



The Richmond Claddagh

<http://richmondias.org/>

Newsletter of the Greater Richmond Irish American Society

November 2007

November Pub Supper Nov 17th - A little change this month – Instead of a Friday night Pub Supper event, Ed Mayers has scheduled a Saturday night Pub Supper on November 17th at O'Tooles 4800 Forest Hill Avenue. (804) 233-1781. Glen Crone and Tim Batten, Pipe Major of St. Andrew's Pipe & Drum are in cahoots on a (less than) "Halfway to St. Pat's Day Sing along and Supper" from 6:00 –7:30. There should be some good Irish sing along songs... And then very special guests starting at 8:00 till 11:00 - Uisce Beatha will again venture across the river to the delight of the Irish across the James with their very special brand of American/Irish pub music. In addition O'Tooles will provide more specials, including \$4 Pints of Guinness and Smithwick's, \$4 Irish Car Bombs, \$4 Bushmill's or Jameson, along with Irish Stew, Fish & Chips & Corned Beef & Cabbage – and the guarantee of separate checks. So call Ed Mayers at 379-5577 or email him at EHM1537@msn.com and let him know how many are coming so that he can reserve some tables for the group. O'Toole's is a popular neighborhood place (and smoke free too) and it can fill up – so be sure and get with Ed. Do come early and have supper with your friends at IAS and have fun with an old fashioned sing along and then the music and fun of Uisce Beatha. I hope you'll be able to join us at O'Tooles - there's plenty of parking... and this will be a fun night!

The November 29th IAS General Meeting: The next IAS meeting is scheduled at 7:00 on Thursday, November 29th at Dumbarton Library. 6800 Staples Mill Road Richmond, Virginia 23228-4930 Ph: (804) 262-6507. Program Chairman, Dan Begley has an interesting program. I know that you've seen those nice men in the green jackets at the St. Pat's festival and maybe wondered who they are. Well, they are members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and on the 29th their President Bob Strutton is going to be at our monthly meeting to tell us about this very old Irish order and share some of their history with us. I hope his fellow Hibernians will come too! Dan Begley, our Vice President and Program Director has also scheduled time at this meeting to discuss the organization of an IAS book club and also time for a group panel discussion/forum/chat – for members to discuss the kind of programs they would like to see the IAS offer in the coming 12 months. We need and depend on your input to keep providing programs that are educational, interesting and informative for the members. If you aren't able to come to the meeting – you can call Dan at 740-5631 or email him at dbegley55@hotmail.com with your idea(s) – and all will be added to the discussion

The IAS Christmas Party! December 1st – from 6:00 to 11:00. The renowned IAS Christmas party is moving back to the Columbian Center located at 2324 Pump Rd, in Richmond 23233 (804) 740-3950. The admission to the party is "A Dish To Share"(Dessert, Appetizer, etc) There will be Guinness on tap and Beer and mixers are \$1.00. Also don't forget to look for Irish themed items that can be donated for the Silent Auction. Sonya Moore has come up with some nice surprises for the evening – and it promises to be the usual great Christmas party. This is a great event every year and always with a good turnout – We hope you can make it! Oh yes, we have volunteers for set up, but if you are at the party at 11:00 please think about staying for a just little bit to help with cleanup. It always is great when we can all get out of there at a good hour. Thanks.

The IAS Silent Auction at the Christmas Party: The auction is still on for the Christmas party and President, Gloria Cahen is encouraging our members to again donate Irish themed items for the auction. Gloria asks that you just bring your items to the Christmas party and it will be added to the auction items. If you want to donate something, but you won't be able to make it to the Christmas party, you can also bring your auction items to the November general meeting and Board members will make sure that the items are taken to the Christmas party. If you will be bringing the items to the Christmas party we'll prepare the auction bid card when you bring it. Remember, you can donate an item, a service, or even anything that you can get someone else to donate! (Restaurant dinners, services, etc.) This was a great fund-raiser for us last year and really helped the IAS Treasury, so let's do it again!

