



April 2009

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

IAS IRISH GAELIC LESSONS: FREE:
Beginning/Tourist Level Irish Gaelic April 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th. IAS member Denis Maguire is our instructor. All classes will be at the Midlothian Library, Chesterfield County – 521 Coalfield Road, Midlothian, VA 23114 (804-794-7907). You can ‘Google’ the address or call for directions- the library is very accessible from 288 or the Powhite expressway

Time: Starting promptly at 7:00 - each is a 90-minute class (with a break in the middle)

Please note – we received this information from Dan Begley on April 1st and sent out an email to all the members that we could reach. There was some confusion regarding these classes - Dan made the arrangements with the library and Denis Maguire, but didn't get the information out for the membership.

He does apologize for the oversight and inconvenience connected to this late notice to you. Please contact Dan at 804-740-5631 or email him at directly

The April IAS Meeting: Program Director Dan Begley has set up the meeting for April Dan will show the movie “The Matchmaker” which was filmed in County Galway. It's great scenery – but a note – Rated R for language and more, so probably not for younger viewers.

The March Pub Supper: A very good turnout for the Get-Together at Poe's Pub on the 6th. Lively conversation, much laughter, 3 membership renewals and two new members! What a success! Members Joe and Mary O'Brien, Jim Mahone, Carroll Graham, Jim and Patsy McGroarty, Gloria Cahen, Denis and Jo Maguire, Tara and Steve Kelly, Nancy Emig, Mark and Lesley Gallaher, Jim Bandeleon, Liz Steen, Tim and Valerie Batten, July Garrett and her guests, Rhonda Atkinson, Johnny Wallace and Becky Wallace Hammill, and finally two of our newer members Jenny McIntyre and Jason Hawes, had a great evening. Thanks to all for coming out and a special welcome to Jenny and Jason. Hope to see you again soon. The Pub suppers are a great way to meet your friends in the IAS. Hope you'll join us in the coming months. Be sure to check out the upcoming April Supper.

THE IAS on the Road: On March 5th, President Gloria Cahen and Dan Begley ventured down to Ettrick to the monthly meeting of the Ettrick Historical

Society. Gloria and Dan talked about our Richmond Irish American Society and we hear they also gave an interesting presentation on the connections between the history of Richmond and Virginia and its early Irish settlers. Unfortunately, we didn't get the information until very late and weren't able to muster the troops to attend. We do hope to get Dan and Gloria to present the same program for our IAS at an upcoming meeting.

The St. Pat's Festival AND Welcome To Our New Members! What a great time we had at the Irish Festival. Karon Bell, our Special Events Chair, sends her **HUGE THANK YOU'S** to all the IAS members that helped out in our tent over the weekend and to those who just came by to lend moral support. And the “Claddagh” sends very special thanks back to Karon who worked so hard all weekend while in a leg brace. Turns out, she found out later she had suffered a broken bone in a fall earlier that week. But boy she showed her Irish grit and support for the IAS. Where do we find folks like this... and we have a lot that work hard for the IAS. Thanks to all of you. You are so appreciated.

Again this festival, so many nice folks stopped by to talk about their Irish heritage and to find out about our IAS group – and from those visits – we picked up some new members. Joining us are,

Stanley Balducci, Neil & Janet Brussard, James & Amy Comer and their children Meghan and Eryn, Karen Ide, Julie Kittel, Tim & Danielle Murphy, Bill Riddell (of the just forming Old Dominion Emerald Society) Helen Rogers, and Mark & Judy Yoder.

We extend a warm welcome to all and look forward to getting to know you all better! Check out the Events listing at the end of the newsletter and also regularly check our website calendar for events, using this link, for all the local and area Celtic events that we know of, [IAS Events Calendar](#)

A VERY special thanks to our members who came Friday night to set up the tents and the display tables and to those who stayed on Sunday night to get all the gear down and stowed. Karon Bell, Jim Bandeleon, Anne McGehee, Sonya Moore, Sharon O'Brien, Frank Hardy and Dan Begley. We can't do these shows without the extra efforts of these fine folks.

Celtic Cans – Sunday – April 5th is a gathering of local Celtic groups, working together to gather donations of canned good and other nonperishable food supplies for the Central Virginia Food Bank and at the same time raise community awareness of the many local Celtic organizations in our Richmond area. This project is the brainchild of Doug Elder, a member of the Richmond IAS, one of our IAS Webmasters and also a piper with the St. Andrew's Legion Pipes and Drums.

