

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

April 10, 17, TBA	Irish Gaelic Class - Beginner /Tourist Level
April 14th	Strawberry Hill Races -call Gloria 233-2113 for possible resale tickets
April 15th	IAS Board Meeting – Open to all members. Call 233-2113
April 18, 25 & May 2	Irish Film Course U of R; pre-register www.richmond.edu/scs/osher
April 19th	IAS Monthly meeting – Trinity United Methodist Church, 7PM, The Program Topic is The Book of Kells – Details in Newsletter
April 21st	15 th Anniversary Party at Columbian Center! For questions, call Sonya Moore 272-4138 – Volunteer for Set up & Clean Up – (Please)
April 21st	Folk in the Grove – Irish Traditional Music – After the Anniversary party! Make it an “All Day – All Irish Saturday!” 804-647-7856

From The President: I want to thank everyone who participated in the St. Pat's Festival and parade in Church Hill. The Church made record \$\$\$ - all for charity and it was a barrel load of fun. We added new memberships and look forward to meeting all of you at future meetings or at the upcoming 15th anniversary party on April 21st at the Columbian Center from 4-7PM. (See the newsletter for more info)

Plans are in the works to set up links between Irish groups throughout the state. I'm excited about giving our RIAS membership more options for Celtic events outside the Richmond metro area.

Our April IAS Meeting -On April 19th, The Richmond Scottish Society has graciously invited our members to their monthly meeting to enjoy a program on a great Celtic treasure. Margaret Duckworth, of Virginia Union University, will give a presentation on **The Book of Kells**. The presentation starts at 7 pm and is at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 903 Forest Avenue (804-288-6056). The **Book of Kells** is an ornately illustrated manuscript, produced by Celtic monks around AD 800 in the style known as Insular art. It is one of the more lavishly illuminated manuscripts to survive from the Middle Ages and has been described as the zenith of Western calligraphy and illumination. It contains the four gospels of the Bible in Latin, along with prefatory and explanatory matter decorated with numerous colorful illustrations and illuminations. Today it is on permanent display at the Trinity College Library in Dublin, Ireland. It's so nice of the Scottish Society to invite us to share this program; maybe the IAS members could return the favor and bring a sweet treat or snack item for the Hospitality table.

Here are some directions from the Church's website:

From the West - Take I-64 East, Take Exit 183, Glenside Road South. At the end of the exit ramp, turn right at the traffic light onto Glenside Road. Turn right at the next traffic light (0.1 miles) onto Forest Avenue Follow Forest Avenue for 2 miles (passing through five traffic lights) The

church is on the left **From the East** - Take I-64 West. Take Exit 183A, Glenside Road South. Then follow the directions above.

From the South -Take Chippenham Parkway over the Willey Bridge. After crossing the bridge, there is a traffic light. From that traffic light, continue straight on Parham Road for 1.7 miles. Turn right onto Patterson Avenue (Route 6). At the next traffic light (0.9 miles), turn right onto Forest Avenue Follow Forest Avenue for approximately 3 blocks (0.1 miles). Church is on the left

Irish Artists at Richmond Folk Music – April 21st: Continue your Irish celebration after the Anniversary party by attending the concert of Cleek Schrey and Sean McComiskey – Traditional Irish musicians. This concert is presented by Richmond Folk Music at the Congregation Or Ami at 9400 West Huguenot Road, Richmond. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Please call 804-647-7856 for more information or directions or to order tickets over the phone. To order your tickets on line, visit the website: www.richmondfolkmusic.org So call for your tickets TODAY! Word is these guys are great and their Irish traditional music even better! Hey – you'll already be dressed for a night out anyway.

To our Advertisers: The business card advertisements in the newsletter were not included in the last issue of the Claddagh because we were trying to set up a new display format. Because of the omission, all advertising will be extended for an additional month past the expiration date. PSSST. Don't forget to support the advertisers that support the IAS!

