



# The Richmond Claddagh <http://richmondias.org/>

## Newsletter of the Greater Richmond Irish American Society

February 2008

**From The President:** For the Irish-American Society, 2008 made a grand entrance, having just celebrated Christmas with a festive party and with a lucrative Silent Auction.

As we approach the upcoming Festival season, I again appeal to all members, old and new, to lend a hand and work to help this wonderful organization achieve ever further growth and success. Our long time members have such a rich storehouse of knowledge and expertise, which needs to be passed on to our new members. The IAS, as with all organizations, is only as strong as its members who are its heart and soul.

Summer vacations are over! In the future, we will continue all year our rich variety of programs devoted to history, culture and political diversity, along with our monthly pub nights. Coming up, we have not only our festivals but also our Sky Box event at the Strawberry Hill Races, our Summer Picnic and the Christmas Party.

Now is the perfect time to become actively involved and pitch in so that the Irish American Society will still be around for the next generation of Celts. Gloria Cahen, President

### **February General Meeting – Bon Air Library 7 pm Thursday Feb 28<sup>th</sup> - Panel Discussion and Guest Speaker**

**“The Transformation of Ireland”:** Have you ever wondered how Ireland changed politically and culturally in such a short span of time? Ever wondered how a small island of 4 million inhabitants dramatically changed their economy to one of the best in the world? How did it happen? What were the defining factors? Come and find out during an interesting panel discussion/presentation with IAS members reflecting on the original “Re-imagining Ireland” forum in Charlottesville. There is also a short film about that conference. We also have a guest speaker for this program.

[Tom Dorsey](#), President of Dorsey, Wright & Associates, who was named by Irish America Magazine to their “Wall Street 50” list (You can click on his name to see the article and full list of the 50.) Tom will touch on the Irish economy and the Celtic Tiger – its growth and its state today. The Bon Air library is located just off Buford Road in Chesterfield County at 9103 Rattlesnake Rd, 23235. For questions on the program call Dan Begley at 740-5631. For directions call the library at (804) 320-2461

**February 16<sup>th</sup> – Tour of Centre Hill Mansion – Petersburg VA.** C’mon out and join Colleen Callahan and your fellow IAS members for something a little different with a fun day in Petersburg, VA. Colleen, Curator Emeritus of the Valentine Richmond History Center, has recently overseen the installation of a new exhibit “*Fashionably Dressed at Centre Hill Mansion - Attire from the 1820’s to the Early 1900’s,*” a display of men, women and children’s

historic clothing displayed in the rooms of historic Centre Hill Mansion. Centre Hill is an elegant home built in the 1820’s – the home of many historic gatherings - not to mention the home to a few reported ghostly inhabitants. Participants will meet at Center Hill Mansion at 10:15 and then enjoy a guided tour of the house, after which Colleen will give the IAS group a special in depth tour of the clothing exhibit. The Cost for both tours is \$5 per person, which is payable at the door. After the tour, those interested can make the short trip to Petersburg’s Historic downtown area for lunch as a group or on your own – and then you visit the fun little shops in the area.

To schedule the tour for our IAS group, we need to provide Colleen with the number of reservations. So, please call her at 261-4998 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. If you are interested in carpooling, email Nancy at [bearfan46@verizon.net](mailto:bearfan46@verizon.net) or leave a message at 323-6415. I’ll set up an email group or provide your phone number so that each of you can contact one another and set up a central meeting place for carpooling.

In case of bad weather on the 16th, call Colleen and she’ll determine if we need to postpone the event to Saturday, February 23rd.

**DIRECTIONS:** From I-95, take exit 52, Washington St. Travel three blocks west, turn right on N. Adams St. Parking lot for CENTRE HILL is across from police station at the corner of E. Tabb St. and N. Adams.

