



The Richmond Claddagh

May 2007

Newsletter of the Richmond Irish American Society www.RichmondIAS.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

May 20th	IAS Board meeting
May 25th	Complete and Mail those IAS Election ballots back to Joyce Blunt!
May 28th	I'm nagging – Is That Election Ballot Mailed Yet????
May 31st	Movie, “Local Hero” – Tuckahoe Library – 6:45pm
June 1st	I'm Nagging Again – Did you RSVP for the Picnic?????
June 8th	IAS at the Diamond -Pawtucket Red Sox vs. Richmond Braves – 7:00
June 10th	IAS Summer Picnic – See newsletter for details/ directions -Y'all come!
June 16th	Bloomsday Festival – www.bloomsdayrichmond.com (for information)
June 17th & 18th	Potomac Celtic Festival – Leesburg, VA www.potomaccelticfest.org

From The President: Dia Duit (or Good Day), I want to thank everyone who helped with the 15th anniversary party at the Columbian Center. Lots of great positive feedback from the membership and we really had a blessed day with both old and new friends. A reporter from **The Henrico Citizen** newspaper was there and there is a photo in their latest issue, so check that out when you get a chance. Looking forward to seeing folks at the picnic in June where the results of the IAS election (see ballot enclosed in newsletter) will be announced. I also want to thank all of you for the support; help and advice given to me when I moved to temporarily fill the office of the President last fall. Our friend, Chris Garrett left very big shoes to fill, and it is a tribute to Chris' memory that the membership helped the organization move forward after such a difficult time. All the Best to all of you, and I'll see you at these upcoming events. Dan Begley

Thursday, May 31st - The May IAS Meeting and Monthly Program – Presenting the film, “**Local Hero**” – a wonderful story of the Celtic spirit. Burt Lancaster stars (along with the beautiful scenery of Scotland.) in this inspirational and uplifting movie. Please note the earlier start time of 6:45.

Tuckahoe Library
1901 Starling Drive
Richmond VA 23229-4607 Ph: (804) 270-9578

The Famous Annual IAS Picnic: Sunday, June 10, starting at 1 pm at Pat and Helen Burke's farm in Amelia. This event is free to active IAS members, and any guests are \$5 each – (to help offset the cost of the picnic). Burgers, hot dogs and condiments are provided, but you are asked to please bring a side dish or dessert to share, beverages for you and yours, and lawn chairs. This is a wonderful way to get to know the other members, and it's a beautiful country setting and always one of our big turnout events. To

help us plan for supplies and food, - we don't want to run out of food (!) **you must RSVP with the number of people attending- - to either Gloria Cahen 233-2113 or Sonya Moore at 272-4138 or email at sonyasmoore@comcast.net by June 1.**

Picnic Driving Directions: Go west on Rt. 360 (Hull St. Road towards Amelia VA 5 miles past the Appomattox River (which separates Chesterfield & Amelia Counties), turn left at Route 627 (Cheatham Rd.). As you make the “S” shaped turn, you'll see “The Salvage Shed” store on the opposite side of Rt. 360: go eight-tenths of a mile on Cheatham Road & turn left onto an uphill gravel driveway. Mailbox has 9943 on it. (If you drive past the Citgo station on 360, then turn around because you've gone too far!). **Lost? Call 561-5778.**

The IAS Elections – It's time to vote for the Officers and Board members for the upcoming IAS year. This year all of the Officer positions will change occupants and there are **4** individuals running for **3** open Board of Director seats. So your vote does count (and yes, we have made sure there will be no hanging chads.) The IAS ballot is enclosed for you to complete and mail back to Joyce Blunt by June 1st The mailed ballots will be counted by the Nomination Committee and election results for new Officers and Board members will be announced at the IAS picnic in June. Many thanks to Joyce and to Darlene Curtis for recruiting the slate of officers and many thanks to members that volunteered to accept positions on the Board. These are the folks that make the IAS run so smoothly, but you are the folks that make the IAS strong. So please cast your vote and send it in. For just \$.41 – your voice is heard... how cool is that!

The Anniversary Party: What a fabulous party to celebrate “our” 15th birthday! Mary Smith and John Robison, “**Turf Fire**”, started the party off with an

array of Irish music, which set the mood for the fun to come. Hutch Hutchinson's beautiful young granddaughter, Katie, next offered a wonderful set of Irish dancing. We all had to be thinking about how great it is to see the Irish spirit moving on to the next generation. After lots of socializing and of course eating and a bit of imbibing – President, Dan Begley welcomed everyone to the party and then turned the mike over to Sonya Moore. Our first IAS President, Pat Burke was unable to attend, but Sonya read a wonderful note from Pat citing his delight in seeing the IAS celebrate 15 wonderful years. Past and current President(s), Ron Hendricks, Colum Toibin, Tom O'Donnell, Carroll Graham, and Dan Begley were each presented with citations for their contributions in the formation and continued growth of our IAS. The certificate for Chris Garrett was presented to his wife, Judy. Retiring Treasurer, Colleen Callahan was also cited for years of keeping the IAS books balanced and the Society solvent! Jim Bandeleian and Frank Hardy were recognized for their continuing contributions in providing time, labor, "construction set up" and storage for Jim's great display materials used at all our event appearances. We could not do it without them. Pam Hardy, Carmel Miney and Maureen Toibin, our wonderful "Hospitality Ladies", also were recognized for making every IAS meeting more inviting (and tasty too!). At the close of the presentations, Jim Bandeleian gave a moving tribute to our late President Chris Garrett, which is reprinted elsewhere in the newsletter.