Irish Film Course. At the University of Richmond: "Irish History in Film". Wednesdays -April 18th through May 2nd. 6:00 to 9:00.The Instructor is our own Dan Begley. To attend the class, you must be a paid member of the Osher program & there is an additional fee for the class. For information and questions, please contact: Jane Dowrick, Program Coordinator at 804-287-6344 or email her at jdowrick@richmond.edu

The Richmond St. Pat's Festival – The IAS came out loud and proud for the 2-day event honoring St. Pat and the Irish. Marching in the Irish American Community Council sponsored parade on Saturday were Joyce Blunt, Beverly Creasy, Kathy Donovan, Ed Kast, Steve Knight, Sonya Moore, Kathryn O'Meara, Fionn mac Cumhaill, and Lesley Gallaher and Nancy Emig. Finn brought his decorated Music Cart/Treasure chest and also provided strings of Irish green beads and gold coins to be passed out to the throngs of parade watchers. The parade has become a very popular part of the festival and draws more people every year. IAS members have done a fine job of developing this great addition to the festival. Sonya Moore was the first St. Pat's Festival Parade marshal and worked hard to set up the framework and organize the first two parades. Joan Finnegan stepped into the parade marshal role this year, added a touch of her own to the parade and continued to do the IAS and IACC proud.

The IAS tent attracted many visitors over the course of the two day event and introduced the society and some Irish lore and tradition to a lot of festival visitors. And we also added some great new members to our roster. The booth always has free brochures on travel in Ireland, and our volunteers help folks learn about the heritage of their Irish name and also provide an insight into where their name was most prevalent – using a huge map of Ireland. We have information on Irish heraldry, the history of Irish/Aran sweaters and description of the knots of this uniquely Irish garb. There is even a special album devoted to the legend of Finn. Our hardworking volunteers over the weekend included Bonnie Atwood, Jim Bandeleon, Dan Begley, Karon Bell, Joyce Blunt, Gloria Cahen, Colleen Callahan, Larry & Jeanine David, Joan Finnegan, Mark & Lesley Gallaher, Carroll Graham, Frank & Pam Hardy, Jim & Maureen Kelly, Ed & Linda Mayers, Sonya Moore and Nancy Emig. But alas, - like Santa on Christmas Day, no Finn appeared on Sunday.

The Membership Corner – As usual, The St. Pat's Festival in Church Hill not only was the best weekend in Richmond, but it also brought us several new members:

Karon Bell, Susan Dean, Anne Flanigan, Tedd Harwood, Michelle Kirby, and David Shea, Martha Vick. Carlton Sr., Tracey & Carlton Moody Jr., Tim, Debbye, Lindsay & Marielle Silva and Wade & Brenda Daugherty

A huge Irish welcome to all of you and we all look forward to getting more acquainted with you at one of our upcoming events/activities.

PLEASE NOTE; Green membership renewal forms are enclosed for those whose membership renewal is due in April. Getting the notices to you with the newsletter cuts down on our correspondence and postage fees, so hope you don't mind. Please return the completed form – (make sure you have all your information updated) and your annual dues payment at your earliest convenience – 'cuz we want to make sure you are included in all the upcoming Irish fun!

O'Toole's Pub Supper – March 30th

A good turn out for our March Social event, a Pub Supper at O'Toole's Pub on Forest Hill Avenue. Joan Finnegan, Mark & Lesley Gallagher, Jim & Maureen Kelly, Kathryn O'Meara, Kathy Donovan & Ed Kast, along with our newest member Karon Bell, and Nancy Emig all relaxed, enjoyed the good food and the great company. Our event organizer, Ed Mayers was on hand, but we missed Linda Mayers who was home preparing for the Ukrop's 10K the following day. The pub suppers are fun, are great way to meet other members and just a nice way to spend a Friday night. Sadly, no Irish music this time... but hope springs eternal!

The March Pub Supper at O'Toole's



Lesley Gallaher, Jim & Maureen Kelly



Ed Mayes, Joan Finnegan, Kathryn O'Meara & Mark Gallaher

Silent Auction 2007: Even though Spring has just arrived, we ask you to think about the IAS Christmas Party! Yes, Virginia, there is a 2007 Silent Auction in the planning stages. (My apologies to Francis P. Church). Last year's auction of 29 items raised \$1,033 for the IAS and we hope to top that amount this year. Last year's items ranged from a week at a country home on the Ring of Kerry, a two-night stay at Atwood Acres in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, a 50-person Pig Roast, a first edition stamp from Ireland, beautiful handmade Irish themed Christmas Stockings, and many more items. Please start thinking about items that you might have that you could donate for the auction. All proceeds are used for IAS activities and Society expenses. So big or small – your item is welcome. For more information or any questions please contact Ed Mayers via email at ehm1537@msn.com or call Ed at 804-379-5577

Another Irish Myth: Fact or Fiction?

