffic light there. Turn right. The road will twist & turn a bit and go for 1.7 miles. The boat club is on the right. There's a sign—it's not very large or well lit. **NO PARKING ON THE GRASS, & DRIVE SAFELY!**

<http://g.co/maps/rb2qn> **Click on this link to get directions from your own location.**

Again this year, our Christmas party will feature **the Annual Irish Silent Auction**. In the past, we've enjoyed wonderful donations from our members – like - Irish books, Irish prints, Irish Belleek, coupons for Irish Massage Therapy – (Just kidding about the Irish part! But it was thoroughly enjoyed by two of our members!), a one week stay at a cabin in the Shenandoah Mountains, a one week stay in a cottage in Ireland, a handmade Guinness Bar sign, An Irish Santa, a Goodwill basket of Irish goodies and spirits and much, much more. Although we have no idea what the goodies will be - 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 contact our Auction chairperson – Kathryn O'Meara at 804-745-1903 or email her at mungojerrie23@aol.com and let her know the item that you are donating

Items can be donated and delivered to us in several ways.

- You can bring your item to the November 17th meeting and we'll get it to the Christmas party for you.
- You can bring your item to the Christmas party (Please bring it early so there is time to display it and for us to prepare the Bid Card or email us with the information.
- If you need something picked up, you can contact Kathryn (see above) or Nancy Emig at 804-323-6415 or mailto:bearfan46@verizon.net and we'll try to get over to pick it up. (Please let us know if it is oversized or very heavy)

This is our major fund-raiser for the year. Proceeds are used to secure speakers/entertainers/movies and more for our meetings, postage and printing supplies, Insurance, the goodies supplied by our wonderful Hospitality ladies at every meeting and much more.



CELTIC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

December 17th & 18th – 6pm

Huguenot Road Baptist Church
10525 West Huguenot Road -

Thanks to Dan Begley for finding out about this Celtic Christmas program. Click on the link <http://hrberichmond.org/celtic-christmas> to hear a taste of Celtic Music. The tickets for this concert are free, it is the 2nd year it's been presented and that was to a packed house last year. So take advantage of the free opportunities - I ordered tickets this morning! Seems a nice chance to pause, reflect and enjoy in that busy holiday schedule.

All are welcome at “A Celtic Christmas” presented by Huguenot Road Baptist Church. The ancient comes to life as the story of the birth of the Christ Child is retold through Celtic music, worship and dance. This program is free and open to all. You are encouraged to wear your clan tartans and kilts!

[click Here to Get Free Tickets](#) or call the church – 804-272-2072



Anyone wishing to **learn Irish** will benefit from a series of free Irish language lessons at **Easy Irish.com** <http://www.easyirish.com/sample-page/>
<http://www.easyirish.com/category/easy-irish-podcasts/> They are also available for free on [iTunes](#).

MANY Thanks go out to our members who braved the weekend weather at the Meadow Highland Games – especially Saturday to work at the Irish tent. Sunday was a better day and we had considerable traffic at our IAS tent – got some membership renewals (is your membership current?) and a couple of new members. No matter the weather – we still manage to have fun as we get the “Irish Word” out to folks!

Five Tips for Visiting Ireland on a Budget

There have been times when traveling to the Emerald Isle meant a lot of green of a different variety. However, with the dollar rising, Ireland is now more affordable than it has been in years; Ireland has recently been named the leading travel budget destination by *USA Today*. Stretch your dollar even farther with these tips: (From Brian Moore Travel <http://www.bmit.com/>)

- **Stay in an Irish B&B** - most serve a traditional Irish breakfast, which can fill you up for the day. An Irish breakfast usually includes: toast, fried bacon or sausages, eggs, grilled tomatoes, black or white pudding, fried mushrooms and sometimes baked beans.
- **Order a carvery lunch** - A **carvery** is a restaurant where cooked meat is freshly sliced to order for customers, sometimes offering unlimited servings for a fixed price. Some pubs serve carvery lunches between 12:30-2pm for approximately 10 euros with a choice of pork, lamb or roast beef and two vegetable side dishes. With such a filling lunch, you will only need a light supper.
- **Reclaim the VAT** - for each \$100 you spend on goods that you will be taking back to the U.S. you can claim about \$17 as a VAT refund. You can get your VAT at the point of purchase, at the airport or by check once you return home. What makes Ireland an extra bargain is unlike the rest of the European Union; there isn't a minimum purchase amount.
- **Buy a Heritage Card** - this card entitles you to unlimited admission to more than 65 attractions throughout Ireland for only 21 euros. Heritage Cards are purchased locally.
- **Visit the Guinness Storehouse in Dublin** - for your admission fee you not only get an interesting tour on the craft of brewing, but some free samples and a chance to admire the 360-degree view of the city from the Gravity Bar.

