



## The Richmond Claddagh

<http://richmondias.org/>

Newsletter of the Greater Richmond Irish American Society

MAY 2010

### It's May - Celebrate Your



### ALL MONTH!

- An Irish mother is one who sees only four pieces of pie for five people and promptly announces she never did care for pie. (T Jordan)
- A man loves his sweetheart the most; his wife the best; but his mother the longest. (Irish Proverb)

(And Happy Mothers Day (a wee bit late) to all our Irish Moms and to the "kids" who love them!)

**The April IAS Meeting: IRISH MOVIE NIGHT - May 27th - 7 pm at the Midlothian Library** 521 Coalfield Road Midlothian, VA 23114 (804) 378-2144 - Dan Begley brings us the very special movie - "Omagh" which examines the events and aftermath of August 15th 1998, when a 'Real IRA' bomb claimed 31 lives. It tells the story of the Omagh Support and Self Help Group as they strive to find the truth of what happened that day. At the heart of the film is the story of Michael Gallagher, who lost his 21-year-old son Aiden in the explosion, and who has become a key spokesman and lobbyist for the Support Group. Says Gallagher, "I would like to think "Omagh" shows that in the midst of evil and wickedness, ordinary people from a wide variety of backgrounds have come together in the fight for truth and justice. I hope this film will help bring our struggle to a wider audience who will get the message that hope comes out of despair."

Join us if you can.

### **IAS Pub Supper – May 29th – O’Toole’s 7 pm**

Pub Master Joan Finnegan has another gathering planned on May 29th at O’Tooles at 4800 Forest Hill Avenue, Richmond – with a little bit later start so that you can make it! Click here for directions.

<http://www.otoolesrestaurant.com/location.html> (804-233-1781) and there will be \$1.00 off Guinness, Harp and Smithwick’s and John promises some nice dinner specials for us. Please call Joan - 804-840-0080 with the number of people coming so she can have it all set up for the group.

### The Land We Live In, The Land We Left - Virginia's People A Special Exhibit at the Library of Virginia

As part of this Exhibit, the [Library of Virginia](#) is offering a special program:

### IRELAND MEETS APPALACHIA - A CONVERSATION IN MUSIC

**Friday, May 21st - 6:00 - 7:30 pm**  
**- Library of Virginia**

### Ireland Meets Appalachia: A Conversation in Music



Friday, May 21, 2010 -Time: 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM, In the Lecture Hall at the Library of Virginia, 800 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA (There is **free** parking in the deck under the Library) This program is co-sponsored by the [Richmond Irish American Society](#) (Light refreshments will be served.)

Three musicians—**Mary Dailey** and **Jimmy Costa** from Appalachia and **Patrick O’Flaherty**, a native Gaelic speaker from the west coast of Ireland—discuss and demonstrate through songs and tunes - the common threads that run through the vocal and instrumental music of Ireland and Appalachia. The speakers will explore how the traditions evolved, and the similarities and differences they found when they began performing together. O’Flaherty will also discuss his immigration experience and involvement with Appalachian musical culture. Gregg Kimball, Director of Education and Outreach at the Library of Virginia will moderate the panel discussion.

**DID YOU KNOW? There’s Free Rail In Ireland!** - All overseas visitors to Ireland **over age 66** can get free unlimited travel on Mainline, Dart and Commuter trains in the Irish Republic in 2010. Make a **"Golden Tekker"** (it’s a link) reservation online or call **1-800-SHAMROCK**.

**“Paddy in the Holler –  
Ireland Meets Appalachia”**

**May 22, 2010 at 8pm**

**Richmond Folk Music at Or Ami - West  
Huguenot Road – Richmond 23235**

Continuing the theme of the program at the Virginia Library on Friday May 21<sup>st</sup>, Patrick O’Flaherty, Jim Costa **and** Mary Dailey present the music that is both Irish and Appalachian. These three experienced solo musicians met at Patrick’s pub in Lewisburg, West Virginia ([The Irish Pub on Washington Street](#)) in 2007 during a Sunday evening session/jam. They soon discovered a shared love of the traditional music of Ireland and Appalachia, and shortly began performing. Concert held at Congregation Or Ami, 9100 West Huguenot Road, Richmond, 23235 For directions – click here [Richmond Or Ami](#) - **Tickets - \$12/advance - \$15/door** - This is a great opportunity for Irish music lovers to hear and enjoy music by some great artists. I got MY ticket!

**The June IAS Picnic – Sunday, June 6, at**

**1 pm** A day of fun for all IAS members – all ages! The fun and feasting are at Pat and Helen Warriner Burke’s farm in Amelia. 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.** If you are a new member, 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. Last year, Our Special Events Chairman, Karon Bell even had some great “yard games” ready for anyone interested in some friendly competition – but the weather didn’t cooperate very much. Maybe she’ll have them ready again this year. The IAS picnic is truly one of our best get together(s) and it’s the most fun that you’ll have with your IAS friends-Trust me you’ll be glad you came!

