

The Richmond Claddagh

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



Jan., 2007

Bonnie Atwood - Editor

Bliain úr faoi shéan is faoi mise duit!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Jan. 11, 7 p.m.	IAS Program: Old Irish Recording Artists, Bon Air Library (see below)
Jan. 20	Social Event in Fredericksburg (call Ed 379-5577)
Jan. 20	Southern Horizon Concert (details below)
Feb. 1-4	"Riverdance" comes to town
Feb. 11	IAS Board Meeting; all members are welcome; call Gloria 233-2113
March 24	St. Patrick's Day Parade & Festival Weekend, Church Hill
April 14	Strawberry Hill Races (call Gloria 233-2113)
April 18, 25 & May 2	Irish Film Course UR; pre-register www.richmond.edu/scs/osher
April 21	15 th Anniversary Party at Columbian Center!

President's Letter:

I want to thank everyone for making our IAS Christmas Party a success. It was Chris Garrett's idea to have a 15th anniversary party to celebrate our organization and with the proceeds from 12/02/06 we should be in good shape.

Watch the newsletter in the coming months for details about our anniversary party that will be held in the spring. Also, we will be looking for new officers effective this June. Let me know if you have an interest. All the Best, Dan

January Program:

Old Irish Recording Artists

There were many Irish recording artists in Boston and New York City circa 1904-1950. Their songs live on via 78 rpm records that our guest speaker collects. Mr. Gregg Kimball, Director of Publications and Educational Services for the Library of Virginia, will play Irish records and discuss various performers on Jan. 11 at the Bon Air Library, 9103 Rattlesnake Road, Richmond, VA 23235 starts at 7 pm. Questions? call Dan Begley, 740-5631.

IAS Christmas Party & Silent Auction

What a wonderful time was had by all at the 2006 Greater Richmond IAS Christmas Party! There was plenty of food, music, friendship, and the First Annual Silent Auction. The auction was the vision of our late President Chris Garrett and we all did him proud.

There were 29 items auctioned, all donated by our members. Items ranged from a week at a country home on the Ring of Kerry in Ireland, a two-night stay at Atwood Acres in Virginia's beautiful Shenandoah Valley, a 50-person Pig Roast, a first edition stamp from Ireland, handmade Celtic Christmas Stockings, and much more.

The goal of the Silent Auction was to have some fun and also raise money to go to the ever-increasing cost of festivals and the materials needed to present the Greater Richmond IAS at them. We should all be very proud of the \$1,033.00 that was raised. Again, we would all like to thank the people who donated items and also the people that took home some great holiday gifts. **By Ed Mayers**

Beginning Irish Gaelic:

If enough people are interested, we may be able to form a Beginners Conversational Irish Gaelic class this year! Call Dan at 740-5631 if you would like to be a part of this. If you already emailed a response, you are on the list!

Southern Horizon Concert – January 20th

On Saturday, January 20th, Richmond Folk Music will sponsor a concert by the group “Southern Horizon”. This fine group is well known to historical and reenactment groups, who relish the fine musicianship and research which has gone into developing an authentic repertoire of songs which truly paint a picture in sound of days gone by. Most of their (often sold out) performances are private, or outdoors, and this upcoming concert will be a rare opportunity to see the group perform in a comfortable, intimate setting with excellent acoustics.

IAS member John Robison is one of the founders of Southern Horizon and plays banjo and harmonica. The rest of the lineup consists of Sue Tarr (one of the most talented fiddlers in the Richmond area – she also performs with Tinker’s Damn), Vickie , vocals and whistle, and Robbie Watts on guitar. They’ll discuss the roots of the music (heavily Irish – don’t forget that over 60% of the soldiers who fought in the American Civil War were Irish born or of Irish descent), and will demonstrate period instruments.

The Corner Pub Preview: Looking Forward to 2007

Hi IAS Members.

Hope all is well and everyone had a wonderful Christmas season.

2007 is here and we will continue our monthly Pub Social Nights with new and exciting places to visit. We will start off 2007 on Saturday, Jan. 20 at 6:30 pm with a road trip and visit a brand new pub by the name “Irish Eyes Public House” in Fredericksburg, Va. The owners of the Celtic store “Irish Eyes”, Mike & Bernadette Elser, have opened the pub

right down the street from their store on Caroline Street.

The exciting thing about this is that they have invited the members of the Fredericksburg IAS at the pub that night also. It will give the two Irish groups a chance to get acquainted and have some fun. Mike also said he will have a lot of good music and good food for us to partake in. He is working on having Mary Smith for the night and is also looking to have a couple of other singers there. Please mark your calendars as this is looking like a truly special night.

We also plan to visit a new Pub in Ashland, “Sullivan’s”, that is planning to open in February. Combine these with our old favorites and some other things that I am cooking up and it looks like 2007 is going to be a very fun and eventful year.

Please let me know if you are planning to come to the January Social Night so that I can let Mike & Bernadette know how many to expect. You can call me at 804-379-5577 or email me at ehm1537@msn.com.

Next Social Night – Saturday January 20th at “The Blarney Stone Public House”, Caroline Street, Fredericksburg, VA. Phone - 540-371-PINT (7468). Time 6:30 pm – so mark your calendars and plan to join us. **By Ed Mayers**

Membership

Please check the mailing label on your newsletter for your membership renewal date. Send your renewal dues to: Nancy Emig, 9620 Tuxford Road, Richmond VA 23236. You can download a membership application on our website www.richmondias.org/

Off to the Races! Once again Strawberry Hill has graciously offered the IAS the use of a skybox for the races on April 14 at Colonial Downs. Cost is \$35 per person, which includes shuttle, ticket, & skybox! There’s a 20-person minimum, so call Gloria immediately to reserve your spot 233-2113. \$\$ due in March. The air-conditioned skybox has a bathroom & fridge.

“Family Traditions” Cookbooks: Thanks to everyone who submitted recipes! To include

your recipe, contact Linda at LindaMayers@msn.com or 379-5577.

Everybody Loves a Parade! If you want to serve on the St. Patrick's Festival's Parade planning committee and/or volunteer to be a parade marshal please contact me: 288-7195, or carrollgraham@webtv.net. --Carroll Graham.

If you need to contact Your IAS Officers:

President/Dan Begley	740-5631
Secretary/Gloria Cahen	233-2113
Treasurer/Colleen Callahan	261-4998
Membership-Nancy Emig	323-6415



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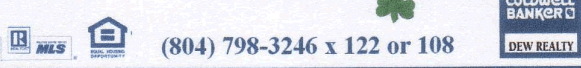


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Website of the Month:

For all the information on Riverdance, go to:

www.riverdance.com/htm/tours_tickets/tourdates.php

“God made the grass, the air and the rain; and the grass, the air and the rain made the Irish; and the Irish turned the grass, the air and the rain back into God.”

---Sean O’Faolain

Did you know?

Last month's fact: When are the earliest settlers reputed to have arrived in Ireland? **6000 B.C.**

What famous work of fiction ends: “His soul swooned slowly as he heard the snow falling faintly through the universe and faintly falling, like the descent of their last end, upon all the living and the dead”?

- a) “The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne”
- b) “The Dead”
- c) “Guests of the Nation”
- d) “Finnegan’s Wake”

See the answer in your next newsletter!