



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

## Newsletter of the Greater Richmond Irish American Society

March 2009



**“The Irish - Be they kings, or poets, or farmers,  
They are a people of great worth,  
They keep company with the angels,  
And they bring a bit of heaven here to earth”**



**March 7<sup>th</sup> –The IAS Pub Supper** -Pub Master Joan Finnegan has a fun night set up at Poe’s Pub, 2709 East Main Street. **Please call or email Joan at 804-840-0080 or J.FINN@HOTMAIL.COM.** Here’s a link for directions and the menu **Poe’s Website** 804-648-2120. Joan has set the gathering time at 6 pm, but if that’s too early for you, just come when you can!

**24th Annual Church Hill Irish Festival:** Church Hill (St. Patrick’s Church on N. 25th Street between Broad and Franklin Streets) Saturday-Sunday, March 21st-22<sup>nd</sup>. The \$2.00 donation is collected at the gate. Saturday 10am-7pm and Sunday 10am-6pm

Kick off the Irish Festival weekend and join your fellow IAS members as we march in the walking parade on Saturday morning. **Please contact Denis Maguire at [maguired@comcast.net](mailto:maguired@comcast.net) or call him at 804-739-0429** if you can join us. Be sure to wear something green, or an Irish/Celtic costume if you have one. The parade starts at 10 am but please arrive by 9:30.

Your IAS will also have our booth set up to meet and greet folks, tell them about Ireland, listen to their stories and encourage people to join the IAS. We have information on Irish names, Irish culture, The Irish in Cinema, Irish legends, etc., and we need members to work in the booth to meet and greet our visitors/ **Please call Karon Bell at 804-517-3249** if you can donate an hour or two to help us promote our Heritage and our Society.

### **Welcome to our New IAS Member!!!!**

Deirdre Ni Bhroin joined in early January and the IAS is delighted to have this Carlow born Irish native as our member. We are all looking forward to meeting you! (I also send my sincere apology; this welcome note should have been in last months issue)

If you are reading this on line - Do your self a BIG Favor and Click on this link **[IAS Events Calendar](#)**

**The February Meeting – Seanachie Night** –Our first time at a new location – the Glen Allen Library and what a nice facility that is! It was a fantastic turnout!! What Great Stories! What Fun! In short, it was one grand evening of our members letting loose with some great ‘stuff’. Members, Dan Begley, Bonnie Atwood, Joe Green, Ann McGehee, Joe and Mary O’Brien, Mildred Kladdde, Frank & Pam Hardy, Carmel Miney, Gloria Cahen, Judy Garrett (who brought 4 guests! Good going Judy!), Dave & Mary Geary, Pat & Helen Burke, Doug Elder and daughter Rhane, Jack Cassell, Jim & Kathleen Petty, Jim Bandeleian, Denis Maguire, Carroll Graham and yours truly, assembled to enjoy stories, jokes and Irish history. These are some of our best meetings; so do plan to join us for the next one. I KNOW you have a story too!

**Speedy Get Well** wishes to members Maura West, recovering from a recent surgery, to Darlene Curtis who is recovering from knee surgery, and to Kathy Donovan who is doing well, but recovering from injuries sustained in a car accident. Also good thoughts go out to John Robison who is feeling much better (based on his wonderful performance at Folk in the Grove at the end of February! We are looking forward to seeing you all soon.

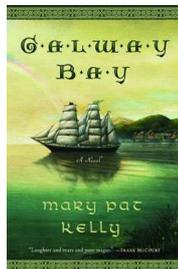
**Sincere Condolences** go out to Joan Finnegan on the loss of her sister, Theresa and to Stephen Gallagher on the loss his mother. Please keep all of these members in your thoughts and prayers.

**Just a request** – if you are receiving the newsletter via hard copy via US mail, but you are now in a position to receive it via email, please contact me at [bearfan46@verizon.net](mailto:bearfan46@verizon.net) or call me at 804-323-6415 and I will switch you over to the email version. If you can receive it via email, that would help us save money on postage and also some labor time for your humble editor. The postage rates keep climbing – so I’ll keep checking every so often. If you’re not able to receive it via email – don’t worry one bit... We’ll continue to send your copy. Thanks!