**FEBRUARY PUB NIGHT – February 29<sup>th</sup>** IAS Pub Master, Ed Mayers has made arrangements at Rare Olde Times (10602 Patterson Avenue -at the corner of Pump Road and Patterson) for the February Pub supper. Meet at 7:00 for dinner with your IAS friends – Ed has arranged for separate checks and special seating so that all our IAS folks are in the same area – but you must call Ed at 804-379-5577 to let him know how many are coming so that the reservations can be made. “Andy & Then Some” will be playing some great Irish music. <http://www.rareoldetimespub.com/publichouse.php>

**THE STRAWBERRY HILL RACES – 2008** – It’s that time again. The Irish-American Society has been offered a Sky Box to use during the Strawberry Hill Races on April 15th at Colonial Downs. The air-conditioned Sky Box is equipped with kitchen so we can bring our own beverage coolers and food to share. The cost is \$35.00 per person, which includes chartered bus (from several locations) to whisk you to and from Colonial Downs (and you are dropped at the front door!) as well as the ticket to the race. We need at least 20 reservations to secure the Sky Box and must place our

reservations early to secure the Box. The Box will hold up to 50 comfortably so there's plenty of room. To make your reservations, please call Gloria at 233-2113 immediately to reserve your spot. This event drew rave reviews from our members and their guests last year, so make your call to Gloria ASAP so that we can lock in the reservation for the Sky Box for the IAS.

**FINALLY THE ANSWERS!!!** I know that you've been waiting with baited breath since the last newsletter, so.... Here are the answers to the 32 Irish Counties Puzzle from the January Newsletter. I hope you had fun working on the solution. Did 'ya find them all?



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<http://www.ireland-information.com>

AHA!... just when you thought I had run out of Irish/IAS Trivia... **... NOT TO FEAR!**



Yes, Yes. Even more trivia –(that I'm sure one day you'll be delighted that I provided) - here are the counties represented by our Domestically born & bred IAS members

County/Ancestry	Gaelic Name	
Achill (Co Mayo)	Maigh Eo	1
Antrim	Aontroim	10
Armagh	Ard Mhacha	2
Carlow	Ceatharlach	2
Cavan	An Cabhán	5
Clare	An Clár	9
Cork	Corcaigh	28
Derry	Doire	4
Donegal	Dún na nGall	12
Down	An Dún	4
Dublin	Ath Cliath	3
Fermanagh	Fear Manach	1
Galway	Gaillimh	5
Kerry	Ciarrai	9

Kildare	Cill Dara	2
Kilkenny	Cill Chainnigh	2
Laois	Laoighis	1
Leitrim	Liatroim	3
Limerick	Luimneach	0
Longford	An Longfort	20
Louth	Lú	1
Mayo	Maigh Eo	4
Meath	An Mhi	5
Monaghan	Muineachan	5
Northern Ireland/Ulster	Cúige Uladh/Ulaidh	5
Offaly	Uibh Fhaili	2
Roscommon	Ros Comáin	2
Sligo	Sligeach	2
Tipperary	Tiobraid Arann	4
Tyrone	Tir Eoghain	0
Waterford	Port Láirge	0
Westmeath	An Iarmhi	0
Wexford	Loch Garman	0
Wicklow	Cill Mhantáin	0

These are the Counties of Ireland represented by our Native - Irish Born IAS Members:

COUNTY of Origin	# Of MEMBERS
Antrim	1
Cavan	2
Cork	1
Donegal	3
Kerry	2
Kilkenny	1
Leitrim	1
Limerick	2
Louth	1
Roscommon	2
Tipperary	2

If you should notice any spelling errors - Are You Kidding? Do you think that I would know if there are spelling errors in that list? Actually I looked it all up on Wikipedia – so I gallantly put the blame on that website for any errors. !

**DID YOU KNOW?** That just two hours north of Richmond – in Washington there is a theater group dedicated to presenting three to four productions per year including at least one work by an Irish playwright each season. That would be the Keegan Theater located at 1742 Church Street, NW. Coming “*The Hostage*” by Brendan Behan February 21-March 29, 2008 The IRA takes an innocent British soldier hostage in a bawdy Irish bar - he is to be shot if the British go through with the execution of an IRA youth. What follows, though, is a truly comic approach to both life and art; this is a circus of flamboyant colors and theatre styles. You can check out the upcoming Keegan schedule at their website through this link.

[http://www.keegantheatre.com/20072008season/index\\_E.html](http://www.keegantheatre.com/20072008season/index_E.html)

## More "Bits of Ireland" SKIBBEREEN – The Story Behind the Song

Periodically, Ireland has suffered from famine since potatoes became the staple food of the country- about 1700. In 1740-41 there was a bad famine and about 400,000 people perished. In 1822 the potato crop failed owing to bad weather, and in May Skibbereen was in a state of distress "horrible beyond description". But the famine of 1846-47 made a deeper impression than any of the earlier ones because the Skibbereen district was one of the most severely stricken regions in Ireland. Conditions became very bad in the autumn of 1846. Relief works and soup kitchens were established in Skibbereen and other towns.

