

# The Richmond Claddagh

Newsletter of the Greater Richmond Irish American Society  
Bonnie Atwood - Editor



April, 2006

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

<b>Sunday – May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm</b>	The IAS Board Meeting at Gloria Cahen’s home. All IAS members are invited to attend any Board meeting. Please call Gloria at 233-2113 with questions or for directions to her home.
<b>Thursday – May 18<sup>th</sup> 7pm</b>	May IAS General Membership meeting - more info in this newsletter
<b>Kate Brogan – Featured Speaker on Scotch/Irish Gaelic</b>	Dumbarton Library, 6800 Staples Mill Road Richmond, VA 23228 804-262-6507 – for directions to the library
<b>Saturday – May 20<sup>th</sup></b>	The Hanover Heritage Festival - Hanover Courthouse, VA
<b>Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup></b>	IAS Annual Picnic – The Burke Farm – Amelia Virginia. More information & directions in this newsletter.
<b>Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup> - Bloomsday Festival All Day</b>	Watch the newsletter for more information on this first Richmond Bloomsday Festival to honor author James Joyce. Call organizer Hutch Hutchinson at 673-0867 for more information or to volunteer for the festival or visit the website <a href="http://www.bloomsdayrichmond.com">www.bloomsdayrichmond.com</a>
<b>June 17<sup>th</sup> &amp; 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Potomac Celtic Festival – Ireland is the Honored Nation. More information in this newsletter and at the website <a href="http://www.potomaccelticfest.org">www.potomaccelticfest.org</a>

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

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, programs, and your ideas.

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, or better yet, sitting somewhere throwing canned fruit at a nurse (while still in the can) with drool, and in a lucid moment, see a flier or newspaper article about the IAS of Greater Richmond. This is my wish.

Yours,  
Christopher Garrett - IAS President

### THE ST. PATRICK’S FESTIVAL AND PARADE

Thank you to all of those who helped with the IAS booth at the St. Patrick’s Day Festival. It was a marvelous weekend! We thank, especially - Linda Barker, Jim Bandeleon, Dan Begley, Larry & Jeanine David, Nancy Emig, Joan Finnegan, Stephen Gallagher, Chris and Judy Garrett, Pam & Frank Hardy, Marie McGranhan, Ed & Linda Mayers, Sonya Moore, Maryellen O’Hare, Kathryn O’Meara, and Bonnie Atwood. Please forgive if anyone was accidentally omitted – we do appreciate all our volunteers!

**The MAY IAS MEETING** will be at the Dumbarton Library. The featured speaker will be Kate Brogan discussing Scottish Gaelic. Kate will talk about the differences between Scottish and Irish Gaelic, and give a little history connecting the two forms of Gaelic. Kate has a school that teaches Scottish Gaelic. For more information on the program - please call Dan Begley at 740-5631.

**HANOVER HERITAGE DAY** - This is a fun event the IAS has participated in for a couple of years now. Our participation gives us a chance to let people know about our organization and maybe we can attract some new members and to support the activities of our neighboring county to the North. The festival recognizes the significant historical sites, events and periods that represent the people, the cultures, tradition and spirit of Hanover County. Nearly 50 organizations will exhibit, rain or shine. There will be new exhibits, entertainment and numerous children's activities. The festival is at the Hanover Courthouse Route 301, 23069. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (804) 365-6005. Free Admission. <http://www.co.hanover.va.us/pio/heritage/heritage.htm>.

If you are interested in volunteering to work in the IAS tent for a couple of hours – please call Gloria Cahen at 233-2113. It's very easy work, and lots of people will be there to help you learn what we do to help people learn more about their Irish heritage and about the IAS

**The (World Famous) IAS Annual Summer Picnic!** Sunday, June 11, starting at 1 pm at the home of Pat and Helen Burke. It's a beautiful drive out to nearby Amelia County. This event is **free** to active members. Guests are \$5 each.

You must **RSVP to Gloria Cahen 233-2113 by June 1**. Main dishes will be provided, but you are asked to bring a side dish to share. BYOB.

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

June 17 & 18: Potomac Celtic Festival will get underway in June. **The featured nation this year is Ireland.** Go to

## Potomac Festival (Continued)

[www.potomaccelticfest.org](http://www.potomaccelticfest.org).