CAN'T GET TO IRELAND THIS YEAR? Well not worry because you can watch a video from the Smithsonian-

SKY VIEW: The Emerald Isle (Full Episode – 26 minutes long) Explore the scenic and legendary wonders of Ireland from a bird's-eye view. Witness magnificent castles, remote mountaintops, and other dramatic sights, many of which can only be seen from above. Click on this link or paste it in your browser to take the "tour"

<http://www.smithsonianchannel.com/site/sn/full-episodes.do> - sky-view-the-emerald-isle-full-episode



Decorated Boulder in United States Reveals Links to Early Bronze Age Ireland

Mystery - How Did The Ancient Boulder Come to be in Georgia?

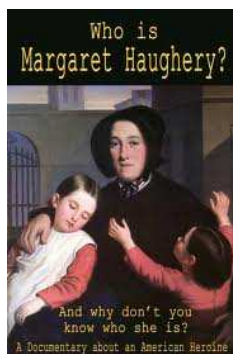
After 11 years of searching the Funk Heritage Museum, near Atlanta, Georgia, has identified the 11-foot long boulder decorated with ancient Petroglyphs are being identical to those found along the Atlantic Coast in Ireland, which date from the Early Bronze Age. This new discovery creates more questions about North America's history than it answers. Dr Joseph Kitchens, Director of the Funk Museum, on the campus of Reinhard University took over the challenge back in 2008 to find out where this massive boulder with concentric rings, circles, crosses and stars (what archaeologists call Petroglyphs) carved into its side came from. Having ruled out the more likely sources such as Native American Indians Kitchens cast his search wider and found his answer last week in Northern Ireland, according to reports in *The Examiner*.

Kitchens contacted the Irish Megalithic Organization, and its founder, author Anthony Weir. It has been confirmed that this boulder in Georgia is identical to many found in Ireland. Weir has been documenting and photography Petroglyphs in Ireland for over 30 years. His descriptions of the boulders found on the west coast of Ireland are almost identical to the one mysteriously found in Georgia. He describes a boulder on the Dingle Peninsula, County Kerry that has the same markings and is the same size as the one at the Funk Heritage Museum.

How the boulder came to be in Georgia remains a mystery. The identical stones in Ireland date from the Early Bronze Age. Non-Celts carved the carvings at least 1,500 to 500 years before Celtic writing, known as Ogham script began. Experts are not sure what the meaning of these carves could be. Many of these boulders appear around grave areas. In fact similar stone can be seen at Newgrange, County Meath.

(Hmmm.-. Seeing as these stones haven't turned up in Italy...I think the stonecutter probably came on the first boat to the New World - with St. Brendan and not on the ships of Columbus ...☺ Nancy)

Who are the Irish Americans that contributed SO much to their new country? Read this and be proud -



When you visit the beautiful city of New Orleans, be sure to visit the old business part of the city, where a statue of a woman overlooks a little square. The woman sits in a chair, with her arms around a child. The woman is not young and pretty and she wears a plain dress with a little shawl. She is pudgy and her face is a square-chinned Irish face; but her eyes look at you like your mother's. It is one of the first statues ever erected in this country to honor a woman, for this was a woman unlike any other.

She was born Margaret Gaffney in County Cavan, Ireland. Her family arrived in Baltimore in 1818, but died four years later leaving young Margaret an orphan at age nine. Left on her own, she never acquired an education and a non-related family gave her a job as household help. In 1835, she married Irish-born Charles Haughery and they moved to New Orleans where she lost both her husband and a newborn baby to a cholera epidemic. Margaret was again alone and penniless.

She found work as a laundress in an Orphan Asylum and became very attached to the children. She devoted her spare time to raising funds for them. She bought two cows and a delivery cart and sold milk door to door in the early mornings before work, giving her profits to the orphanage. Soon she was assigned to manage the orphanage's herd of 40 cows that provided milk for the children. She sold surplus milk and raised yet more funds. On returning from her rounds, she begged leftover food from hotels and rich houses, and brought it back in her cart to the children. She was so successful that the nuns were able to open several other facilities and Margaret was given a position in the administration of the orphanages. The Female Orphan Asylum of the Sisters of Charity, built in 1840, was largely due to her work.

A yellow fever epidemic in 1853 found her going from house to house, nursing victims and consoling dying mothers with the promise to look after their little ones. The epidemic left thousands of children homeless, and Margaret channeled all her profits into a

new endeavor – the St Vincent de Paul Infant Asylum, which opened in 1862. At one point, she loaned money to a baker, who soon went bankrupt. The only way she could recover her money was to take control of the bakery and operate it. She made the bakery a success, and it provided her with a small fortune and jobs for many people. She supplied all the asylums in New Orleans with bread at such a low price that it was virtually free.