**PSSSSST!** Be sure and check out the calendar at the end of the letter... **TONS** of Irish stuff coming this month! And some we JUST found out about!

And for your Irish reading pleasure comes a recommendation from Irish Abroad.com – and many thanks to Frank Hardy for sharing it with the members.

**Galway Bay By Mary Pat Kelly**



Here at last is one Irish family's epic journey, capturing the tragedy and triumph of the Irish-American experience. In a rousing tale that echoes the myths and legends of Ireland herself, young Honora Keeley and Michael Kelly wed and start a family, inhabiting a hidden Ireland where fishermen and

tenant farmers find solace in their ancient faith, songs, stories, and communal celebrations. Selling both their catch--and their crops--to survive, these people subsist on the potato crop--their only staple food. But when blight destroys the potatoes three times in four years, a callous government and uncaring landlords turn a natural disaster into The Great Starvation that will kill one million. Honora and Michael vow their children will live. The family joins two million other Irish refugees in one of the greatest rescues in human history: the Irish Emigration to America. Danger and hardship await them there. Honora and her unconventional sister Maire watch their seven sons as they transform Chicago from a frontier town to the "City of the Century", fight the Civil War, and enlist in the cause of Ireland's freedom. The Kelly clan is victorious. This heroic story sheds brilliant light on the ancestors of today's 44 million Irish Americans.

McKay has written and directed award-winning documentaries on Irish subjects, as well as the dramatic feature *Proud*. She's been an associate producer on *Good Morning America* and *Saturday Night Live*, written books on Martin Scorsese, World War II, and Bosnia, and a novel based on her experiences as a former nun - *Special Intentions*. She is a frequent contributor to *Irish America Magazine* and has a PhD in English and Irish literature.

Don't forget – if you have items for the newsletter, please call me at 804-323-6415 or email them to me at [bearfan46@verizon.net](mailto:bearfan46@verizon.net). The newsletter is better when the members participate in it. And honestly speaking - the help is totally appreciated. I know that sometimes the newsletter runs long – but I try to fill in the spaces with some history, or jokes or “something” so that I can keep the pages and the contents even. It's not cost effective to have an odd number of pages – and once I get all the IAS business in ... I sometimes need filler for the empty spaces. . If it runs too long for you – I apologize.

**IAS ELECTIONS** – It's coming up on that time again. Before you know it – it will be June and the annual summer picnic and that means – IAS elections for Officers/Board members. These are the folks that plan and provide the leadership for the organization. As with any organization, the IAS always seeks new ideas, new projects and yes, new folks to bring those projects and ideas to fruition. All of our members are invited and encouraged to get involved – On March 17<sup>th</sup> – the IAS will be 17 years old. In that same time, many other Irish groups have gone by the wayside, or become nearly dormant. It may be trite, but we do need the input and the assistance of our members. If you can lend a hand by running for an Office or a seat on the Board, please consider it. There are monthly Board meetings – usually lasting an hour or a little more – could you spare an hour to help mold and shape the IAS of the future? Joan Finnegan (804-840-0080– [j.finn@hotmail.com](mailto:j.finn@hotmail.com)) and Frank Hardy (804-883-6230– [fenway7@msn.com](mailto:fenway7@msn.com)) make up the Nominating Committee this year. If you can help, please give one of them a call.

**HAVE YOU CHECKED INTO THIS YET? CAN YOU CALL DAN IF YOU'VE THOUGHT OF SOME LOCATIONS? WE COULD USE SOME HELP HERE..**

**SOS!!! MAYDAY!!! HELP!! WE NEED OUR MEMBERS INPUT AND IDEAS!!!** Our monthly meetings are getting more difficult to set up in locations that are either free or very reasonably priced and are also centrally located for our members. We need to get some suggestions/help from our members. Do you belong to a neighborhood association that might have a Neighborhood Center that would be available for our meetings? Can you find out if we could use the facility and also ask about their rental fees? Do you know of a restaurant/business/whatever – that has a place where we could meet. (Think of the old “Celebrity Room” and the huge back room they had) Could you help the IAS find alternative places for our monthly meetings? Do you have time to call some facilities in the Richmond area to check on rental fees? Do you know if local shopping centers, schools, churches, lodges, etc., have facilities available to other non-profit organizations for meetings? Do you have any creative ideas on what or where the IAS could explore for new meeting sites? Please contact Dan Begley - [dbegley55@hotmail.com](mailto:dbegley55@hotmail.com) or 804-740-5631 and let him know if you can help out or let him know if you have some suggestions for new meeting places