On October 24th 1846 Denis McKennedy dropped dead while working on the Caheragh road. At the Inquest, held at the Abbey graveyard, it was proved that, for the week in question, Mrs. McKennedy, for her family of 5, had only 2 - 1lbs of potatoes (given by a neighbor), 2 pints of flour and one cabbage. Deceased's wages were 8d. per day, and same were in arrears for two weeks, owing to an official error. The Jury found that deceased died of starvation, owing to the gross negligence of the Board of Works, and, unfortunately, this was not the only case of its kind in the Skibbereen district.

Conditions grew steadily worse, though it was claimed that there was Government food stored in Skibbereen. that would not be handed out except at a high fixed price. In December 1846, Dr. O' Donovan, of Skibbereen, reported that he was besieged by applicants for coffins, the shortage of which had become a problem, and that in a house in the Windmill he had seen two bodies which could not be buried for lack of coffins. Eventually, coffins with hinged bottoms were used to carry the corpses to the graves, from which they were dropped into the earth, and the coffins were then ready to bear the next body, which could be repeated indefinitely. The Doctor also reported that on his way to the Workhouse, about half way, he had found a woman lying in the dyke, paralyzed with cold, with a dead child in her arms, and another almost dead clinging to her. She was trying to reach the Workhouse but had collapsed on the way.

People crawled into Skibbereen from the country, in the hope of finding some food, and died there. The Workhouse became overcrowded, and though built to hold only 800 people, eventually it had 1449 inmates, and then had to be closed against any more. The mortality was frightful, 140 having died in December 1846 and, early in 1847 (which was worse year for deaths), there were as many as 65 deaths in one week. The Skibbereen victims were buried in the Workhouse grounds, in the Old Chapel Yard, and even in the cabins and gardens where they died, but mainly in the Abbey graveyard, where a large plot of ground was reserved for them near the entrance gate, and in front of this the Famine Memorial has been erected, on which have been inscribed the following words: - 'Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints. Ps.CXV-5.' 'Erected to the memory of those departed ones who fell victims to the awful famine of 1846 and 1847. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord. And let

perpetual light shine on them. May they rest in peace. Amen".

Over a million people died in Ireland during these two years, more than all the service men from the whole British Empire who were killed during either of the two world wars!

### **SKIBBEREEN – The Song**

Oh father dear, I oft-times hear you speak of Erin's isle  
Her lofty hills, her valleys green, her mountains rude and wild  
They say she is a lovely land wherein a saint might dwell  
So why did you abandon her, the reason to me tell.

Oh son, I loved my native land with energy and pride  
Till a blight came o'er the praties; my sheep, my cattle died  
My rent and taxes went unpaid, I could not them redeem  
And that's the cruel reason why I left old Skibbereen.

Oh well do I remember that bleak December day  
The landlord and the sheriff came to take us all away  
They set my roof on fire with their cursed English spleen  
I heaved a sigh and bade goodbye to dear old Skibbereen.

Your mother too, God rest her soul, fell on the stony ground  
She fainted in her anguish seeing desolation 'round  
She never rose but passed away from life to immortal dream  
She found a quiet grave, me boy, in dear old Skibbereen.

And you were only two years old and feeble was your frame  
I could not leave you with my friends for you bore your father's name

I wrapped you in my cóta mór in the dead of night unseen  
I heaved a sigh and bade goodbye to dear old Skibbereen.

Oh father dear, the day will come when in answer to the call

All Irish men of freedom stern will rally one and all  
I'll be the man to lead the band beneath the flag of green  
And loud and clear we'll raise the cheer  
"Revenge for Skibbereen"



**In Memory - Helen Rudden:** On the last day of January, the IAS lost one of our long time members, when Helen Rudden passed away. Helen would always light up the IAS tent when she stopped in to visit, and always with a twinkle in her eye and a smile on her face. The IAS sends our sincere sympathy to her husband, Bob, and to the entire family. We will miss her deeply.

"As you danced in the light with joy,  
Love lifted you.  
As you brushed against this world so gently  
You lifted us." (T.C. Ring)

*Slán agus beannacht leat*  
Goodbye and blessings on you

**A Bit of Ireland Ireland's Ring of Kerry - From Tetrapods to Lindbergh By Rick Steves** *-On the scenic Ring of Kerry, this monument to the first transatlantic cable shows Ireland's flair for communication.*

Squinting into the wind and rain, we marched from a desolate car park on the southwest tip of Ireland down a slippery path. I turned a corner and the mean-looking surf was still a long walk away. Noticing my questioning look, my guide, Conner, egged me on. He was determined to show me the tracks of tetrapods.