**Picnic Driving Directions:** From Helen Warriner Burke - Take 360 West out of Richmond. After crossing the Appomattox River into Amelia, go about 3-4 miles and you will see a billboard on your side of the road. Karon Bell generally has balloons or a sign up to warn you to turn. Slide over into the left lane and about a half mile further turn left onto 627, which is Cheatham’s Road. (DON’T turn onto 628 which comes first - that’s not Cheatham’s Road) The Salvage Shed is at the corner of 627. Go about 3/4 of a mile down Cheatham’s (627) and the picnic is at the two-story white house on the left. The number, 9943, is on the mailbox. If you have any problems, call 804-561-5778 or 804-366-6925.

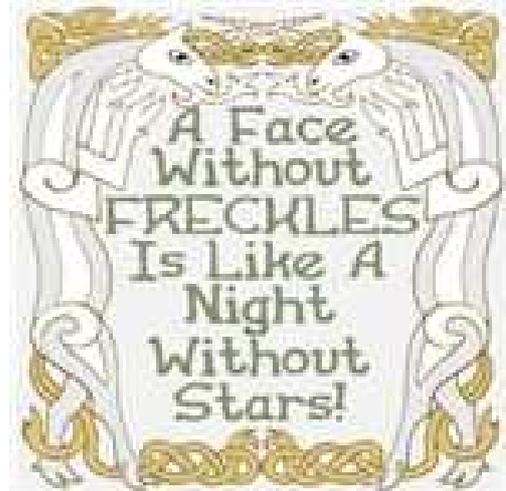
**\*\*\* The Election \*\*\*** - The annual election of officers will take place at the picnic. If you are interested in volunteering to run for a place on the IAS Board of Directors, please contact Steve Gallagher at 804-639-1055 or via email at [stephen.g1@verizon.net](mailto:stephen.g1@verizon.net)

The Board can always use new ideas, new suggestions, new energy and new faces! Why not come along and help steer the IAS in a good direction.

**More Thanks:** Mea Culpa – Meal Culpa. Many, many thanks go to Brenda Daugherty, Kathy Donovan Kast, Colleen Callahan, Carmel Miney and Kathleen Petty. Thanks to their hard work- the IAS presented the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Irish Costume Parade for the St. Pat’s Parade. Links took you to the photos of the winners last time, (except for a photo of Brenda’s Irish Fairy costume- does anyone have a photo of her? Word is – it was WONDERFUL). This was a wonderful idea, and a great addition to the Irish fun for the Festival. Any ideas, suggestions and of course – offers to help next year – are greatly anticipated and appreciated! Thanks Ladies - you are all the Best!

**SCAM WARNING** - The US State Department is warning Americans to beware of online scam artists who may spend months pretending to be an Irish love interest, and then suddenly claim to have been a victim of crime and need assistance with medical or other expenses. (Sometimes you wonder - do things really ever change – Barnum was right...)

**ALWAYS REMEMBER THIS....**



**The Top Ten most common Irish surnames are, in order, Murphy, Kelly, O’Sullivan, Walsh, O’Brien, Byrne, Ryan, O’Connor, O’Neill and O’Reilly.**



**The Gangs of Philadelphia.** May 6th, 1844 marked the beginning of the Philadelphia Nativist Riots (also known as the Philadelphia Prayer Riots, the Bible Riots and the Native American Riots), a series of riots that took place May 6-8 and July 6-7, 1844 in Philadelphia, and the adjacent districts of Kensington and Southwark. The riots were a result of rising anti-Catholic sentiment at the growing population of Irish Catholic immigrants.

In the months prior to the riots, Nativist groups had been spreading a rumor that Catholics were trying to remove the Bible from public schools. A Nativist rally in Kensington erupted in violence on May 6 and started a deadly riot that would result in destruction of two Catholic churches and numerous other buildings. Riots erupted again in July after it was discovered that St. Philip Neri's Catholic Church in Southwark had armed itself for protection. Fierce fighting broke out between the nativists and the soldiers sent to protect the church, resulting in numerous deaths and injuries.