When Union General Butler occupied New Orleans during the American Civil War, he declared martial law, erected barriers and set curfews. No one was allowed past the barriers or outside after curfew. Margaret distributed food and milk to the needy outside those lines, and she continued to do so. General Butler ordered her before him and admonished her to stay behind the lines, telling her she would be shot if she crossed them again. She said she would write to President Lincoln and ask if it was his will to starve the poor? General Butler reportedly stormed "You are not to go through the picket lines without my permission, is that clear?" "Quite clear", answered Margaret defiantly-to which Butler, noting her expression, responded, "You have my permission."

In time, everyone in the city came to know of Margaret, mother to the motherless and friend to the friendless. Children all over the city loved her, businessmen were proud of her and many came to her for advice. She would sit at the open door of the orphanage, in a calico gown and a little shawl, and give a good word to everybody, rich or poor, who came by. Then, at age 69, she contracted an incurable disease. Her friends, the Sisters of Charity, cared for her as people of all classes and denominations visited her. Margaret Gaffney Haughery died on February 9, 1882. Her body was laid in state at St. Vincent's Asylum and throngs queued to pay their respects. The city newspapers were edged in black to mark her passing, her funeral procession was the largest ever seen, with the mayor of New Orleans leading the procession and the Louisiana governor and former governor acting as pallbearers.

In 1884, the city of New Orleans erected a marble statue to the memory of this remarkable Irish woman and its base is simply engraved Margaret. The little park in which it was erected was named Margaret Place. When her will was read, it surprised many to learn that she had amassed a considerable sum of money through her labors and investments. It was no surprise however, that she left it all to the various orphanages throughout the city. And her will was signed with an X, for she never did learn to read or write! (This story by Staff Reporter Eileen Fitzgerald, recently appeared in the Danbury, Ct. publication of "NewsTimes")

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](#)

<p>Nov 13th IAS Board Meeting</p>	<p>Start Time – 7:00 pm -. The meetings start promptly at 7 pm and generally last about one hour. – please call 804-272-4138 for directions.</p>
<p>Nov 17th IAS Meeting 6:30 Social 7:00 Meeting</p>	<p>Join us for an evening of Irish /Celtic music with “Turf Fire”. The meeting is at the Glen Allen Library, 10501 Staples Mill Road, Glen Allen (23060) – 804-290-9500. The meeting starts at 7 pm – but come early for Nosh & Natter (meet & snack!) Click here for a map & directions Glen Allen Library</p>
<p>November 18th Mary Smith & Greg Kimball Concert.</p>	<p>November 18th - 8:00 pm Gregg Kimball and Mary Smith at Crossroads Coffee and Ice Cream 3600 Forest Hill Avenue, Richmond, VA - http://crossroadsrva.com/- 8:00 pm Music – Coffee and Ice Cream... Does life get any better???</p>
<p>Nov 25 – 27th 7:30 - 9:00 PM Kimball Theatre Coyote Run: A Celtic Solstice Celebration</p>	<p>The winter solstice takes many shapes and has been celebrated in many forms throughout the generations. Join internationally renowned band Coyote Run as they revisit Yuletide legends and traditions from prehistoric Celtic lands to Christmas not so long ago. This rollicking concert is a family favorite, blending mystery and myth, sacred and irreverent, all in an unforgettable journey through the unique Celtic rock stylings of one of the hottest bands on the circuit today. Family Friendly. Tickets \$20 adults, \$17 seniors/students, \$14 children under 12. Reservations or additional tickets required. Call 1-800-HISTORY for prices and reservations.</p>
<p>December 3 6-ish to 11-ish IAS Xmas Party</p>	<p>IAS Christmas Party & World Famous (well our IAS world anyway) Silent Auction - a. Power Boat Club 4051 Old Gun Rd East – Midlothian, VA 23113 – Please - Be planning to attend and also think about an Irish themed donation for the auction. Again this year, we will be collecting non-perishable foods for the VA. Food Bank.</p>
<p>December 3 A Celtic Christmas with Poisoned Dwarf, Handsome Molly and Edsall Road.</p>	<p>AT Kimball Theatre in Williamsburg’s Merchant Square. "A Celtic Christmas with Poisoned Dwarf, Handsome Molly and Edsall Road." Tunes, Songs and Dances from the Tradition! 8 pm. Click on the links below to hear the groups. http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/kellykennedy http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/poisoneddwarf2 http://edsallroad.com/</p>
<p>Dec 17th & 18th A Celtic Christmas 6 pm FREE</p>	<p>Huguenot Road Baptist Church The ancient comes to life as the story of the birth of Christ is retold through Celtic music, worship and dance. Free and open to the public. 10525 W. Huguenot Road Richmond. 804-272-2072 for ticket information http://hrberichmond.org/celtic-christmas</p>
<p>December 17th IONA Celtic Concert 7:30 – 10pm Williamsburg.</p>	<p>Iona’s music is a unique, acoustic weave of the traditional music of Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Cornwall, Brittany (France), the Isle of Man, Asturias and Galicia (Spain), as well as their transplants in America. Blending songs, dance tunes, and airs into a rich and stunning tapestry, their style is outstanding in an arena where these traditions are seldom intertwined. http://www.wrl.org/events/iona Williamsburg Library, 515 Scotland St. Williamsburg VA 23185Phone: 757.259.4040</p>