The event is on **Sunday, April 5th from 12 noon to 5 PM in the parking lot of Rare Olde Times located at 10602 Patterson Avenue Canterbury Shopping Center Richmond, VA** There will be performances throughout the day by local Celtic musicians and dancers. Rare Olde Times will be open for those wishing to partake in refreshment and food. The Irish American Society will man the donation truck between 2:00 and 3:00 and we can use your help to take in the donations and also to be at the table to give folks information on the IAS and provide membership information.

PLEASE CALL GLORIA CAHEN (233-2113) IF YOU CAN VOLUNTEER TO GIVE THE IAS A HAND. This is a great opportunity to participate in a good cause for our community and also to get the word out about our local Celtic organizations

These times aren't the best and many people need a bit of extra help. Let's all work together, spread the Celtic spirit and give a hand up to someone less fortunate Proteins in particular are needed, tuna fish, peanut butter, etc.

So C'mon.. gather up those non-perishables and canned foods and bring them out on April 5th in support of a good cause and then stay and enjoy a day of Great Celtic Music/Dance and good old Celtic fun.!

For questions about the event - Contact: Doug Elder
Phone: 804-314-0384 or Email Doug at:
elderclann@yahoo.com

IrishCentral.com-The man behind the new website, IrishCentral.com, www.irishcentral.com is Niall O'Dowd, the New York-based Irish publisher who puts out the weekly Irish Voice, Irish America magazine and the newspaper Home and Away. The new site includes genealogy information, top tourist spots in Ireland, breaking news and breaking fluff. Its target audience is the Irish Diaspora, which numbers 36.5 million in the United States, more than eight times the population of Ireland. Check it out if you get a chance.

THE IAS ELECTION IS COMING - OK, well maybe not until the June Picnic-but there is still time to think about volunteering to take a position with the IAS Board or one of the Chairmanships. There are no long hours, but the rewards are many when we are able to participate in activities and programs that encourage and enhance our Irish experience. The Board works hard to keep the IAS interesting and active and can always use fresh ideas and new faces. So think about getting involved. This year, the election will cover all Officer Positions and a portion of the Board members. We'd love to have and yes we NEED your fresh ideas and enthusiasm. Call Joan Finnegan 804-840-0080 or Frank Hardy -804-840-0080 if you can give us some time. Don't have the time to volunteer for a Board position? Well how about making a contribution by suggesting an event, or a meeting or program subject that you would like us to offer. You could also check into finding that meeting place we've been looking for to hold monthly meetings. There is always some way that you can help.



And here we have another Irish Family and bit of their History. The Gallaghers are consistently mentioned as one of the leading septs of the Tír Chonaill, along with the Ó Baoighill (Boyle), the ÓDochartaigh (Doherty) and Mac Suibhne (MacSweeny) families as being the pillars on which the lords of Tír Chonaill built their military strength, in particular the ruling Ó Domhnaill (Donnell) dynasty. The clan's territory extended over a wide area in the northern baronies of Raphoe and Tirhugh, Co. Donegal. The principle branch of the sept was seated at Ballyneit and Ballynaglack. Their chiefs were notable as marshals of O'Donnell's military forces in the fourteenth to the sixteenth centuries, and took a prominent part in all the military movements of Cenél Conaill, though some "renegade" O'Gallaghers are known to have helped Seán O'Neill escape after the battle of Fearsaid Suili in 1567. Hart lists them as the O'Donnell's cavalry. True to the often contradictory nature of Irish history, ÓGallagher's were often mentioned as confidants to kings of the Ó Domhnaill and other leading clans such as the ÓDesmond, but almost as often became bitter enemies of the same (The O'Donnells were one of the two major clans of northern Ireland, the other being the O'Neils).