I was exploring the much-loved Ring of Kerry, assuming I'd be seeing quaint pubs, sheep farms, and plush Emerald Isle beauty. But Conner was determined to complement the traditional sights by showing a different side of this touristy destination (a.k.a. the Iveragh Peninsula). It's so crowded with tour buses that all the companies have agreed to tour counterclockwise in a convoy to keep traffic from getting jammed up.

We finally reached the water's edge. On a shiny slab of mud-turned-to-rock, Conner reverently showed me faint tracks, declaring, "These are tetrapod tracks." He said many archaeologists believe this is the place where the first fish slithered out of the water on four stubby legs 385 million years ago onto what would become the Isle of Saints and Scholars. Remembering it was also the Island of Blarney, I skeptically countered, "...at least many Irish archaeologists."

In a way only an Irish tour guide can, Conner explained using evidence all around us and reminding me that tetrapods eventually evolved into bipeds how communication is a big part of the story of this friendly island home of the legendary gift of gab. He pointed to the distant, barely visible Skellig Michael Island breaking the horizon far out at sea. The 700-foot-tall rock has a tiny cluster of abandoned igloo-like beehive huts clinging near its summit like stubborn barnacles. In the sixth century Irish monks settled there to communicate with God. Inspired by the earlier hermit monks in the Egyptian desert, these Irish hermits, too, used the purity and silence of extreme isolation as a tool to get closer to God. They collected rainwater in cisterns and lived off fish and birds. Chiseling the most rudimentary life out of solid rock, the monks lived a harsh, lonely, disciplined existence. For over 500 years they were all about meditating, praying...heavenly communication.

They were also about human communication. Irish scribes, like those living on Skellig Michael, kept literate life alive in Europe through the darkest depths of the so-called Dark Ages. In fact, around the year 800, when the ruler Charlemagne (sometimes called the Father of Europe) needed good literate people to help run his empire, he brought in monks from this part of Ireland to be his scribes. Then, moving from evolution and literacy to modern communication, my guide pointed past Skellig Michael to a passing transatlantic ship. A thousand years

after those Irish monks nursed Europe's fragile and flickering flames of literacy, this is where the fastest communication came to Europe from America.

Hardy tourists visit the island of Skellig Michael, off the Ring of Kerry, where monks helped keep literacy alive in the Dark Ages. In the mid-19th century,

Reuters, who provided a financial news service in Europe, couldn't get his pigeons to fly across the Atlantic. So he relied on ships coming from America to drop a news capsule overboard as they rounded this southwest corner of Ireland. Reuters' boys would wait right here just a short walk from those first tetrapod tracks in their little boats with nets on long poles to "get the scoop." Europe learned of Lincoln's assassination (1865) from a capsule tossed over a boat and scooped out of these waters. Taking early communication one step further, the first telegraph cables were laid (from the largest ship of its day by a company that would become Western Union) across the Atlantic from this same corner of Ireland to Newfoundland. Now the two hemispheres had telegraphic communication. Queen Victoria was the first to send a message greeting an American president in 1866.

Marconi also communicated famously from the Ring of Kerry. That pioneer in radio technology achieved the first wireless transatlantic communication from this corner of Ireland to America in 1901. And in 1927, when Charles Lindbergh ushered in the age of transatlantic flight, the first bit of land he saw was this stony perch where those tetrapods first dried off.

Conner and I dropped by a schoolhouse in the nearby town of Knightstown. Its humble museum tells the stories of these quirky bits of local history with intimate black-and-white photos and typewritten pages.

Driving away, under the 21st-century cell phone- and satellite-tower crowning a hilltop above me, I gazed out at Skellig Michael and told Conner how impressed I was by the communication theme he had woven together that day. Saying, "Let's have a pint and talk about it," he pulled into a pub. (Many, many thanks to IAS member Kathy Donovan for sharing this interesting "**Bit of Ireland**")

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**New Members.** The IAS extends a hearty welcome to our new members John Minor & Wendy Bohannon who were brought on board by their friends and our IAS members Mike & Terry Conyngham. John & Wendy joined at the February "Seven Nations" concert at Dublin's Irish Pub and got to meet some IAS members that night. We hope to see you two at more of our upcoming events!