Grand juries investigating the riots found that fault lay mainly with the Irish Catholic population. However, nationally the riots helped fuel criticism of the nativist movement despite denials from nativist groups of responsibility. The riots made the deficiencies in law enforcement in Philadelphia and the surrounding districts readily apparent, influencing various reforms in local police departments and the eventual consolidation of the city in 1854. -- If you'd like to learn more - just click on this link (Can't vouch for the content - but there's a lot of history stated here)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philadelphia\\_Nativist\\_Riots](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philadelphia_Nativist_Riots)

**Ireland House Swap** – Are you interested in a vacation in Ireland without the expense of hotels or B&B's? Well this might be something you'd be interested in looking into. I don't have any more information on this "House Swap" opportunity where you could swap houses with someone in Ireland for a vacation. But if you are interested – go to the link below to find out more. This is a free service that allows you to list your house-swap information. If you are willing to swap your US, home with someone in Ireland – you can list your details here. To receive information about this FREE service – send an email from this link - <http://www.ireland-information.com/aboutus.htm>

Honestly --- Where do you find historic tidbits like this – but in your IAS Newsletter - Hmm????



**Did You Know??** Guinness tried to get their Stout admitted into the US during the Prohibition Era as medicine - but the US Treasury Department coldly said NO! -- (BOO! HISS!)



**PRESENTING!** The Award Winning Irish Film -[Brendan and the Secret of the Kells](#) ([The Secret of Kells](#)) (yes! Two links!) at the Regal Westhampton Theatre 2 located at 5706 Grove Avenue. Irish animator Tomm Moore was named best European director of the year for his feature debut. His co-director was Nora Twommey.

The story is set in the ninth century. Obsessed with building a mighty wall to keep marauding Viking raiders from destroying the Abbey of Kells, Abbot Cellach expects his young nephew Brendan to follow in his footsteps. Brendan has apprenticed in the scriptorium of the monastery and has heard the story of Aidan of Iona, a master illustrator. Later, Aidan himself comes to the monastery, accompanied by his cat Pangur Bán. Aidan has escaped from the Vikings who have destroyed his own monastery, and has brought the Book of Kells he is working on. Aidan shows Brendan the beauty of art and stimulates his creativity and fantasy. His eyes and hands are failing, and he needs Brendan to assist. Brendan is forbidden to leave the monastery, but Aidan sends him into the forest to look for oak gall to make ink. A faerie/wolf spirit, Aisling, introduces him to a wider world. Brendan needs to stand up to his uncle and face his greatest fears in his quest to complete the book.

It's animated and it looks like fun for ALL ages! Please check with the theater to be sure of show times.

### IRISH WISDOM



Maireann croí éadrom i bhfad

A light heart lives long



**JAMESTOWN - The Irish were at first  
American Settlement –  
(Fr. Kevin O’Neill Shanley)**

Although the Virginian Colony never attracted the large waves of Irish immigrants who would virtually flood the shores of other Atlantic colonies, they are part of the original colony of Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in North America, founded in 1607. Part of the reason seems to be that its economy was based, to a large extent, on the use of slavery. Although the Irish immigrants were often used in place of the more economically valued slaves, there was little work for the refugees from Ireland.

Religion also seems to have played a part in the exclusion of the Irish. The established church in Virginia was the Church of England (Episcopalian). Presbyterians were also to be found in Virginia, especially in the Shenandoah Valley, along with Methodists and Baptists scattered in small farming communities. It is true that Virginia, in 1786, became the first U.S. state formally to disestablish a state church with its Statute of Religious Liberty. However, even with legal restrictions removed, cultural prejudices against Catholics remained. It was not a welcome place for Irish Catholic immigrants. But in spite of these, and other factors, the Irish turn up in the historical records of this original colony of Jamestown. Perhaps the saying is true that the Irish, “Like the Grace of God, are to be found everywhere”. The first Irish in the colony was one Francis Magnel, born in Ireland and a member of the crew of one of three ships that brought the first settlers. The early historical records do not mention whether he was a crewmember of the “Susan Constant”, or the “Godspeed” or the “Discovery” which arrived there on May 13, 1607. However, Francis Magnel, whose rather unusual family name is generally traced to Co. Cork, certainly deserves recognition for his working contribution to the survival of the colony in both the heat of the summer and the cold and hunger of their first winter. His family’s Norse background might explain his being a sailor, but he must have had other skills to contribute to the survival of Jamestown. And in Ireland today, he is remembered in the County Cork town land of Magnelstown, also known as Castlemagner.

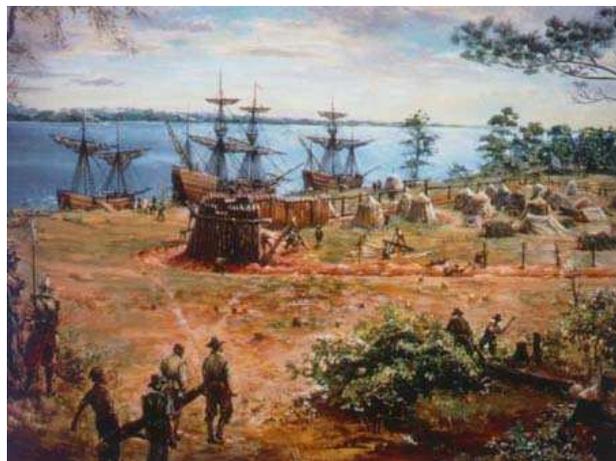
With the help of various foundations and government and individual funds, restoration work on the Jamestown Colony actually began in 1957 but has become intensified as the place approaches its 400th anniversary. Part of the work has turned up some 262 names of the estimated 334 original settlers. And visitors can easily find the name of Francis Magnel.