The IAS MVP Award for 2007 – There is a correction to the October Newsletter. The IAS IS initiating the annual presentation of an MVP (Most Valuable Person) Award, but I misunderstood some of the facts about the origin of this award - it is actually the brainchild of our own Jim Bandeleian. This award is to recognize an IAS member for outstanding individual efforts in the past year to both promote and support the Irish American Society and its activities and endeavors through enthusiasm, volunteering and involvement. The recipient of this award will be selected from nominations submitted by all active IAS members. The Awards Committee, consisting of Pam Hardy, Jim Bandeleian and Larry David will receive all nominations and review the submissions. The award presentation will be made at the Christmas Party. Nominations must be received **NO LATER THAN November 14th**. Please contact either of these Committee members with your selection for the member that you feel best meets the spirit of the award. You can call or email them with your nomination.

Larry David - davidl@rbha.org
Jim Bandeleian - jbandeleian@gmail.com (347-0924)
Pam Hardy - fenway7@msn.com (883-6230)

There are lots and lots of people in the IAS that work hard all year for our organization and this is your chance to recognize those efforts– it only takes a phone call or an email... how about it!

UPCOMING IN NOVEMBER: Board Member, Jim Kelly has arranged for the Irish American Society to man the phones at the annual PBS Telethon. During our phone stint - November 26th (please note the time change from the October newsletter) 7:30pm -11pm the new Christmas Special from “Celtic Women” will be aired. What is more fitting than the Irish manning the phones during an Irish program? It’s a great opportunity for the IAS to make itself known in the community. If you can join us – even if only for a few hours - to take the incoming pledge calls - you can call Jim at 379-3968 or email Jim at seamus.oceallaigh@yahoo.com The IAS has volunteer for this telethon over the years, but we’ve been absent for a while. Let’s turn it into a good showing of the Irish in Richmond – Jim suggested that anyone that is able to –might try and wear something with an Irish “flair” Then we can let everyone know – we’re the Irish American Society! C’mon out. You know it’ll be fun! If you haven’t, please contact Jim today.

FREE SHOWING of the AWARD WINNING IRISH FILM – “The Wind That Shakes the Barley: “The Wind That Shakes the Barley is an authentic depiction of the horrific Irish conflict against the British black and tans. Winner of the Palme d’Or at the 2006 Cannes Film Festival, the film follows the complicated decisions brothers Damien and Teddy must face as they witness gruesome acts against their friends and country men, and choose whether to go on with life as planned or join the fighting Irish. This beautifully shot masterpiece uses the muted tones of the cloud-covered Irish countryside as a gloomy backdrop to a dismal tale, with tension generated in every scene.”

The film showings are scheduled at University of Richmond in Jepson Hall, Room 118 on Friday, November 30th at 3:00 and again at 7:30 pm. The last showing is on Sunday, December 2nd at 7:30 pm. The school recommends arriving at least 15 – 20 minutes early, and they also recommend - because we may have a large number of IAS attending. (I sure hope so!) that we plan to attend either of the Friday showings because the attendance is generally a bit smaller than Sunday evening. This link below will take you a campus map or call (804) 289-8860. This is a really good opportunity to see this fine Irish film about an important historical period in Ireland. So please pass the word to your Irish friends who may not be aware of the showing. <http://www.richmond.edu/about/directions/campusmap.pdf>

The October IAS Meeting: What a good turnout for the meeting on “Getting to and Getting around in Ireland. In no order members present were Colleen Callahan, Jim Bandeleian, Steve Gallagher, Carroll Graham, Carmel Miney, Gloria Cahen, Jim & Kathleen Petty, Dave Hulbert & Sherrie Finneran, Ed Kast, Karon Bell, Bonnie Atwood and Joe Green, Kathy Mincz, Frank Hardy, Jim and Maureen Kelly, Ray Gallagher, Dan Begley, Nancy Emig, and our very newest members – Mike & Terry Conyngham. Our special guest was Maria Shavalier who only recently found out about the IAS and accepted our invitation to attend the meeting. For hand outs, Carol Rasnic sent some wonderful personal travel insights on locations in Ireland, there was information on websites on travel in Ireland, free DVD’s on Northern Ireland, travel books with maps, and more – even some info on efficient packing! (and that is not an oxymoron)