**IAS Website Advertising** -Linda Mayers is still actively seeking advertisers for our website

<http://www.richmondias.org/index.php?content=ads>

(Just click on that link to see the display of our website ads – and then enjoy all the Irish goodies on the website!) If you are interested in advertising your business or if you are willing to seek new advertisers for the website –we just need a business card from the advertiser to scan for the site and the fee is just \$25.00 for a year of online advertising. Please call Linda 804-349-5577 with any questions or if you would like the information to submit the ad. Thanks a lot - it really is a boost for the IAS and helps in the maintenance of the website.

**February 18<sup>th</sup> is President's Day** and with an air of Irish camaraderie we salute Presidents of the United States with "Irish Roots" If you can, click on the county names for some great information on each county.

George Washington	<a href="#">County Cork</a>
James Madison	<a href="#">County Clare</a>
Andrew Jackson	<a href="#">County Antrim</a>
James Polk	<a href="#">County Donegal</a>
James Buchanan	<a href="#">County Tyrone</a>
Andrew Johnson	<a href="#">County Antrim</a>
Ulysses S. Grant	<a href="#">County Tyrone</a>
Chester Arthur	<a href="#">County Antrim</a>
Grover Cleveland	<a href="#">County Antrim</a>
Benjamin Harrison	<a href="#">County Down</a>
William McKinley	<a href="#">County Antrim</a>
Theodore Roosevelt	<a href="#">County Donegal</a>
Woodrow Wilson	<a href="#">County Tipperary</a>
John F. Kennedy	<a href="#">County Wexford</a>
Richard Nixon	<a href="#">County Antrim</a>
Gerald Ford	<a href="#">County Monaghan</a>
Jimmy Carter	<a href="#">County Derry</a>
Ronald Reagan	<a href="#">County Tipperary</a>
George H. Bush	<a href="#">County Down</a> & <a href="#">County Wexford</a>
William Clinton	<a href="#">County Fermanagh</a>
George W. Bush	<a href="#">County Down</a> & <a href="#">County Wexford</a>

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### **Irish Proverbs**

- Three things come without asking: fear, jealousy, and love.
- Beware of the anger of a patient man
- Sense does not come before age
- Drink is the curse of the land. It makes you fight with your neighbor. It makes you shoot at your landlord and it makes you miss him.
- It's often a person's mouth breaks his nose
- Cheerfulness is a sign of wisdom
- You've got to do your own growing, no matter how tall your father was.

### **The St. Patrick's Festival on Church Hill in March**

Sonya Moore – The IAS Special Events Chairman is setting up plans for the IAS booth at the St. Pat's Festival March 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>. The booth will up for both days at the festival and we will need volunteers to work the booth. Don't worry if you've never volunteered before – there are plenty of experienced hands to teach you the ropes. Our appearance at this and other local/regional events is our chance to promote the Society and also to give folks a chance to learn a little more about their heritage. It's an easy way to spend a few hours and it gives you a great chance to connect with your fellow IAS members. Please contact Sonya Moore at 272-4138 or email her at [sonyasmoore@comcast.net](mailto:sonyasmoore@comcast.net) to volunteer some time to work in the IAS tent. It is so much fun - you'll be glad you did!

**The St. Patrick's Festival Parade** – You'll be hearing more from the Irish American Community Council about the Parade – but just a heads up – be sure and mark your calendar for Saturday March 29<sup>th</sup> – the parade will kick-off early (10:00?) and you don't want to miss it. Watch for more news in the March newsletter. Lots of fun coming up in the best month of the year for the Irish.... Rest up..... 😊

**JUST FOR FUN...** Use the links at the end of this section to log on to the IAS website to discover all the wonderful Irish links, the upcoming events list and all the photos from past IAS events. Then click on the last link to see the IAS Online store. Make note of all the things you'd like to have and then go for it! Help the IAS treasury and get some fun Irish stuff too!