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>April 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th.</p> <p>Beginner Level Irish Language Lessons</p>	<p>FREE: Beginning/Tourist Level Irish Gaelic April 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th. IAS member Denis Maguire is our instructor. All classes will be at the Midlothian Library, Chesterfield County – 521 Coalfield Road, Midlothian, VA 23114 (804-794-7907). You can ‘Google’ the address or call for directions- the library is very accessible from 288 or the Powhite expressway Time: Starting promptly at 7:00 - each is a 90-minute class (with a break in the middle) Please contact Dan at 804-740-5631 or email him at directly</p>
<p>Sunday, April 5th 12 noon to 5 PM Rare Olde Times (Parking Lot) 10602 Patterson Avenue Canterbury Shopping Center Richmond. VA</p>	<p>Come to the Parking Lot of Rare Olde Times and bring your donation of canned goods and other nonperishable food items for the Food Drive for the Central Virginia Food Bank. Richmond Celtic organizations will be on hand to accept the donations and to man information tables for each group. There will be performances throughout the day by local Celtic musicians and dancers. Rare Olde Times will be open. The Irish American Society will man the donation truck between 2:00 and 3:00 and we can use your help. Let’s all work together, spread the Celtic spirit and give a hand up to someone less fortunate. For questions about the event - Contact: Doug Elder Phone: 804-314-0384 or Email Doug at: elderclann@yahoo.com</p>
<p>13th Annual Commemoration of the 1916 Rising in Dublin</p> <p>Easter Sunday April 12, 2009 1:00 pm Charlottesville, VA Open to the Public</p>	<p>We folks in Charlottesville, Virginia, are planning for our 13th annual commemoration of the 1916 Rising in Dublin. The venue, as usual, is the Old Maplewood Cemetery, 425 Maple Street and we will assemble at the memorial to John Neilson, the United Irishman. The brief ceremony will include: Piping tunes from Bernie Horan; The welcoming comment; The placing of flags; Singing "Roddy McCorley"; Reading the Proclamation of the Irish Republic; Naming those executed in 1916; Singing "Where O Where Is James Connolly"; Comments from today's participants; The singing of "A Nation Once Again"; The singing of "A Soldier's Song." The event concludes with piping from Bernie Horan. Please come and join us for some Irish history in Virginia. For information or questions – contact - kdonleavy@embarqmail.com</p>
<p>Pub Supper April 18th Rosie Connolly’s 1548 E. Main St. Richmond VA 23219 (804-343-1063) Meet at 6:00 pm</p>	<p>Our Pubmaster – Joan Finnegan has another fun night planned for us. This time – we’re off to Rosie' Connolly's (click for link for menu and directions) Joan will reserve tables for us, so please call her at 804-840-0080 or email her at j.finn@hotmail.com and let her know your count – let her know by April 15th. That’s just to get us all seated together. Joan checked and we will have separate checks</p>
<p>April 19th IAS Board Meeting 7pm</p>	<p>All IAS Board meetings are open to the general membership of the Society. Meetings start at 7pm. Agenda items may be presented to before the Board by notifying the President in writing not less than 7 days before a Board meeting. For directions to attend or to present an item for the agenda, contact President Gloria Cahen, 804-233-2113</p>
<p>May 8th & 9th 1st Annual Celtic Music Festival Rockahock Campgrounds Lanexa Virginia (804) 966-8362 Rockahock</p>	<p>Appearing - Albannach from Glasgow, Scotland, Philadelphia based Celtic band Barley Juice, Brendan Loughrey a Chicago based Irish balladeer and Rud Eile (rud ella: Irish Gaelic for “something different”) based out of the Boston area and more. Celtic Demonstrators, Food and Beverage. Visit the website for more Information. Tickets are \$10 Friday, \$15 Saturday and \$20/Weekend. Free Early Bid Dinner hosted by Albannach – Friday 5-6:30 with purchase of weekend pass – the FREE dinner invitations will be mailed to all weekend campers & weekend event ticket holder – so buy ahead of time if you want to go. Check the website for more information - Rockahock</p>
<p>Etrick Celtic Festival May 9th 10 am to 5 pm</p> <p>Knox Springs Farm 21100 Halloway Ave Mataoca, VA 23803</p>	<p>Participants include Your Richmond IAS with their tent and Irish Historical and Cultural information, St. Andrew’s Legion Pipes & Drums, vintage cars and trucks, Native Americans, Civil War and WWII re-enactors, civic groups, and historical displays. There will be piping performances and other musical entertainment. There will be merchandise & food vendors. Children Welcome and Pets Welcome. Phone 804-526-8367 for more information or email victoriaandalbert@verizon.net - Click here for Driving Directions</p>