Jim and Maureen Kelly brought a beautiful DVD of photos taken on their most recent trip to Ireland. Maureen took the photos and Jim added Irish music to the background. The pictures were just beautiful and many of the places they visited are a little off the beaten path and that made it even more interesting. I know it made me want to go back to Ireland. Members added personal insights into favorite places they’ve visited, gave tips on everything from car rentals to driving in Ireland, talked about B&B’s vs. hotels, vs. staying in castles. (I think those self-catering cottages on the ocean sound fun to me.)

Also At the October IAS Meeting – when people were talking about their favorite places in Ireland – I asked each of them to send a little piece for the newsletter about that special spot in Ireland. Here is the place that is most special to our Vice-President, Dan Begley. Many thanks to Dan for sharing his favorite area of Ireland with us. You should be able to click on the links if you are reading the newsletter on line. Or you can “Google” or research on your own the names to learn more about the beautiful area that is Dan’s favorite place in Ireland).

“For me, the Essential Irish Journey – is to travel along the Larne (or *Latharna* ("Lothair-na") meaning the domain of a Viking chieftain) to the Cushendall Coastal route in Northern Ireland. Taking this route is to experience one of the most dramatic routes in the world. Traveling north next to the Irish Sea the roughly nine-mile road goes over bridges, under arches, past bays and beaches and strange rock formations. It goes thru small towns like Carnlough where one can enjoy a good meal with scenic views that are at their best in the high season, and, where on a good day you get a view of Scotland. From the County Antrim town of **Larne**, rugged cliffs stretch north for 80 miles, broken only by 9 deep green glens. The [Glens of Antrim](#) (Irish: **Gleannta Aontroma**) or, simply, the **Glens**, is a region of County Antrim, Northern Ireland, comprising nine glens or valleys that radiate from the Antrim Plateau to the coast. The nine Glens, by name, are Glentaisie, Glenshesk, [Glendun](#), Glencorp, Glенаan, Glenballyeamon, Glenariff, Glencloy, and Glenarm. Glenravel is often considered a tenth glen, although it is not, because it does not open directly onto the sea. The inhabitants of the several glens are descended primarily from native Irish and Hebridean Scots. The Glens are an area of outstanding natural beauty and are a major tourist attraction in north Antrim. Enjoy, Dan Begley”

NEWS FLASH! NEWS FLASH !!!! A BIT MORE ON IRELAND TRAVEL: Sonya Moore is gathering information on what it would take to put together a trip to Ireland – in 2009 – for the Richmond IAS members. Yikes! Can you just imagine the fun? If you’re interested – be thinking about places you would definitely want to visit on a tour. Then you can call Sonya at 804-272-4138 or you can email her at sonyasmoore@comcast.net and let her know that you’re interested. Nothing binding right now - this is just finding the level of interest among our members.

HELP WANTED –Did you know that our IAS once sponsored a visit to Richmond by a group of children from Ireland? Since its inception, our Irish American Society has provided many memorable experiences and Irish opportunities to the local and regional Irish community. In order to preserve our history and record these IAS accomplishments, we are in the process of obtaining materials and records from Past IAS Presidents, former and current members, old IAS newsletters, newspaper articles and other sources of information. We eventually hope to get the materials in a format so that it can be viewed at events and also on line at our IAS website. We need help in this project and asking for volunteers to help. If you would be interested in donating a bit of time to this project, please call Gloria Cahen at 233-2113 Based on responses from our members – we can organize dates and places and make the whole thing something fun to do. Once we get some response from the members – we can pick a place and time to meet and get started on putting the history of the IAS in a good format. How about it? Can you give us a hand? Also, if you have any materials that would benefit this project, please let Gloria know too.