Entertainment includes the following – mostly Irish guests – Chulrua, Coyote Run (from Williamsburg, VA), Graidia, Matt & Shannon Heaton with Laura Cortese, Iona, Le Vent du Nord ("North Wind) with stepdancer(!), Tommy Sands from County Down, Tinsmith – and others listed artists – **including [Beggars Circus](#), [Blue Ridge Irish Music School](#), [Loudoun Border Guard](#), [Mac-Talla](#), [Maggie's Music](#), [Moch Pryderi](#), [Lily Neill](#), and [Trasna](#).**

Anyone up for a road trip?!?!?

## IMPORTANT NEWS FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVELERS

The Intelligence Reform & Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 will make the passport process a more cumbersome procedure. If you will be traveling, or if your passport is due to expire, you can get reliable information at: [http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport\\_1738.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html). - or check with your local Post Office.

## THE MEMBERSHIP CORNER

The IAS always welcomes new members, and so we extend a warm welcome to:

Mark, Lesley, and Jordan Gallaher  
James and Maureen Kelly  
Karen Kelley, Carolyn and Joshua  
Joan Marie Finnegan  
Sharon O'Brien  
Ed and Lisa Murphy

These new additions bring our IAS membership to a total of 125 members! Don't forget to check the mailing label on this newsletter - the date displayed shows your membership renewal date. If your membership is due and you haven't received your renewal notice please call Nancy Emig at 323-6415 and you'll get a new form in the mail. Or go to our website - [www.richmondias.org](http://www.richmondias.org) - print off the membership form and send it to the address displayed.

## **NOTE TO OUR MEMBERS**

1. Would you like to carpool to IAS events? If so, please call one of the IAS officers, or speak up at the next IAS meeting. We'll see if we can make a match.
2. Are you a long-time member with old records, photographs, or any historical items or information related to the Irish American Society? Our historian would appreciate your information! We can use materials like those for our scrapbooks, website, and general archives. Please contact one of the IAS officers.
3. Our nominating committee is preparing for our summer election. Please think about how you can help our organization, and please vote.
4. To contact our IAS Officers:

President/Chris Garrett – 272-1971  
Vice President/Dan Begley 740-5631  
Secretary/Gloria Cahen- 233-2113  
Treasurer/Colleen Callahan 261-4998

## **TRANSITIONS**

On a sad note, we mourn the sudden passing of Martin Crichton in March. Martin was 41 years old, a musician, a barkeep at Rare Old Times, a husband and father and a friend. The IAS extends sympathy to the Crichton family. We will miss him.

Irish author John McGahern, 71 who also died in March. He is known for semi-autobiographical portraits of rural life and is widely praised as one of Ireland's great modern novelists. Some of his works include, "Memoir, That They May Face the Rising Sun, and Amongst Women".

## **TIME FOR SOME IRISH**

It is not too far from St. Patrick's Day (and some of us celebrate it more than once a year) to publish a "tasting report" about Irish whiskey from Eric Asimov of the *New York Times* (3/8/06).

Mr. Asimov says that legend tells us whiskey was invented in Ireland about 1,000 years ago, though no one can prove it. Apparently Scotland makes the same claim, and inarguably Scotland does have a fine reputation for whiskey today. Asimov suggests that the economic hardships of the famine, the Troubles, and other factors, hit the industry hard, so the production of whiskey was sorely interrupted in Ireland. However, he hastens to add, the country may have made up for it in the last decade. He and several other connoisseurs put 16 whiskeys to the test. This is not a big selection, considering that Scotland alone produces 100 or so types, but it is a start.

The tasters reported a great variety among the samples, and quite a difference between the Irish and the Scotch. In general, he said, the Irish whiskeys were fresher and lighter than most Scotches. This may be a new distinction, because whiskey is made much differently today than in yesteryear, when they used "pot stills," which are almost, but not quite, gone now.

Okay, I hear you saying, enough about the history. Which Irish whiskey did he like the best? That honor goes to the very hard-to-find, yet inexpensive, "Erin Go Bragh" (Ireland forever). He described it as "smooth, mellow, and elegant." Let us know if you can find some!

## **A Referral from the Editor!**

Caleigh Capes: An enterprising couple in Bemidji, Minnesota, fashion beautiful Celtic capes and cloaks. Check out their website at: [www.laterralane.com/CaleighCapes](http://www.laterralane.com/CaleighCapes). My friend ordered one and it's beautiful! ---Bonnie

Notes:

We try to print this newsletter monthly. You are welcome to submit notices, stories, or ideas to Bonnie at 358-3745, or send electronically to [tealejenn@aol.com](mailto:tealejenn@aol.com). Ask about our advertising policies.