<p>May 23rd Paddy Keenan – Uilleann Piper Richmond Folk Music Congregation Or Ami 9400 West Huguenot Rd Richmond, VA</p>	<p>Paddy Keenan is recognized today as one of the most influential individuals in the evolution of Irish music Arguably the best of the best Uilleann pipers currently performing, Paddy's flowing, open-fingered style of playing can be traced directly from the style of such great Traveling pipers as Johnny Doran. Paddy will perform with guitarist/vocalist John Walsh. Born in The Bronx, NY, his family moved to Kilkenny, Ireland when he was 10.He took up guitar and was lucky enough to be surrounded by a rich musical heritage in Kilkenny where he learned music of all sorts and kinds. Tickets \$12.00 in advance/\$15.00 at the door- Order: 804-647-7856</p>
<p>June 7th IAS Annual Summer Picnic</p>	<p>World Famous - IAS Summer Picnic – fun for the whole family. Elections for Officers and Board members will be held at the picnic <u>You are asked to please bring a side dish or dessert to share, beverages for you and yours, and lawn chairs.</u> Lawn games for all ages and More to come including directions in the May newsletter</p>
<p>Saturday & Sunday, June 13th 10AM-7PM June 14th 10AM-5PM</p>	<p>16th Annual Potomac Celtic Festival in Leesburg, VA, on the picturesque historic green near the Morven Park Mansion and Museum, will include continual music and dance from many of your Celtic favorites, juried crafters and specialty import vendors, 2000 years of Living History reenactments, storytelling in the grove, workshops, children’s activities and crafts, food and drink, the authentic pub tent, and all of the family-fun that has become synonymous with PCF! http://www.potomaccelticfest.org/</p>
<p>Celtic Women “A New Journey” Landmark Theater Richmond, VA Sun, June 14th – 8PM</p>	<p>In a new program titled, “A New Journey”, the show spans two hours and contains selections from the group's platinum albums, <i>Celtic Woman</i> and <i>A New Journey</i>. The Celtic Women themselves are as beautifully, quintessentially Irish as the music they perform. Tickets are – Orchestra or Grand Tier \$60.00. Balcony – 2nd level - \$45.</p>
<p>July 31st, Aug 1st & 2nd Dublin Ohio Irish Festival</p>	<p>A huge Irish festival with Cultural Activities, Cultural Re-enactors depicting Ireland 1,000 years ago, Irish Linen & Wool Worker Demos, Irish Wake Tent, Legacy of the Irish Harp, Genealogy, Irish Story-Telling, Irish Traditions Stage with focused on the culture and history of Ireland... Lots, lots more... including Celtic Sports Dublin OH Irish Festival (http://www.dublinirishfestival.org/entertainment/index.php)</p>
<p>54th Grandfather Mtn, Highland Games – Grandfather Mtn. Linville, NC July 9th – 12th</p>	<p>The 54th Grandfather Mountain Highland Games will be held July 9-12, 2009 at MacRae Meadows on Grandfather Mountain near Linville, NC. http://www.gmhg.org/</p>
<p>Sept. 6th Irish Festival Blackthorne Inn, in Upperville, Virginia,</p>	<p>The Prodigals, Solas an Irish American band playing traditional tunes, The Dublin City Ramblers, Ceann- a Pittsburgh based Irish band, Shannon Lambert-Ryan & RUNA, there’s an Irish Dance stage, children’s activities http://www.theirishfestival.com/bands.htm</p>
<p>32nd Annual Williamsburg Scottish Festival October 2nd & 3rd</p>	<p>Friday, Oct 2nd, Balmoral Reception, 7 PM–9:00 PM, Ceilidh 6 P.M. – 11 P.M. Saturday, Oct 3rd. Festival 9 AM–5:30 PM Ceilidh 5:30 PM–Midnight Sunday, October 4th – Kirkin 10 A.M.</p>
<p>The Highland Games and Celtic Festival Oct 25th 9am – 6pm Oct 26th 9am – 5pm</p>	<p>The Meadow Event Park – 13111 Dawn Blvd., Doswell VA 23047. It’s a new name and new home – the fifteenth annual Meadow Highland Games & Celtic Festival (formerly the Richmond Highland Games & Celtic Festival) features two days of “Music. Food. Large Men Throwing Stuff.”</p>

The Claddagh is late getting the newsletter out and by the time the hard copies are mailed to members who do not have email – the first Irish language class and the Celtic Cans event will be over. The IAS apologizes to the membership. We had to have the information on the April IAS meeting before the letter could be finished, assembled and mailed.