Many thanks to Sonya Moore for organizing the event, and to Sonya, Joyce Blunt, Karon Bell, Nancy Emig Jim Bandeleian and Chuck Farmer for set up and decorating. Also, thanks go out to Ed & Linda Mayers, Larry & Jeanine David, Karon Bell, & Leslie & Mark Gallagher for "un-decorating" and clean up. (If I neglected to mention anyone.. please forgive – we are all trying to work from the best of our memories. (There's an oxymoron-best our memories!))

The Membership Corner: IAS welcomes our newest members: **Tom and Sara Rupnik, Dick Harman and Bill & Ruby Donovan and their family.** We were glad to see Dick and the Rupniks at the Anniversary party and it was great to meet the Donovans at the Irish concert afterwards. We look forward to more fun times with all of you - a great start would be the IAS picnic!

IAS Book Club: IAS member, Joe McMenamin not only suggested starting an IAS book club, dedicated to Irish literary materials, – he also volunteered to help with setting it up and with leading the group discussions! Before the new format, Joe reviewed Irish materials for the Richmond Times Dispatch

Book section and brings a contagious enthusiasm for Irish literature. Sonya Moore has volunteered to work with Joe, and especially with the initial set up work. So if you are interested in participating in an IAS Book Club, please call Sonya at 272-4138 or email her at sonyasmoore@comcast.net.

The April General Meeting – The Book of Kells - On April 19th, IAS members were invited to the monthly meeting of the Richmond Scottish Society to hear a wonderful presentation by Virginia Union Professor, Margaret Duckworth, on The Book of Kells. A large turnout of IAS and RSS members enjoyed the very interesting and informative presentation and a really good Social Hour afterward. Don't feel bad if you missed the first "showing". There is talk that IAS is going to try and arrange a repeat of the program with some enhancements. So watch for details in upcoming emails or the newsletter. It was really great to have a joint event with another local Celt organization and we hope to see more events like this in the future. Many thanks to the Scottish Society for the invitation and for the great company!

Volunteering For the IAS: One of the main points of the presentation on The Book of Kells was that the creation of The Book required many artisans to cooperate and work together. Some scribes did the actual printing, other artists created the intricate drawings, and then others filled in the beautiful colors. Our 15th Anniversary party presents a great analogy. Certificates of Appreciation were given to Past IAS Presidents, and as in the creation of the Book of Kells, it took a team of IAS members working together to prepare the certificates. Nancy Emig did the formatting and wording, then passed them to Jim Bandeleian who added the decorative Celtic borders and designs. He returned them to Nancy who printed them in color and then sent them on to Gloria Cahen who framed them for presentation.

The moral of this story is that it often takes the efforts of many to do one job. Everyone has talent; skills or even time to share that would be a true asset to the IAS. So when you see a notice in the newsletter asking for volunteers, please consider if you could give some time and then respond to the event planners. We want everyone to feel like a contributing and involved member of the Society. We just had the most wonderful tribute to IAS volunteers who contributed their time and talents to organize and foster the growth of the society. Now we need you to keep the organization growing and going. We need the special talents and enthusiasm of our members to move the IAS into its next 15 years (contributed by Sonya Moore)

The Gaelic Classes: A merry band of IAS members, led by fellow IAS member Denis Maguire, enjoyed several weeks of beginner Irish Gaelic classes. Not only was it fun to learn a bit about the language, it gave the participants a chance to get acquainted, as we were humbled in our verbal attempts at pronunciation! We were very fortunate to have Denis volunteer his time and efforts to give us some exposure to the language. If you missed the class, but are interested in pursuing this on your own, we used the material in a booklet- **Buntús Cainte**. It has a set of sixty lessons and comes with a CD of the spoken words/phrases and sentence structure. You can find it online at Amazon.

Many thanks to Denis for being so patient and making the classes so much fun. It was most appreciated by all of the “students”



SECOND ANNUAL BLOOMSDAY RICHMOND SATURDAY JUNE 16, 2007

James Joyce's masterpiece *ULYSSES*, the world's most highly acclaimed novel of the 20th century, was set entirely in one day - June 16, 1904. The book recounts the epic journey of the main characters, Leopold Bloom and Stephen Dedalus through one day in Dublin, Ireland. June 16th has become a traditional day of celebration for Joyce enthusiasts all over the world. Bloomsday/Richmond – 2006 offered readings and music from *ULYSSES* in several venues and pubs. In 2007, we transport you to Dublin Ireland (relocated to the North Side's MacArthur Avenue) with even more venues and activities added this year.