<p>February 10& 11th 2012 Celtic Concert Coyote Run 7:30 – 10pm Williamsburg Library</p>	<p>Coyote Run (click for their website) Touring the country - Coyote Run presents sweeping soundscapes in concert halls, earthy Celtic vibes at highland festivals, and rollicking good times at the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire. Now join them in story after story, whisking them away to march side by side with Joan of Arc, or to roll out the guns against Sir Francis Drake, invade the French city of Calais, snatch back a faerie abducted victim, or witness the cruelty of a witch trial in colonial Virginia. Tight harmonies and soaring vocals telling tales from legend, history and myth are the hallmark of this band. Come and experience the magic that is Coyote Run! Williamsburg Library, 515 Scotland St. Williamsburg VA 23185 P hone: 757.259.4040 \$16 adults • \$14 Friends of WRL and students•\$8 under 16 http://www.wrl.org/events/coyote-run-1</p>
<p>Feb 12th 8pm Wolf Trap Vienna, VA Tickets \$22</p>	<p>SOLAS - A burst of Celtic vitality, this folk quintet uses catchy melodies and fast-fingered instrumentals to put a modern spin on traditional Irish classics. The internationally acclaimed Solas—meaning “light” in Celtic—incorporates several instruments including the flute, tenor banjo, mandolin, guitar, and accordion. The Washington Post raves, “Solás has established itself as one of the top Irish-folk groups on either side of the Atlantic.” Listen to Solas Music here</p>
<p>Feb 24th 8pm & 25th 7:30pm Wolf Trap Vienna, VA Tickets \$25</p>	<p>Cherish The Ladies (←Click for their website)- Witness the dynamic vocals, instrumentals, and step dancing of this sensational ensemble as they celebrate Irish culture through music. In 1985 Cherish the Ladies became the first all-female Irish music ensemble and in 2009 they released their 11th album, The Girls Won’t Leave the Boys Alone.</p>
<p><u>March TBA</u></p>	<p>Kite Festival – Dorey Park – Henrico Co.</p>
<p><u>March 2nd</u> POISONED DWARF AND HANDSOME MOLLY Cultural Art Center 2nd Stage 7 pm 804-261-2787 http://www.artsglenallen.com/ Tickets \$10/Adv \$12 at door</p>	<p>What a great opportunity this is – Wonderful Irish music. If you can’t get to the pubs in Ireland – this might be just as good! Poisoned Dwarf – plays driving traditional Celtic music. Focusing primarily on Irish traditional music, and with acoustic instruments only, this band from Williamsburg, Virginia has entertained audiences in many different settings for years. Handsome Molly plays Irish music that is heard in pubs all over Ireland, in bars, at Irish dances and social events. Our IAS member Kelly Kennedy adds to the luster of this Irish group along with Andy Cleveland, Craig DuBose and Rachel Blake. To hear some music from these local and area talents – just click on the links. http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/poisoneddwarf2 http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/kellykennedy</p>
<p><u>March 15th</u> CELTIC NIGHTS! 7:30pm University of Richmond Adults \$36 Seniors \$32 Group o 20+ \$32 each Children \$18 (Age 0 – 12)</p>	<p><u>Celtic Nights – “Journey of Hope”</u> Alice Jepson Theatre - click here Modlin Center for the Arts click here, University of Richmond - From the creators of Gaelforce Dance, the “two hour spectacular [that] has brought audiences to their feet all around the world” comes a brand new show in celebration of song. Celtic Nights expertly weaves together the lilting melodies and plaintive lyrics of the rich Celtic heritage to tell the story of a people. The audience is invited to travel along on a journey of hope, transported in time through traditional ballads, vivid choreography, and the story of a people struggling to find their place in a changing world. Celtic Nights features the finest male and female voices of the Celtic world, showcased against a thundering backdrop of expert dancing and musicianship. In this glittering production, six of Ireland’s most prominent vocal talents are complemented by six of its most accomplished step dancers, creating an exhilarating picture of a proud people who dared to dream big and doggedly carved out a home in the New World. In Celtic Nights, their story is told through the power and majesty of music and the hypnotic fury of dancing feet. http://modlin.richmond.edu/events/index.html</p>
<p>Birchmere Music Hall Alexandria, VA ShareThis Read More Buy Tickets</p>	<p>Gaelic Storm – More Info coming... Two Days March 03, and 04... Might be a Fun Road Trip!</p>