THE IAS AT THE HIGHLAND GAMES: From the rain-soaked Friday night set up of the IAS tent – to the Wild and Crazy winds of Sunday – the Highland Games were fun, exciting and exhausting! The new Irish American Society award – “**The Chris Garrett 2007 Memorial Celtic Spirit Award**” was awarded to the “House of Gordon” for their very unique display of the warm and welcoming Celtic spirit to the visitors to their tent. We offer many thanks to Pam Hardy, Larry David and Jim Bandeleian who visited all of the clan tents at the Highland Games, judging each to select the winner of the Celtic Spirit award. Speaking of very warm welcomes, many thanks go out to all of the IAS members who worked so hard for the Society over the weekend. To those who got so soaked on Friday night with the set up of the tent, to our members that worked in the tent greeting our many visitors, to those who supplied coffee and munchies for the “workers”, to those who helped hang on to the tent during the “Winds of Sunday Morning” until Jim Bandeleian and Mark Gallaher and the rest of the crew could get everything more anchored and finally to those who helped to dismantle the display at the end of the games. Our hard working IAS members included: Jim Bandeleian, Dan Begley, Karon Bell, Clark Boswell, Gloria Cahen, Larry David, Nancy Emig, Joan Finnegan, Stephen Gallagher, Frank Hardy, Pam Hardy, Ed Mayers, Linda Mayers, Finn McCool, Sonya Moore, Sharon O’Brien, Kathryn O’Meara, Jim Petty, Kathleen Petty, and Mike Owen. If anyone was inadvertently omitted – please know that your contributions are so appreciated too! Many, many thanks to all of you for sharing our own very special Irish/Celtic spirit with our visitors to the IAS tent and with each other

Just for fun ... Click the link to see all the goodies at the IAS Online store. Make note of all the things you’d like to have and – then just for fun - think about all those Christmas presents you need to buy – and then go for it! Help the IAS treasury and get some fun Irish stuff too! <http://www.cafepress.com/finnmccool>

Membership Corner

The Highland Games brought out the area Celts and also brought many new members to our IAS. We extend a hearty welcome to our new IAS folks, Rainy Bryant, Joe, Brigitte, Kate, Sarah, Ethan and Luke Calveric, Michael Carney, Randy Jackson, Cary Kincaid Lewis Kingston, Randy Jackson, Annie McEntee, Sissy McEntee, Charlotte & Rick Moore, Michael Neely, Dave and Annah O'Donnell, David O'Flaherty, Michael O'Leary, Charlie Sullivan, John Wiebe and returning member Mike, Mary & Caitlin Mealy. It was great meeting all of you at the Highland Games and we are looking forward to seeing you all again soon. (All of our new members please take note of that upcoming Christmas Party and call me if you have any questions – 804-323-6415)

Historical Events in Ireland - November

Nov 1st 1798 - Sir Benjamin Guinness, owner of the Guinness brewery from 1855, is born in Dublin

Nov 8th 1847 - Birth in Dublin of Bram Stoker, author of Dracula

Nov 26th 1791 - First convicts from Ireland arrive in New South Wales, Australia

Nov 29th 1740 - Edward Sewell, a "couple-beggar" - i.e. a clergyman who conducts illegal marriages involving Catholics and Protestants - is hanged at Stephen's Green

November 30, 1667 - Birth in Dublin of Jonathan Swift, poet, satirist and clergyman

And finally, **Bloody Sunday** was a day of violence on [November 21, 1920](#) in [Dublin](#), during the [Irish War of Independence \(1919-1921\)](#), which led to the deaths of more than 30 people. The day began with the assassination of 14 British agents (of 18 in a group known as the [Cairo Gang](#)) or their informants by the [Irish Republican Army](#). Later that afternoon, British forces opened fire on the crowd at a Gaelic football match in [Croke Park](#) in north Dublin, causing the deaths of 15 civilians. That same evening there were scattered shootings in the city streets, and three Irish prisoners in [Dublin Castle](#) were killed by their British captors under suspicious circumstances. The events of Bloody Sunday will be commemorated with a Gaelic football game between Dublin and Tipperary in Clonmel in November 2007. Sadly, on January 30, 1972 – a 2nd incident occurred in Derry and is also dubbed Bloody Sunday.