**Blarney Castle and the Irish Gift of Gab** -Whoever would think that the common name for the Irish gift of gab owes its origins to an English Queen who wreaked havoc on Ireland? True enough, it seems that the Dermot McCarthy, who ruled Blarney Castle during the reign of Elizabeth I, put up a series of eloquent excuses to prevent his surrender to the Queen. They were so plausible and frequent that the frustrated Elizabeth I coined the now well-known term when she proclaimed the latest excuse as "More Blarney talk!"



The Castle was originally a hunting lodge, dating from the 10th century. It takes its name from the Irish An blarna, which means "the plain." A stone castle that was begun in the early part of the 13th century and completed by Dermot McCarthy, King of Munster, in the middle of the 15th century replaced it. Oliver Cromwell was able to force the McCarthy family out of

their castle but they returned with the Restoration of Charles II. They left again after the Battle of the Boyne.

Would you like to receive the Irish gift of gab? (Assuming your Irish genes aren't enough to do the trick?) Tradition says that you must make a trip to Blarney Castle, climb to the top of the parapet, and hanging backwards, kiss the "Blarney Stone."

What's so special about that stone? One story about its origins ties it to the Scottish "Stone of Scone", which is also known as the "Stone of Destiny." "About.com's" Geology Guide, Andrew Alden, tells us the Blarney Stone may actually be half of the **Stone of Scone**, given to Cormac McCarthy in thanks for his support of Robert the Bruce in 1314. He also tells us that a geologist says the stone is no different than the rest of the limestone in the Castle. How can that be? The Scottish link does seem plausible, doesn't it? After all "blarney" is really the same thing as the Scottish "blether", isn't it?



Wish you could be in Ireland for St. Pat's Day - but can't make the trip? Try a batch of these to brighten your day.

### **Blarney Stone-'KISS'ed Cookies**

#### **Ingredients:**

- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter or margarine, softened
- 1-cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1-teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1-3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup HERSHEY'S Cocoa
- 1-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2-teaspoon salt

#### **QUICK COOKIE GLAZE**

Hershey's Brand Milk Chocolates or Hershey's "Hugs" Brand Chocolates

#### **Directions:**

1. Beat butter, sugar, egg and vanilla in large bowl until well blended. Stir together flour, cocoa, baking powder and salt; gradually add to butter mixture, beating until well blended. Divide dough in half; place each half on separate sheet of wax paper.
2. Shape each half into log with squared sides, about 7 inches long and 2-1/4 inches wide. Wrap each log in wax paper or plastic wrap. Refrigerate until firm, at least 8 hours.
3. Heat oven to 325°F. Cut logs into 3/8-inch thick slices. Place onto un-greased cookie sheet.
4. Bake 15 minutes or until set. Cool slightly; remove from cookie sheet to wire rack. Cool completely. Remove wrappers from chocolate pieces.
5. Prepare QUICK COOKIE GLAZE; drizzle cookies. Immediately place a chocolate piece on each cookie. Makes about 3-dozen cookies.

**QUICK COOKIE GLAZE:** Stir together 3/4 cup powdered sugar, 3 to 4 teaspoons milk, 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract and 3 or 4 drops green food color, if desired, in small bowl until of drizzling consistency.



## **OUT OF IRELAND – Shamrocks? Sham Irish!**

By MIA URQUHART - Times Globe

Green beer and plastic shamrocks -They have become symbols of Irishness in most of the world. Yet at the same time, they have become symbols of the division between North America's Irish and Ireland's Irish. Mention green beer to say, Paul Dempsey, Ireland's ambassador to Canada, and he crinkles up his nose. "You wouldn't drink that stuff, would you?" he asks incredulously. The reaction is typical among people fresh off the Emerald Isle and scholars are divided over the significance of the cultural divide.

