

The Richmond Claddagh

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



October 2006

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Oct. 20, 6:30 p.m.	Social Event: Supper at Rosie Connelly's; RSVP to Ed at EHM1537@msn.com
Oct. 27, 7 p.m.	Irish Tenor Anthony Kearns at St. Bede's Church in Williamsburg. Ticket purchase deadline is Oct. 20; Cost is \$35 at St. Bridget's Parish Office. 282-9511. www.bede.va.org/parishLife/tenor.htm .
Oct. 28	Richmond Folk Music: John Skelton Concert & Instrumental Workshop at "Folk in the Grove" www.richmondfolkmusic.org
Oct. 28-29	Richmond Highland Games & Celtic Festival www.richmondceltic.com/site.asp
Nov. 10-12	Baltimore Irish Festival
Nov. 16, 7 p.m.	IAS Program: "Capturing Memories" at Midlothian Library
Nov. 19, 7 p.m.	IAS Board Meeting; all members are welcome; call Gloria 233-2113
Dec. 2	Christmas Party & Silent Auction at the Boat Club!

****Important Final Notice Concerning Your IAS Newsletter:** As a necessary cost-saving measure, the board plans to distribute an online version of this newsletter for all of you who desire to receive it through your email. Signing up for this service is very easy, and your email address **WILL NOT BE GIVEN** to any other individual/group. Just go to our website, www.richmondias.org, click on the email reminders link, and follow the instructions. You will receive a confirmation email to confirm that you wanted to sign up. If you elect to receive your hard copy through U.S. mail, you must notify Bonnie at 358-3745. Thank you.

Irish Author Cathal Liam Returns to Richmond for the Highland Games

By Mary Smith



Critically acclaimed author **Cathal Liam** will be back in Richmond just in time for the Highland Games, and he will be keeping company with the Irish American Society at our tent. For those of you who have not met Cathal, this is a chance to get to know

this remarkable man, AND a chance to purchase an autographed copy of one of his books.

For anyone with an interest in Irish history, Cathal's novels "**Consumed in Freedom's Flame**" and "**Blood on the Shamrock**" are must-reads. Told through the eyes of fictional hero Aran Roe O'Neil, the books follow the complicated, bloody struggle for Ireland's independence, allowing the reader to experience a level of detail and personal involvement not to be gleaned from history books. Through Cathal's strong, well drawn characters the important personages and events that shaped Ireland's history from the early part of the 19th century through the years of civil war ending in the mid 1920's become vivid and alive. Nor does he neglect the role played by Irish Americans in the struggle. Part of the story takes place on a farm in Virginia, where a group of Irish rebels sought temporary refuge and gathered additional forces. Many famous scenes from Irish history are described in such detail that the reader can sense the emotions that must have been felt at the time. For example "Blood on the Shamrock" begins with a vivid depiction of the assassination of Michael Collins in West Cork, told from the viewpoint of the young Aran Roe O'Neil. Through flashbacks, we come to know "The Big Fellow" as he would have been known and loved by the men who followed him, and we feel the sadness and tragedy of his untimely death "on a dusty bit of Irish road".

History aficionados will appreciate the scholarship and research that support the narrative. Quotations from Irish patriots, and passages from songs and poems precede each chapter, helping to invoke the spirit of the times. The cover art on each book is handsome and inspiring (so they make great gifts!). “Consumed in Freedom’s Flame’s” cover design features an interior view of a Kilmainham Gaol prison cell revealing the Gaelic artwork of an Irish republican prisoner, and “Blood on the Shamrock” incorporates Sean Keating’s famous painting “Men of the West”- both tastefully accentuated with Celtic knot work. (This is one of those cases where you CAN judge the book by its cover!). For more information, visit Cathal’s website at www.cathalliam.com. And stop by the IAS tent!

Discover the Irish Flute!