Most Irish Americans Are Catholic: In several polls and surveys conducted in the 1970s and 1980s, researchers discovered what at first seemed an astonishing fact: a majority of Americans who identify themselves as Irish also identify themselves as Protestant. For a nation (and an ethnic group for that matter) that had grown so accustomed to conflating Irishness with Catholicism, this announcement was greeted with disbelief.

The explanation for the find is actually quite simple. Ultimately, it is a question of timing, more than numbers. Huge numbers of Irish immigrants came to America in the colonial period (indeed, 30 percent of all immigrants from Europe arriving between 1700 and 1820 came from Ireland) and the great majority of them were Presbyterians from Ulster. Of the many thousands of Catholics who came in the 17th and 18th centuries, most appear to have converted to some form of Protestantism. The Protestant descendents of these early Irish arrivals have been multiplying ever since. In contrast, the great migration of Irish Catholics began only in the 1830s (during which time, of course, many Protestant Irish continued to come). A poll conducted by the National Opinion Research Center makes this point clear: in the 1970s, only 41% of Irish Catholics were fourth generation or more as compared to 83% of Irish Protestants.

The Upcoming IAS Elections. – Our nominating committee is developing an impressive slate for the upcoming election of Officers and Board members in June. But FEAR NOT – there's still time. If you have a burning desire to be part of the future of the organization, please contact Joyce Blunt at 804-754-2363.

The Fredericksburg St. Pat's Parade – On a cold gray day in March – St. Pat's Day to be exact – some of your fellow IAS members marched the parade route in solidarity with our parade hosts and Irish friends in the Fredericksburg Irish American Social Club. No politics here though, just plain old fun and fellowship. The Richmond IAS was ably represented by Dan Begley, Larry & Jeanine David, Nancy Emig, Carroll Graham, Frank Hardy, Mili & Joe Hollenbeck, Kevin Mayer & Stephanie Eads, Ed & Linda Mayers, and straight from the pages of Irish history - Fionn mac Cumhaill. Finn provided continuous Irish music from his decorated Irish cart to help keep the marchers in step – t'was a noble gesture, but with us - doomed for failure. What a fun time - an early parade march, followed by a group breakfast stop at *The Blarney Stone Pub & Gathering House*, and then a tour through the vendor area while listening to some great Irish music from the bandstand. Later in the day, the Dublin City Ramblers were the music headliners. This is a small festival – in it's 2nd year, and it will surely grow in the coming years. I hope our IAS is able to participate again next year and that maybe you'll be able to join in the fun too. Many thanks and much appreciation go out to Mike and Bernadette Elser, festival organizers and owners of the Irish Eyes Import Shop and the Blarney Stone Pub.

June Social Night - How about something different for the June Social Night? Would you be interested in getting together on Friday night, June 8th at the Richmond Diamond to cheer for the Richmond Braves against the Pawtucket Red Sox (the Boston Red Sox Farm Team). Start time is 7:00 pm.

Tickets are \$7.00 for general admission or \$10.00 for Box seat, but we can do better on the cost but need a minimum of 25 people for a group rate.

So – now you have a mission. yes you! Check your schedule, mark the date on your calendar (cuz you know you want to come) and then contact Ed Mayers by phone at **804-379-5577** or email him at **ehm1537@msn.com**. Let him know how many plan to attend and which ticket price is preferred. More information will be available once we gauge the level of interest and determine the number of those who plan to attend.

This could be a great family outing. Hot dogs, soft drinks, perhaps the occasional *hard* drink, night baseball on a summer night, the IAS in the stands (with the IAS banner and Irish flags a'flyin')... honestly, could it get any better than that? Let's make it happen! See ya' in the stands....