Some believe North American commercialism has cheapened the meaning of being Irish. Others, like Montreal historian Don Pidgeon, think the Irish-American experience has helped revitalize Irishness. "The Irish in North America," he said, "are more Irish than they are back at home in Ireland." If one were to examine St. Patrick's Day parades as an indication of the Irishness of Ireland versus North America, there's no contest. North American parades continue to be the largest and loudest anywhere. Yet the very comparison goes to the heart of the debate, says Paul Dunne, a native of Dundalk, just north of Dublin. In Ireland, St. Patrick's Day is historically a religious holiday. "The only parades that I remember growing up were in Dublin, and at that time, the highlight of the parade would be a marching band imported from the United States. It was a very low-key thing in Ireland because at the heart it is a religious holiday. "I think it became different [in North America] because it was a way for people to celebrate their Irish history and their culture." March 17 in North America has become more of an **Irish Day than a St. Patrick's Day**, he said, since the celebrations rarely include a religious component.

The St. Patrick's Day difference was just one of the reasons that Mr. Dunne found it difficult to identify with the Canadian-born Irish community when he arrived in Canada almost 20 years ago. He said it felt as if "the clock had stopped at the beginning of the century." While Ireland had grown and matured with outside influences, Irishness in North America, he said, had become "stagnant" and alien to Ireland's Irish. "I also felt that things like the parade and the St. Patrick's Day luncheon and all of those were all kind of nice and quaint, but really had nothing to do with Ireland." He said many "Irish-Irish people don't mind the green beer and the shamrocks and the shillelaghs and leprechauns. If they are the level at which people want to retain their Irishness, fine. I don't mind that as long as it is a starting point for those people to be taught - or become open to learning about contemporary Irish culture."

That's where the Irish Studies Program at Concordia University fits in. "The program isn't designed to teach immigrants from Ireland who know all about it, but to teach people who are four-and five-generation 'submerged Irish' as I call them," said Professor Kenneally. He sees Irish icons like shamrocks and leprechauns - however foreign to the Irish in Ireland - simply as a "door" to take on the way to teaching them something deeper about Ireland. "It's like teaching teen-agers about Ireland. They're not going to start off reading James Joyce, but they will start off listening to the Cranberries."

Sometimes it takes something like Riverdance, the Irish dance group that caused a worldwide resurgence in the popularity of the tradition, or musical sensations from Ireland like U2 and the Cranberries, to hook people at first. Sometimes, people don't even realize that there are other ways of expressing one's Irishness, said Kevin Whelan, a research scholar at the Royal Irish Academy who received a government grant to study Ireland between 1600 and 1900.

If people have never been offered any alternatives - if no one's ever suggested to him that there are other ways of looking at his Irishness - then that's understandable." The important thing, he said, is to expand upon this "anorexic version" of being Irish - to broaden knowledge about Irish literature, film, music and dance.

"There's a much wider range of interest in matters Irish than might be suggested by St. Patrick's day activities," said Mr. Whelan, who has taught courses on Irish history at universities throughout North America. Farrell McCarthy has been saying the same thing for years in New Brunswick. "I got tired of St. Patrick's Day being the only day of the year that the Irish were recognized in some way, but, to me, they weren't recognized in the right way. St. Patrick's Day simply became a day that the green beer started flowing and the plastic shamrocks were put on with the green, "And of course, "When Irish Eyes are Smiling" was sung. While it's true that the Irish do put on a good party, no one got any deeper than that."

**Dear IAS Members** – What do you and your family do to commemorate St. Patrick's Day? Do you have family traditions? Special plans? Special Recipes? What does St. Patrick's Day mean to you? Please send a bit about your traditions and your thoughts and perhaps we can share with other members and open a good discussion. ([bearfan46@verizon.net](mailto:bearfan46@verizon.net) or bring me a note at the next meeting)

### **What's "Evacuation Day" in Boston**

Part of the Boston Irish cling to the belief that if people only knew more about Evacuation Day - commemorating an actual Revolutionary War *victory* in Boston (unlike Bunker Hill Day) - they would embrace it as the Boston Irish do. To that end - some history:

Washington and his rag-tag band of soldiers had the city of Boston under siege during the winter of 1775-76. Boston was gated then (on the corner of Washington Street and East Berkeley in the South End, you can see a marker on the Ming's Market building, showing where gates once stood), and Washington et al. couldn't just go charging in. Luckily, Henry Knox led a daring and clever mission that winter to bring some cannons from Fort Ticonderoga in upstate New York back to Boston. (A more eloquent and detailed description of this mission can be found at [www.massmoments.org](http://www.massmoments.org))