Little Women's Christmas by Sheila Flitton

Now, Ladies... might there be any interest in reviving this 'quaint' little Irish tradition? I'm kinda thinking this could become an annual IAS event... not necessarily on January 6th. but any day after the Christmas holidays that the ladies of the IAS might pick. Read on ladies and call me at 804-323-6415 if you are interested or email me at bearfan46@verizon.net. (I'll be away until November 17th, so if you don't hear back – you'll know why.)

“Nollaig na mBan” or “Little Women’s Christmas” is an old custom that’s still celebrated by women all over Ireland. It goes back to the days when large families were the norm. Men never lifted a finger in the house to help, and were never expected to. If a man washed the dishes he was called an “auld woman” by other men. No full-blooded Irish man was prepared to risk that! (Although today guys -you do realize that has ALL changed and washing dishes does not harm your reputation! Nancy).

But each year, after the Christmas holiday, tired women finally got a break – for one day, at least. On January 6th (the same day as the Epiphany), men would take over of the housework, offering women a chance to go out to relax with each other. Never one to break with tradition, I returned to my hometown of Cork this year (from Dublin) to join my sisters and women friends to celebrate. As we sat overlooking the River Lee from Cork’s Metropole Hotel dining room, I thought, “We keep the tradition alive but, not in the same way our mothers did.” During my childhood, I remember excited, shawled women hurrying to the local public house. On Little Women’s Christmas, they would inhabit this man’s domain without shame. Sitting in “the snug,” a small private room inside the front door, they would pool the few shillings they’d saved for the day. Then they would drink stout and dine on thick corned beef sandwiches provided by the publican. For the rest of the year, the only time respectable women would meet for a glass of stout would be during shopping hours, and then only because it was “good for iron in the blood.” After an initial chat about the worries and cares of the old year, a pact would be made to leave them outside the door. They’d be as free as the birds in the sky for the day – and well on into the evening.

Some say this tradition is dying. But I was surprised to see how many women of all ages upheld it this year. Like my own sisters and friends, most women no longer gather in the snug of a public house. Wine and lunch has replaced the bottle of stout and corned beef sandwiches. And of course, today’s new man, no stranger to the kitchen, is home trying his hand at cooking and spending quality time with the children (or so they say). We can’t stop progress, but it’s a pleasure to see “Little Women’s Christmas” survive. (What say ye ladies of the IAS?)

An Irish Trivia note from Jim Bandeleian – “While I was at the recent Oyster Festival in Urbanna, I found out another bit of trivia related to Ireland. While there were oyster shucking contests in Urbanna during the festival, I understand that the contestant that won at Urbanna - had gone to the World Championship Oyster shucking contest a couple of years ago. And, guess where this contest is held? Why, in Ireland of course!”

Another bit of “Irish” from Jim Bandeleian Also, while in Urbanna, we met a vendor selling rare antique and collectible maps from all over the world and dating from the 16th to the 19th centuries. David Shea, a fellow IAS member, and I each bought old maps of Ireland. The map I got only dates back to 1922. David's is from around the mid 1800's. If you are interested in historical maps from Ireland or anywhere, this vendor will be at **Bizarre Bazaar®** in Richmond at the end of November. His web site is: <http://heirloommaps.com/>.