YOU
ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE
15TH
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
OF THE IRISH AMERICAN SOCIETY
OF GREATER RICHMOND
SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 2007
4:00 TO 7:00 PM

THE COLUMBIAN CENTER

Party Attire

Nothing formal – No tuxes allowed!

(but yer' good duds! ☺)

Please bring an appetizer/ hors d'oeuvre

Beer on Tap & Set Ups Available

for your Carry In Beverage

Some Fun Surprises in Store

Irish Music by - TURF FIRE

Now don't let us down.....Be sure to come

Directions – TO THE COLUMBIAN CENTER

2324 Pump Road, Richmond, VA 23233

(804) 740-3950 • Fax (804) 750-1514



The Columbian Center – Where we'll celebrate these 1st 15 years (!) is located on Pump Road between Broad Street and Ridgefield Parkway, and is easily accessible from I-64, I-295, and South Richmond via the Wiley Bridge. There is convenient On-Site parking and easy access to the party area. You can visit the websites below for driving directions to the Center from your own address.

- www.Google.com - for maps & directions
- www.Mapquest.com – for maps & directions

Richmond Irish American Society – 15th Anniversary Party – April 21st! To celebrate this momentous occasion, the IAS is hosting a party to celebrate our 15th birthday – and you're invited! It is a great opportunity to mingle with other members, hear some of the wonderful stories from the beginning and throughout the 15 years of the Society. There are lots of fun surprises in store, Irish music by Mary Smith and John Robison and of course the great company of your fellow Irish folks! **Your cost of admission is just an appetizer type dish to share.** It is a BYOB affair, but beer will be on tap and set-ups available for purchase. The party is from 4-7. The planning committee has been hard at work to make this a great party.

Volunteers will be needed for both the set up before and the "take down" after the party. Everything needs to be emptied and cleaned up so that IAS gets its deposit back and everyone can make it to the Irish concert after the party. Please call Sonya Moore at 804-272-4138 to donate a little bit of prep time before or clean up time after the party... Remember... "Many hands make work light"...



The Burke Home... Where it all Began

Looking Back..... The Irish American Society of Greater Richmond was first organized on March 17th, 1992 at the home of Pat and Helen Burke, 2400 Riverside Drive in Richmond, Virginia along with co-founders Ron and Kathleen Hendricks.


The stated goals at the beginning were, Promote a positive image of Ireland and Irish culture, publicize the rich Irish heritage in this region, bring area Irish folks together, establish an information bank on travel in Ireland - the very same goals that our IAS organization promotes today. Come celebrate with us and meet some of the folks who worked so hard to start it all and then get better acquainted with your fellow IAS members.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

Glenn & Sybel Crone

If you're lucky enough to have us represent you... you're lucky enough!

(804) 798-3246 x. 122 or 108



CERESSENIOR

www.ceresse.com

www.ceresse.com

www.ceresse.com

www.ceresse.com

Lots Of Love

Lois Meyers
Child Care Provider
1537 Hardwood Terrace
Midlothian, VA 23114
(804) 379-8877



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

JOE GREEN
Media Production Specialist

4808 Monumental Street
Richmond, VA 23226-1204
Home: 804-358-3743
Mobile: 804-647-8829
Email: jgreengreen@jag.com

Experience in television & video production. Air independent. Adaptable self-starter.

OptimaHealth

Francis Hardy
Medicare Specialist

Optima Health
14001 Sunrise Ridge Road, Suite 100
Richmond, Virginia 23229
Phone 804-34-3538
fhardy@optima.com

www.optimahealth.com A Service of Sentara

Jesse S. Lennon III
Sales Professional
Principal Broker

PIONEER REALTY

When Do You Plan On Moving?

I want to be interviewed by you for the job of helping you buy, sell or invest in real estate! Over 25 years experience in the real estate industry!
(804) 746-1512 ext. 105
jesse@pioneerrealty1.com

Your ad can be here for only \$25 a year for a business card size ad. Call 804-379- 5577 for details.

Morgan Stanley

Morgan Stanley

Morgan Stanley

Morgan Stanley



Richmond Claddagh
9620 Tuxford Road
Richmond, VA 23236