Washington set up the 59 cannons on Dorchester Heights in South Boston. From there, he could easily pummel the hated redcoats ([this map](#) give a good sense of the troop positions), which they realized after Washington sent a few warning shots into the mix. And that was that. The Brits and their loyalists **evacuated** to Nova Scotia, with Washington promising not to shoot at them in exchange for their promise not to torch the city as they left, and Boston was happily in the hands of the revolutionaries. (For true history buffs, there is a first-hand description by one Dr. Thacher, a surgeon in Washington's army, which can be found [here](#).)

The bloodless victory was something of a revelation because Boston was much too secure a port to be attacked from the sea and nobody figured the two-bit Americans could manage to take it from the landward side. However, it took the rise of Irish immigrants as a political force in the Commonwealth for the holiday to be proclaimed, in 1901, and officially made a work holiday in Suffolk County.

### **Montserrat: The Other Emerald Isle**

*(Theresa Medoff)*

Those who cannot make it to Ireland for St. Patrick's Day might want to consider a visit to an Emerald Isle a bit closer to home - the Caribbean island of Montserrat, the only country outside Ireland where St. Patrick's Day is a public holiday.

St. Patrick's **Week** of Celebration joins together shamrocks and steel drums for a unique celebration of the island's Irish and African heritage. On Montserrat, St. Patrick's Day commemorates not only the saint, but also the bravery of the islanders' slave ancestors, who rose up on St. Patrick's Day 1768 in a rebellion that ultimately failed.

Nicknamed the Emerald Isle of the Caribbean, Montserrat was settled in 1632 by Irish and English Catholics brought over from the Protestant island of St. Kitts. In contrast to the persecution they endured elsewhere, Irish settlers on Montserrat were allowed to practice their religion, and the island soon became a refuge. By 1678, more than half the population was Irish.

Today that heritage lives on not only in the Irish surnames and place names but also in the culture. The national dish, goat water, is based on a traditional Irish stew recipe, and a popular folk dance, the Bam-chick-a-lay, has its roots in Irish step dance. Green is the national color and the shamrock a national symbol. The flag includes the Union Jack as well as the Montserratian coat of arms, which features Erin and the golden harp, both symbols of Ireland.

And perhaps the Irish temperament still lives on Montserrat. One recent visitor from Ireland said that the island's pace and the laid-back feeling made him feel right at home.

### **St Pat's Week of Celebrations – March 14-21<sup>st</sup>**

St. Patrick's Week is a weeklong celebration highlighting Montserrat's local culture and Irish heritage that culminates with St. Patrick's Day on March 17: also a commemoration of the slave uprising on that very day in 1768. Events usually include a special service at the Catholic Church, a lecture, an exhibition, guided hikes in the forested mountains, the Freedom Run from Cudjoe Head to Salem Park, a St. Patrick's Day dinner and a Junior Calypso Competition.

During the weekend the St. Patrick's Week celebrations is at Festival Village. Here there's a simulated Slave Village with traditional local food on sale (the time-honored 'Slave Feast'), along with a revival of traditional games from yesteryear like hand-made spinning tops, story telling, and a kite flying festival. Local culture and music are in focus and you'll be sure to see the Masqueraders (masked street dancers in traditional costumes, tall head dresses and whips) perform, prancing to the lively sound of fife and drum: a blend of African and European elements forged out of slavery. String band music, a traditional combination of instruments includes the banjo, 'boompipes', guitar, mouth organ, triangle, 'shak shak' and bass drum are also on show, along with steel band (steel drum) performances.

For information for this year's week of activities click on link below

[http://www.visitmontserrat.com/index.php?categoryid=17&p2\\_articleid=102](http://www.visitmontserrat.com/index.php?categoryid=17&p2_articleid=102)

One of the "perks" that comes to our IAS members - is the use of a Skybox at the Strawberry Hill Races. The IAS President, Gloria Cahen, received this notice about the upcoming event and the IAS has again been offered the use of a Sky Box to watch the race and the festivities. Read through this information sheet and then call Gloria at 804-233-2113 to make your reservations. Tickets are \$35 each and **you should call ASAP to reserve your spot(s)**. Word is that this event is laid back and lots of fun... you get to watch the races and spend a leisurely day getting better acquainted with those other nice folks that belong to the IAS. If you have any questions - please call Gloria at 804-233-2113.