<http://www.richmondias.org/>  
<http://www.cafepress.com/finnmccool>

### **Irish Miscellaneous**

More of those wonderful Irish Quotes from those Great Irish Minds –

“If it was raining soup – the Irish would go out with forks.” (Brendan Behan)

“Geographically, Ireland is a medium-sized rural island that is slowly but steadily being consumed by sheep.” –(Dave Barry)

“An Englishman thinks seated; a Frenchman- standing; an American- pacing; an Irishman - afterward.” (Austin O'Malley)



And that's all for this month!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** – Click on links in calendar and you can hear song selections from the artists and ALWAYS click the link directly below to get the latest updates on upcoming events  
<http://richmondias.org/index.php?content=upcoming>

February 7 <sup>th</sup>	9 pm Ceann - Irish band - “A Little Less Traditional – A Little More Irish Rock” but take a listen here –they’re fun! <a href="http://www.ceannmusic.com">http://www.ceannmusic.com</a> Sullivan’s Irish Pub Ashland – 301 South Center Street, 804 752-1628
Feb 8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup>	9 PM - Robin Rich/Common Threads Sullivan’s Irish Pub Ashland/ 301 .S. Center Street, 804 752-1628 <a href="http://cdbaby.com/cd/commonthreads">http://cdbaby.com/cd/commonthreads</a>
Feb 9 <sup>th</sup>	9 PM The Havers at Dublin’s Irish Pub 7526 Mechanicsville Turnpike The Old Safeway Shopping Center 804-723-5582 Mechanicsville, VA 23111 to hear their music - this is the link <a href="http://www.myspace.com/greengrassrock">http://www.myspace.com/greengrassrock</a>
February 10 <sup>th</sup>	IAS Board Meeting
Feb 14,15& 16	9pm Robin Rich- Sullivan’s Irish Pub in Ashland VA. 301 .South Center Street, 804 752-1628
Feb 14,21,28	Dublin’s Irish Pub – Turf Fire: IAS Members Mary Smith & John Robison – Irish Traditional Music Pub 7526 Mechanicsville Turnpike, Mechanicsville, VA. 804-723-5582
February 16 <sup>th</sup>	Tour of Centre Hill Mansion Petersburg VA & Special access to the exhibit “Fashionably Dressed at Centre Hill Mansion: Attire from the 1820s to the Early 1900s” \$5 per person. Lunch on your own or with the group following the tour. Call Colleen Callahan for reservations 804-261-4998.
February 17th	7:00pm – 8:30pm - Poisoned Dwarf – Free Concert at Williamsburg Unitarian Church, 3051 Ironbound Road, Williamsburg 23185
February 17th	“Sing Along at O’Toole’s – Some Irish and Some Olde Tunes – Glenn Crone 6:00 pm
Feb. 22 <sup>nd</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup>	8 PM Marty Brandon – Irish Marty “Sullivan’s Pub Irish Music Entertainment – Ashland/ 301 .S. Center Street, 804 752-1628 - <a href="http://www.irishmarty.com">http://www.irishmarty.com</a>
February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	7-9 pm <b>Albafaire</b> <a href="http://www.dublinirishpub.com">Dublin's Irish Pub</a> 7526 Mechanicsville Turnpike (old Safeway Plaza) Great Local Irish/Celtic group
February 23rd	Richmond Folk Music <a href="http://www.cornerhouse.com">Cornerhouse</a> Cleek Schrey and Sean McComisky performing rousing Irish music on fiddle and button accordion. They were one of most popular groups last year. Phone 804-647-7856 for Info – or click here <a href="http://www.richmondfolkmusic.com/page18.htm">http://www.richmondfolkmusic.com/page18.htm</a> ..
February 23rd	Wolf Trap Vienna Virginia (at the Barns of Wolf Trap) Celtic Fiddle Festival -Ticket Information:\$22.00 (703) 255-1868 <a href="http://www.wolf-trap.org/performances/show022308.html">http://www.wolf-trap.org/performances/show022308.html</a>
February 28th	IAS General Meeting – Revisiting “Re-Imagining Ireland” Panel discussion with IAS members and Special Guest Speaker, Tom Dorsey, named by Irish America Magazine as one of the Wall Street 50 in 2005 speaking on “The Celtic Tiger” today.
March 1st	Old Town Alexandria, VA 27th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade & Irish Festival - for more info <a href="http://www.ballyshaners.org/content.aspx?page=2&amp;section=1">http://www.ballyshaners.org/content.aspx?page=2&amp;section=1</a>
March 5th	7 pm Free Irish Film at Williamsburg Library, “Philadelphia, “Here I Come” For more information contact the Library - Tickets: (757) 259-4070 or visit website. <a href="http://www.wrl.org/programs/theatre.html">http://www.wrl.org/programs/theatre.html</a>
March 6th	U of R Concert -Jepson Theater Natalie McMaster – Celtic Fiddler <b>Tickets:</b> \$32 adults, \$30 seniors 65+, \$16 children 12 and under For Info – 804-287-6012 This from our IAS member, Ann McGehee - Any IAS members who has an NPR member card, tickets to the Natalie McMasters concert at the U of R Jepson Center are two-for-one when they present the card at the box office.... it might help to increase support for what should be a good show!
March 6th	<b>Ronan Tynan</b> Ferguson Center Newport News. 7:30PM Ticket Prices: \$47 / \$42 / \$37 <b>Ticket Office:</b> 757-594-8752 <a href="http://fergusoncenter.cnu.edu/artists/tynan.html">http://fergusoncenter.cnu.edu/artists/tynan.html</a>