On October 28, Richmond Folk Music will present **John Skelton** – Master of the Irish Flute, in concert. (Yes, we know it is the weekend of



the Richmond Highland Games, but it was the only time John was available!) John Skelton is one of the acknowledged masters of the Irish flute, and is best known for his work with The House Band. He has also released two solo albums, ‘One at a Time’ and ‘A Few

Tunes’. He has given concerts in 25 countries, and U.S. venues have included The White House and Lincoln Center. He’ll be joined by two local musicians. This will be a lively evening of tunes and stories. This concert is a must for serious lovers of Irish music. As an added bonus, if you’ve ever wanted to learn to play the Irish whistle, or play the flute Irish style, there’ll be workshops offered throughout the day on Saturday. This is a chance to get a few tips from one of the best! Even if you’ve been at the Highland Games all day, come and have a cup of coffee or tea and some cookies, and enjoy music in a quiet, comfortable setting.

Concerts are held at Congregation Or Ami, 9400 Huguenot Rd. Doors open at 7:15, concerts begin at 8:00. Tickets \$10.00 in advance/\$12.00 door. For tickets and information visit www.richmondfolkmusic.org or call 804-647-7856.

November IAS Program: “Capturing Your Memories”

When should you start writing your memoirs? Today! Get inspired & learn some techniques at our November IAS Program, presented by Bonnie Atwood. The presentation will be Thursday, Nov. 16, at 7 p.m. at the Midlothian Public Library, located at 521 Coalfield Road, .8 miles south of the intersection of US Route 60 (Midlothian Turnpike) & Coalfield Rd., on the left.

***Irish Destiny*, shown at the September IAS meeting, is universally acknowledged as an important part of Ireland’s film history.**

By Kent Booty

The silent black and white film, made in 1926 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Easter Rising, is a love story set against the backdrop of the Irish War of Independence (1919-21), interspersed with newsreel footage of that conflict. It was brought to the United States in 1927 and played to largely Irish-American audiences, then vanished for more than 60 years. After a print of the 71-minute film was found in a Library of Congress vault in 1991, the Irish Film Archive restored it, added a musical score by the renowned Irish composer Micheál O Súilleabháin, and this past March released a high-definition DVD version.

Shot in County Wicklow and Dublin, it’s about a young man, Denis O’Hara, who joins the IRA, is wounded by the British forces when taking a message to Dublin (his mother and girlfriend believe he’s been killed) and is imprisoned, escapes and makes his way home, where he rescues his girlfriend, Moira, from an evil moonshiner in a fiery shoot-out. The newsreel footage includes scenes of the Black and Tans, the burning of Cork by the British in 1920 and the IRA’s burning of the Custom House in Dublin in 1921.

The love story is as cheesy as one would expect of a film from that period. Sorry, but it just didn’t do much for me. The newsreel footage was far more compelling, though I’m not sure I like the idea of melding a sappy, simplistic love story – OK, I know that *cinéma vérité* didn’t exist in the 1920s – with archival news footage. And finally, maybe there’s just something incongruous about a *silent* Irish film.

Thursday Night at the (Silent) Movie!

By Nancy Emig

What fun we had at the Midlothian Library on Sept 21st, at the IAS premier showing of the silent movie classic "Irish Destiny". The IAS crowd really got into the spirit of the presentation. We jeered at the villains, hissed at the English and the Black and Tans, sighed along with the heroine and cheered for the heroes! Many thanks to Joy Mullins and Maureen Toibin for helping the rest of us read the printed materials on the screen! Talk about your tiny print! And many more thanks to the rest of the audience for supplying so many great one-liners! The movie, made in 1926, offered a great visual of Dublin of that era – and the story was Irish timeless.....

This was the only time, in recent memory, that the regular monthly meeting was held at a location "*South of the river.*" Please let us know what you thought of the location and also if you have any suggestions for other sites and other types of programs.

St. Patrick's Day Parade 2007!