PLEASE NOTE! All Passes must be purchased at one time, through one designated "Sky Suite Coordinator"- who for the IAS is Gloria, so you must call her now to make your reservation and get your check to her.

Here's all the info on the race-

The 77<sup>th</sup> Running of the Strawberry Hill Races takes place Saturday, April 11, 2009, at Colonial Downs, in New Kent County. This popular central Virginia rite of spring is steeped in history and tradition but has entered the new millennium with the sizzle of the twenty-first century while maintaining much of the tradition of its past seventy-six runnings.

The Strawberry Hill Races are presented annually by The State Fair of Virginia as part of its annual roster of events and promotes its mission to support youth and education by raising funds for its Youth Scholarship Program. With an eye toward community involvement, the State Fair is actively pursuing relationships with mission compatible nonprofit organizations so they may enjoy the Races as well as the opportunity to utilize this event for the support of their unique goals and mission.

**In that spirit, the Strawberry Hill Races is offering at no additional charge, private Sky Suites on race day to recognized nonprofit, charitable or civic organizations with the commitment to purchase 20 to 50 Shuttle Pass Tickets to the Races (combined transportation/admission) at the unadvertised Early Bird rate of \$35 each). Shuttle Buses run continuously from Richmond Raceway Complex to Colonial Downs and back from 9:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Race day. The Sky Suite capacity is 50 people. Sky Suites are located on the private Fourth Floor of the Colonial Downs Clubhouse, offering all weather, climate controlled enclosed viewing of the Races, with private balcony, seating, bar/refrigerator/ serving area, plenty of room for entertaining and a private restroom. Special credentials will be issued to provide access to**

this private area. Sky Suites provide a direct view of the finish line, homestretch and entire racecourse. Your organization will receive a listing in the Race Program and you will have the opportunity to display your banner on the highly visible Sky suite rail. Announcements will also be made recognizing your involvement.

You may bring your own refreshments – (food and beverages) (non-professionally catered) or contract with **A Sharper Palate**, the official caterer of the Strawberry Hill Races, to provide food and beverages for your guests (804/261-3766; [www.asharperpalate.com](http://www.asharperpalate.com)).

(This is the view from the Sky Box. )



“The horse is the abiding passion of Ireland. There is not a trueborn Irishman, or woman, who does not turn to follow the sight of a nervous steeplechaser, high stepping, his flanks shining with health, his hoofs ringing on the cobbles, the sweetest music to their ears. “ (H. V. Morton, *In Search of Ireland*, 1930)



Irish Steeplechase Jockey – Paddy Brennan – He won't be there.. but isn't this a cool photo!

**A last thought ...** Congratulations to our IAS members that are also in the St. Andrew's Pipe Band. It was a great show that you put together in Amelia last weekend. Sometimes we forget to thank our local groups for their hard work and perseverance. So thanks to all you Celtic musicians out there! We appreciate all of you!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** – Click on links in calendar and you can hear song selections from the artists

For an updated list of events - <http://richmondias.org/index.php?content=upcoming>