DUBLIN Ireland - MACARTHUR AVE (located between Laburnum & Bellevue) Based on events from The Book – Ulysses -Special events featuring, readings of selections from The Book- *ULYSSES*, Irish music, Irish food, Irish drinks and Irish fellowship at these locations.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame – and make it June 8th with my IAS friends at the Richmond Diamond as we cheer on the Richmond Braves vs. the Pawtucket Red Sox. Please call Ed Mayers at 804-379-5577 or email him at ehm1537@msn.com and let him know the number attending. He'll fill you in on what's going on and the how and where to get the tickets.

Tickets are \$7.00 for general admission or \$10.00 for Box seat -we can do better on the cost but need a minimum of 25 people for a group rate. So be sure and call Ed for details and to make reservations... Ah, warm summer nights, the crack of the Richmond Braves bats, surrounded by your Irish friends... how good can life get?

Quick! Call Ed before you forget.....

SAMMY'S BAKERY (4019 MacArthur Ave.) Tuesday through Friday 8 am to 6 pm and Saturday (Bloomsday) 8 am to 4 pm. featuring the Best Irish Soda Bread Ever and Celtic baked goods all week.

SHENANIGAN'S EATERY & PUB- (4017 MacArthur Ave.) Pub Night Saturday June 16, starting at 6 pm - Irish Pub Grub, Guinness, Drinks, Music, Readings

CARYTOWN BOOKS- (4021 MacArthur Ave.) Saturday June 16 from 4 pm to 6 pm. Readers will present chapter highlights from *ULYSSES*, featuring Bloom, Steven and earth mother- Molly.

ONCE UPON A VINE. (4009 MacArthur Ave.) Enjoy Bloom's lunchtime famous Burgundy and Gorgonzola Cheese

RARE OLD TIMES -(10602 Patterson Ave. at Pump and Patterson) Irish Fare, music and readings from *ULYSSES* including, Chapter 12, "Cyclops"

For information or questions, visit the website

<http://www.bloomsdayrichmond.com>

or Phone 804-673-0857.

Email bloomsday0616@aol.com.



**Chris Garrett - President
Irish American Society
2003-2006**

I am lucky enough to be able to say that Chris was my friend. And, I know many of you felt the same way about him. I first met Chris when I joined the Richmond Irish American Society about 5 years ago. As many of you can well relate, within the first ten minutes of chatting with Chris, I felt as though I had already known him for many years. He had that way about him. An easy laugh coupled with his gift of gab and that great beaming smile – it all worked together to pull you into that huge circle of friends that he so cherished. He was a great friend to everyone and he was that best gift of all, he was a great friend to have.

Chris was a true leader and an individual who inspired others. His enthusiasm moved people to take action, devise new ideas and find new ways to do things to help promote and encourage the growth of the IAS. It was his desire to see the society continue on, always improving, always advancing the mission of the IAS. His vision was to see the IAS still going strong for the next 15 years.

As other have discovered, being president of the IAS is no easy matter. Sometimes, Chris certainly had his hands full trying to keep the peace between a bunch of spirited individuals with Irish blood pulsing through their bodies. But, he managed to get people to work together because he recognized individual strengths and knew that every member was an important part of the organization. And because of that, we've had some amazing and wonderful times together and seen the organization grow stronger.

Chris had many great ideas and plans for the IAS. One idea that was very dear to him was this 15th year celebration. He was so proud of the fact that the IAS has been round for 15 years and often mentioned that it was rare for an organization to last that long – let alone thrive! It was Chris who suggested the First Annual Silent Auction that was held at last years Christmas



party. And, what a success! It is my hope that this will become a tradition at the Christmas Party every year and that the name of the event will be the Chris Garrett Annual Silent Auction.

I could go on and on about Chris and many of his other attributes and dreams, but let me just say this: I just wish Chris was here with us today. He would have been delighted seeing all the members of the IAS and our friends from the Hibernians and the Knights of Columbus celebrating our anniversary. Tonight I feel that Chris is here with us in spirit. Somewhere in this room he's watching over us with that big wide grin of his and he is happy and proud to see the success of this anniversary party.

This is one of Chris' newsletter notes to the IAS membership in April 2006 and it says it all.

“Hello fellow IAS members! Well, the year is winding down. We are planning some changes for the upcoming year. This will, I hope, increase your participation in events and attendance at programs, and will also encourage you to share your ideas with us.

You see, my fellow members, you are our best asset. So, we will be looking to you to make some positive changes. If we, the IAS in total, fail to continue to grow and evolve, our organization will surely pass away. So, I'm saying I would like the IAS to continue long after I'm gone. This is my wish.”

*At your service,
Chris Garrett*

(A tribute to Chris given by Jim Bandeleian at the 15th Anniversary party.)

(A note from the editor) As you can see – from the recent Irish Gaelic classes to the promise of an upcoming Irish Book Club, the IAS continues to build on its history of consistent activities and educational opportunities centered on our shared Irish heritage. We are able to add these new activities because of the ideas and energy of our wonderful IAS members. It would appear that Chris' wish – for the IAS to “keep on” is in good hands – your hands.)



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