The Parade Planning Meeting was held at Gloria Cahen's house. The parade will be held in conjunction with the 22nd annual Irish Festival at St. Patrick's Church on March 24-25 in Church Hill. This will be the third year in which the parade will "kick off" the 2-day festival.

The nonprofit umbrella group, The Irish-American Community Council of Greater Richmond, founded about 5 years ago, is composed of various Irish groups in the Richmond. Board members include myself as president, Gloria Cahen, secretary and representing the Irish American Society (IAS); Michael Muldowney, treasurer, representing the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) and member of IAS; James Fitzgerald, the Emerald Society and AOH; and J. Stokes McCune, St. Patrick's Church and overall coordinator of the Irish Festival. James Patrick Guy, attorney for LeClaire Ryan, is a member of the AOH, and provides the IACC legal assistance.

The IACC again will coordinate the Parade. Under the past direction of Sonya Moore (IAS) who handled the operations of the Parade itself in 2005 and 2006, the upcoming

one will be coordinated by Joan Finnegan (IAS) with the assistance of Donna Fuller (IAS) and Larry David (IAS). Various other members of the IAS and AOH have been involved in the previous two parades and special mention of Jim Bandeleian's contribution in providing the graphics (e.g., posters for publicity) is to be noted.

Our two Grand Marshals have been very active in Irish Circles: Martin Lawlor in 2005; and Jim Cumins in 2006. The '07 Grand Marshal will be announced at a future date.

If you want to serve on the planning committee and/or volunteer to be a parade marshal please contact me: 288-7195, or carrollgraham@webtv.net. --Carroll Graham.

IAS Christmas Party & Silent Auction

Some great items are coming in for our silent auction. Proceeds will help offset the cost of different functions that we do. It's not too late to add your item! Do you have an Irish item, a service, or do you know a restaurant that will donate two dinners? Contact Ed Mayers, 804-379-5577 or ehm1537@msn.com, by Oct. 31st.

"Family Traditions" Cookbooks: Thanks to everyone who submitted recipes! Books will be sold at the Highland Games. To include your recipe, contact Linda at 379-5577 or LindaMayers@msn.com.

The Membership Corner October 2006

The Richmond IAS extends a warm welcome to our newest member: Neil Turner, who joined IAS at the Williamsburg Scottish Festival. We are looking forward to seeing you, Neil, at one of our upcoming IAS events!

The Corner Pub Review: Rare Olde Times September, 2006

Twenty of the Greater Richmond IAS members had a great time at Rare Old Times, one of the best Irish Pubs in the country. The owner, Dublin's Andy Jennings, has done himself proud in establishing a true Irish Pub right here in Richmond.

The food is very good. They have nightly specials and a variety of Pub Fare. There are traditional Irish dishes such as Shepard's Pie, Corned Beef and Cabbage, Fish & Chips, and many more to make your mouth water. There's a traditional salad/sandwich menu, and a selection of dinner entrees. The specials are right from an Irish mother's kitchen. There are always great deserts and on some nights you can even get a homemade bread pudding that is to die for. Prices are reasonable and the quantity of food is more than enough. The wait staff is second to none--friendly and timely.

A highlight is the music, a never-ending flow of good Irish music, from Richmond's own Uisce Beatha every Thursday night to Andy, Cindy and Then Some on Friday and Saturday night. The quality of the musicians and singers is some of the best. Rare Olde times has also established it self as one place to be on St. Patrick's Day. Andy brings acts from not only the Richmond metropolitan area but also direct from Ireland.

Rare Olde Times is located at 10608 Patterson Ave., Richmond, Virginia 23238. Call 804-750-1346 for directions or reservations.

Next Social Night - Friday October 20th at Rosie Connolly's Irish Pub, Shockoe Bottom. Time 6:30 pm – so mark your calendars and plan to join us.



Rosie Connolly's Pub Restaurant
1548 E. Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
804-343-1063

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June 2006



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If you need to contact Your IAS Officers:

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