<p><b>March 7<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>IAS PUB SUPPER –</b>  <b>Gather at 6pm or</b>  <b>when you can.</b></p>	<p>Pub Master Joan Finnegan has a fun night set up at Poe’s Pub, 2709 East Main Street - Gathering time is 6 pm or whenever you can get there. Please call or email Joan at 804-840-0080 or <a href="mailto:J.FINN@HOTMAIL.COM">J.FINN@HOTMAIL.COM</a> and she’ll get it set up so that we all sit together. Here’s a link for directions and the menu <a href="#">Poe's Website</a> 804-648-2120</p>
<p><b>March 7<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>St. Mary’s KC’s and</b>  <b>the Dooley Division of</b>  <b>AOH present their</b>  <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Irish Night</b>  <b>6:30 to 10:30 pm</b></p>	<p>Now.. come to the IAS Pub supper 1<sup>st</sup> and then you can go to this! The St. Mary’s Knights of Columbus and the Dooley Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians will host a night of Irish music, dancing, Step Dancers and entertainment - Admission (age 21+) \$15 plus a Food Dish per person (or pay an extra \$5 per person). Call Daniel Caffrey at 804-512-6288 for full details and to reserve your tickets. The party is in the parish hall at St. Mary’s Catholic Church, 9505 Gayton Road, Richmond</p>
<p><b>March 8<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm</b>  <b>IAS Board Meeting</b></p>	<p>The March Board meeting – at Gloria Cahen’s home. The Board meetings are open to all members. Please contact Gloria at 233-2113 for directions and with any questions regarding the meeting.</p>
<p><b>THE CHIEFTANS!</b>  <b>March 11<sup>th</sup> – 8pm</b>  <b>215 East Main Street,</b>  <b>Charlottesville,</b>  <b>Virginia 22902</b></p>	<p>The Chieftains are the finest practitioners of traditional Irish music in the world, icons without peer or parallel. Lyrical songs, haunting melodies, barn-burning reels and rollicking step-dances no matter where you come from, tonight, you’re at home in Ireland. Come home to Ireland with The Chieftains! <a href="http://www.thechieftains.com">www.thechieftains.com</a> Tickets on Sale <b>NOW! \$58.50 - \$61.50 - \$64.50 - \$69.50</b> 215 East Main Street, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902. Box Office: 434-979-1333  <a href="mailto:info@theparamount.net">info@theparamount.net</a> <a href="http://www.theparamount.net">www.theparamount.net</a> <a href="mailto:info@theparamount.net">info@theparamount.net</a></p>
<p><b>March 14<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>Roanoke St. Pat’s</b>  <b>Parade &amp; Festival</b></p> <p><a href="#">Roanoke St. Pat's Festival</a></p>	<p>Parade starts at 11 am &amp; features Decorated Floats, Marchers, St. Andrew’s Legion Richmond, City of Winchester Pipes, St. Andrew’s Legion Pipes &amp; Drums (some are IAS members!) Virginia Highland Pipes, and Virginia’s WarPipes. The festival includes a St. Pat’s Strong Man Contest. Musical Guests - Finn’s Fury, Nicky Tams &amp; dancers, Second Wynde &amp; dancers. Festival Rates at -Best Western Inn at Valley View - Roanoke, VA 5050 Valley View Boulevard, Roanoke, VA 24012  Toll Free: 1-800-431-5065</p>
<p><b>Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>Capital Ale House –</b>  <b>Downtown and</b>  <b>Innsbrook locations</b></p> <p>(Editors note: Two of these are great local Irish/Celt musical groups that we try to support.</p>	<p>This is a 21 and above event starting at 4:00pm, featuring over 10 different Irish &amp; Scottish Ales on tap and at least ten more in the bottle. Menu items will include traditional Irish fare such as Irish stew, corned beef and cabbage, whisky steak and potatoes along with our regular menu.  <b>The Innsbrook celebration</b> will take place in the restaurant and in the Innsbrook Shoppes Courtyard within our 3500 sq ft heated tent. Here entertainment will be provided by: Ex Patriots 5:00--8:00pm, Albafiere 8:00-11:00pm &amp; St. Andrews Legion Pipe/Drums <b>Midlothian</b> – Tinkers Dam 5:00-7:00, The Havers 8:00-11:00, St. Andrews Legion <b>The Downtown celebration</b> will take place in the Downtown Music Hall. The schedule is The Havers 12:00-1:30 &amp; 4:00-7:00, Tinkers Dam 8:00-10:30, Ex Patriots 11:00 – 1:00 and Greater Richmond Pipes &amp; Drums  <b>(Bonus Events -March 10th-</b> Steal the Glass night featuring Smithwick’s glassware and <b>March 24th-</b> Steal the Glass Night featuring Guinness glassware.)</p>
<p><b>March 21st</b>  <b>St. Patrick’s Parade at</b>  <b>the Irish Festival on</b>  <b>Church Hill.</b>  <b>Meet for Line Up at</b>  <b>9:30 am – The Parade</b>  <b>steps off at 10 am</b>  <b>Sunday – Festival starts</b>  <b>at 10 am.</b></p>	<p>Again, the kick off event for the St. Patrick’s Irish Festival on Church Hill is the PARADE! Denis Maguire is the contact for IAS members who volunteer to march in the Parade. Remember – this parade is a great way to showcase the Irish and especially your local Irish American Society. Also, this parade is only 2 blocks long -but filled with “wildly” excited visitors. Let’s show our Society off proud with a big contingent of members!!! Please email or call Denis – see the box below. Marchers are asked to wear either an Irish/Celtic costume or some appropriate Green attire. <b>There is a \$2.00 fee each day and proceeds go to charitable projects.</b></p>