Another Irishman: About six months after Magnel it is believed to have returned by ship to England, another

Irishman by the name of Dionis (Denis) O’Connor arrived in Jamestown, probably in September or October of 1608. He is simply listed as a tradesman but little more is known about him. There is the possibility that he perished, along with many others colonists, during the great famine which took so many lives in the dreaded winter of 1609-1610. There remains the distinct possibility that O’Connor was buried at Jamestown.

Matter of Conjecture: For historians and others, it can only be a matter of conjecture what actually happened to most of the Jamestown original settlers, the two Irises among them. Certainly there was the danger of attacks by the, sometimes hostile, Indians who felt their lands invaded and confiscated by the white settlers from across the sea. In addition, the colonists had reason to fear the Spaniards from the not too distant Florida settlements and their fleet, which still contained fighting ships from the Spanish Armada that attacked England in 1588. It is not surprising, then, that the original settlement was built within a triangular fort for protection.

Other Irish Connections: In addition to Magnet and O’Connor, there were other Irish connections in Jamestown. Edward Wingfield, the first president of the colony’s Governing Council, had fought in the Province of Munster, Ireland, against the Rebellion of the Earl of Desmond (1569-72). And at least three other colonists – George Percy, Richard Crofts and Edward Morris – also fought with Queen Elizabeth’s armies in Ireland during the nine years’ war (1594-1603) against Hugh O’Neill of Tyrone and Red Hugh O’Donnell of Tyrconnell and their clans and allies. This previous military experience against the elusive and guerrilla tactics of the Irish may explain the unusual triangle shape of the Jamestown fort, similar to those used by the English in Ireland. Strangely enough, Irish copper coins were also found at Jamestown, along with Catholic religious articles such as a Crucifix, rosaries and a Marian medallion.





<p><b>June 12 &amp; June 13<sup>th</sup></b>  <a href="#">Potomac Celtic Festival</a>  <b>Visit the website for more details</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Potomac Celtic Festival</a> Visit the website for more details <b>Morven Park International Equestrian Center, 41793 Tutt Lane, Leesburg, VA 20176</b> - The 2010 festival will include continual music and dance from many of your Celtic favorites, juried crafters and specialty import vendors, 2000 years of Living History reenactments, bagpipers, storytelling in the grove, workshops, children's activities and crafts, Highland games athletic demonstrations, food and drink, pub tent, and family-fun.  <a href="http://www.potomaccelticfest.org/default.html">http://www.potomaccelticfest.org/default.html</a></p>
<p><b>Friday – Aug 13<sup>th</sup> – Richmond Flying Squirrels Baseball Game – at the Diamond - \$9 seats. Gold Umbrella Night.</b></p>	<p>For a Fun Evening - the IAS will attend a Squirrels game against the Portland Sea Dogs (Red Sox). Its golf umbrella night to the first 2,000 fans. Very good seats will be \$9 if we get 25 people from the IAS to attend. Ask folks to let me know as soon as possible if they will attend so we can purchase the seats. Hope to get a picture with "Nutsy" with our IAS group. Any questions call Dan Begley at 804-740-5631.</p>
<p><b>Tues – Aug. 24 10:30 am</b>  IAS Member – Jonathan Austin - Free Show - Henrico Library</p>	<p>Grab the kids and the grandkids! Our IAS Favorite and fellow member – <b>JONATHAN AUSTIN</b> (Richmond's Premier Juggler!) Presents a <u>FREE</u> Show suitable for all ages. Jonathan is a Richmond fixture and has even performed at the White House and Walt Disney World! You won't want to miss this spectacular show! The Henrico Library 305 East 9 Mile Road, Highland Springs, VA 23075-1837 (804) 328-4491</p>
<p><b>October 1<sup>st</sup> – 3rd</b></p>	<p><b>Williamsburg Festival</b> - <a href="http://www.wsfonline.org/">http://www.wsfonline.org/</a></p>
<p><b>October 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24th</b></p>	<p><b>Highland Games</b> - <a href="http://www.richmondceltic.com/home">http://www.richmondceltic.com/home</a></p>

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\*Contact them with suggestions, ideas, complaints **and** offers to help... ☺



**SO TRUE... SO TRUE...**