March 9th	<a href="#">Heritage Aire Celtic Ensemble</a> – 3:00 pm Special FREE Event sponsored by Richmond Folk Music 3:00 pm <b>Concert is Free, but Reservations Required</b> 804-647-7856
March 9th	Leahy at Paramount Theater in Charlottesville (From Nancy they do a Great Show!) <a href="http://www.theparamount.net/calendar_shows_leahy.aspx">http://www.theparamount.net/calendar_shows_leahy.aspx</a>
March 11 <sup>th</sup>	The Irish Rovers, Ferguson Center Newport News, 7:30 pm - Ticket Prices, \$37, \$32, \$27 <b>Ticket Office:</b> 757-594-8752 <a href="http://fergusoncenter.cnu.edu/artists/rovers.html">http://fergusoncenter.cnu.edu/artists/rovers.html</a>
March 12 <sup>th</sup>	"Chieftains at Sandler Theater – VA. Beach: Tickets are on sale now through COX Tix at the Sandler Center Box Officer by phone at 888-3-COXTIX \$75; \$55 or \$35 <a href="http://www.sandlercenter.org/calendar/?event=34">http://www.sandlercenter.org/calendar/?event=34</a>
Mar 13, 14, 15	8 PM Marty Brandon – Irish Marty “Sullivan’s Pub Irish Music Entertainment – Ashland/ 301 .S. Center Street, 804 752-1628 <a href="http://www.irishmarty.com">http://www.irishmarty.com</a>
Mar 15- 7 11pm	Irish Nights Party – K of C at St. Mary’s Church- Food, Drink, Irish Entertainment, Irish music. \$15 per person – Reservations required for planning purposes. Call 804-550-0347 or email <a href="mailto:kkcaffrey@hotmail.com">kkcaffrey@hotmail.com</a> for more information
MARCH 16th	<b>St. Pat’s Parade Washington DC. 12:00 Noon</b> will proceed down Constitution Avenue from 7 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> Streets, N.W.,
March 17	8:30 p.m. Jim & Holly –Irish Tunes at the -The Blarney Stone, 715 Caroline St., Fredericksburg, VA 22401 (540) 371-7468, St. Patrick's Day Party! (Click below to hear them) <a href="http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewprofile&amp;friendid=184547487">http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewprofile&amp;friendid=184547487</a>
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	St. Patrick’s Irish Festival & Annual Parade - 25th and Broad Street in historic Church Hill, Richmond, VA - March 29th 10 AM- 7 PM Come early Saturday for the Annual St’s Parade
March 30 <sup>th</sup>	St. Patrick’s Irish Festival - 25th and Broad Street in historic Church Hill, Richmond, VA - 10 AM - 6 PM.
April 2nd	7pm – Free Irish Film at Williamsburg Library – “The Closer You Get” For more information contact the Library - Tickets: (757) 259-4070 or visit website. <a href="http://www.wrl.org/programs/theatre.html">http://www.wrl.org/programs/theatre.html</a>
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Strawberry Hills Races in the Sky Box – Call Gloria Cahen 233-2113 <b>ASAP</b> with any questions and to make your reservation.
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Lexington VA. Scotch Irish Festival – Vendors, Exhibits, and featured music will be provided by Richmond IAS’s own Mary Smith, Poisoned Dwarf, Robin Rich, Carl Peterson, the Virginia Highlands Pipes & Drums, and Warpipes. <a href="http://www.lexcelts.com/index.php">http://www.lexcelts.com/index.php</a>