<p><b>Danú</b>  <b>Saturday, March 21,</b>  <b>7:30 pm</b>  <b>Camp Concert Hall,</b>  <b>Booker Hall of Music</b>  <b>– U of R</b></p>	<p>Danú Hailing from historic County Waterford, Danú is one of the leading traditional Irish ensembles of today. Their standing-room-only concerts throughout Ireland are true events, featuring high-energy performances and a glorious mix of ancient Irish music and new repertoire. Danú guides its audiences on a musical journey through Ireland, offering a moving and memorable concert experience in celebration of the lingering spirit of St. Patrick's Day. Tickets: \$34 adults, \$32 seniors, \$17 children, Tickets go on sale February 6, 2009 (campus) or February 20, 2009 (public).</p>
<p><b>March 29<sup>th</sup></b>  <b>CELTIC THUNDER</b>  <b>Chrysler Hall – Norfolk</b>  <b>VA 7:30 pm</b></p>	<p>These are all links... so enjoy  <a href="#">Link to Ticketmaster</a> (Tickets \$35-\$57)  <a href="#">Local Outlets to pick up Tickets from Ticketmaster</a>  <a href="#">Celtic Thunder on the Today Show</a> (Singing "Ireland's Call)</p>
<p><b>Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>,</b>  <b>8 pm</b>  <b>University of Richmond</b>  <b>Weinstein Hall's</b>  <b>Brown-Alley Room</b>  <b>Paul Muldoon, Irish</b>  <b>Poet &amp; Dramatist.</b></p> <p><b>This Event is Free and</b>  <b>Open to the Public.</b>  <b>Please call 804-289-8287</b>  <b>with questions or for</b>  <b>directions.</b></p>	<p>The internationally acclaimed poet Paul Muldoon has published 10 books of poetry, including <u>Moy Sand and Gravel</u>, which won both the Pulitzer Prize and the Griffin International Prize, and <u>The Annals of Chile</u>, which won the T.S. Eliot Prize in England. Muldoon also has received the Irish Times Poetry Prize, the European Prize for Poetry and the Shakespeare Prize, and he has published the play <u>Six Honest Serving Men</u> and the operas <u>Shining Brow</u>, <u>Bandanna</u> and <u>Vera of Las Vegas</u>.</p> <p>Muldoon attended Queen's University in Belfast, where he met future Nobel laureate Seamus Heaney, and an early champion of Muldoon's work. From 1973 to 1986, Muldoon worked for the BBC in Belfast as a radio and television producer, moving to the United States in 1987. From 1999 to 2004, he was professor of poetry at Oxford, and his lectures were collected in <u>The End of the Poem</u>. He is currently Howard G.B. Clark '21 Professor at Princeton University and poetry editor of <u>The New Yorker</u>.</p>

**SEE YOU AT THE ST. PAT'S FESTIVAL AND PARADE**

Beannachtáil Lá Fhéile Pádraigais orthain go léir.



The Irish American Society of Greater Richmond is pleased to invite you to participate in the 24th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade kicking off Richmond's annual Irish Festival:

**Who:**  
**What:**  
**When:**  
**Where:**  
**Why:**

**You, family and friends (no pets please!)**  
**St. Patrick's Day Parade**  
: 2 block walk to honor the Irish patron Saint  
Prerequisite to drowning the shamrock  
**09:30 EST, Saturday March 21, 2009**  
**Church Hill, Richmond** (North 25th Street between Broad and Franklin.)  
**Why not**

Please let me know if you will be attending the event  
[maguired@comcast.net](mailto:maguired@comcast.net) or (804) 739-0429, Denis.  
Additional details will follow...