See you at the November Pub supper or the PBS Telethon or the November meeting, or THE CHRISTMAS PARTY!!! (or all of the above) Remember - a busy Irishman is a Happy Irishman! 😊

Did you Know? "Beyond the pale," an expression used to describe outrageous behavior, originated in Ireland in the 14th century. The Pale was the area of Ireland under heavy British control. People living in areas outside it were considered wild and outlandish.

From the Editor - I want to offer very sincere apologies. There's been a lot of conversation about the website and email in the last couple of newsletters as we try to encourage members that have access to the Internet, to retrieve the monthly newsletter from the IAS website. These actions are never intended to imply that the IAS does not value our members that don't have a computer or access to a computer. The move to distribute the newsletter via the Internet is most importantly a huge cost saving measure for the Society. On a personal note – Internet distribution of the newsletter is a great time and labor saving measure for the editor. Moving from copying, printing, collating, folding, stapling and posting approximately 150 newsletters to processing around 35 newsletters is an unbelievable savings of my time and the Society's money. During any given month, I also use email to communicate with as many members as I can – to provide last minute notices of upcoming Celtic events, reminders about IAS meetings, etc. It's true – if you don't have email – I can't get the messages to you. Adding to the problem, last issue, when I published the news about the IAS manning the phones for the PBS telethon – I neglected to insert a phone number to call to volunteer your time. That was entirely my fault. I overlooked that detail and gave only the email address in the newsletter. The implication is never that all of our members are not welcome to participate in any functions. The IAS values all its members and understands that it takes the involvement of everyone to make the organization a success. The newsletter will continue to be mailed to members that don't have Internet access or have other problems accessing the newsletter on line. Please continue to call me on situations like this. I'll get things corrected as soon as possible – and I'm VERY good at eating “humble pie.”

Till next month – Be safe and Happy Thanksgiving!!

PLEASE NOTE Job Opening! – If you have computer skills and could offer a helping hand in maintaining and updating the IAS website – Please contact Jim Bandeleian at either his email address - jbandeleian@gmail.com or by phone. 804-347-0924 (Mobile) 804-755-4309 (Work) Jim has done a Herculean job with the website and continues to add new links and features all the time. Check it out and if you should have a yen to help with the IAS website.. we'd love to have you!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – and you can click [this link](http://richmondias.org/index.php?content=upcoming) to get the latest updates on upcoming events

NO LATER THAN Nov 14th	MAKE SURE TO SEND YOUR VOTE FOR THE IRISH AMERICAN SOCIETY'S MVP TO BE AWARDED AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY (email and phone info in newsletter)
Nov 8th	Uisce Beatha -10th anniversary celebration at Rare Olde Times Public House
Nov 17 th	BEST EVER Pub Social call Ed Mayers at 804-379-5577 to make a reservation.
Nov 18th	IAS Board Meeting – Gloria Cahen’s House, 7:00 pm
Nov 18th	Edsall Road–Traditional Irish Music, Capital Alehouse - 6 pm, \$3 cover Ample parking
Nov 19th	Science Museum – Joy From the World Christmas Tree Party and Social – Family Event – There is fee this year. Museum Member \$8 Non Member \$10. 804 864-1400 for info.
Nov 26th	IAS manning the phones at PBS Telethon – 7:30 – 11:00 Volunteers Needed & Welcome!
Nov 29th	IAS Monthly Meeting – Dumbarton Library 7:00 Program about the AOH, Discussion about the idea of an IAS book club, Member input on programs for upcoming meetings
Nov 30 & Dec 2	UR Int'l Film Series, "The Wind That Shakes the Barley"(804) 289-8860 for info or check your IAS email for details.
Dec 1st	IAS Annual Christmas Party with Silent Auction 6:00 till 11:00 The Columbian Center
Dec 10th	Eileen Ivers & Immigrant Soul “An Nollaig – An Irish Christmas” 7:30 Univ. of Richmond Camp Concert Hall. For ticket info-804-289-8980
Dec 17th	“Sing Along at O’Toole’s – Some Irish and Some Olde Tunes – Glenn Crone 6:00 pm