



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

September 15th	Pub Supper – Sullivan’s Irish Pub, Ashland Virginia – See newsletter for details
September 20th	IAS Monthly Meeting – Tuckahoe Library – The Book of Kells copy on display
September 23rd	IAS Board Meeting at Gloria Cahen’s
September 28th – 30th	Williamsburg Celtic Festival www.wsfonline.org
October 15th	U of R Class - Irish Megalithomania \$29 Fee Call 804-289-3133 for registration info
October 19th	U of R Class – Great City: Dublin Lecture and Dinner - \$59 fee for class and dinner
October 24th & 26th	Irish Tenor Anthony Kearns at St. Bridget’s Call 338-5218 for reservations
Oct. 27th & 28th	Richmond Highland Games www.richmondceltic.com

The September 20th Meeting - The Book of Kells –

If you missed the first presentation by Professor Margaret Duckworth, of Virginia Union - don't fret. She will give a 2nd presentation on *The Book* at the Tuckahoe Library on the 20th, starting at 7:00. There will be a short movie about *The Book*, and Margaret is also bringing a rare copy of The Book of Kells – on loan for the night from the University of Richmond. Please feel free to bring a guest(s). This is a very special opportunity to view the U of R copy and to learn more about this amazing piece of Irish history. This is one of the most entertaining and educational programs that the IAS has been able to offer to our members. Besides bringing her contagious enthusiasm for the subject matter, Margaret also brings some great visual materials so that you can view the intricate details of the illustrations – done by hand, in natural light or candlelight – hundreds of years ago. It is truly a treasure of the ages. Please mark your calendar now –and join us for an entertaining and educational evening. 7:00 start time at Tuckahoe Library 1901 Starling Drive 23229 (270-9578) It's-just off Parham Rd near the intersection of Three Chopt Road and behind Topeka Steak House)

Get Your IAS Colors Now – IAS Regalia at the Ready!

There's a new feature on the IAS website – Jim Bandeleian created a new logo for our IAS & arranged with CafePress to get it printed on shirts, sweatshirts, cups etc. Use this link on our IAS website <http://www.cafepress.com/finnmccool> to go see the IAS goodies. The IAS gets a little bit of \$\$ whenever an item is sold, but the good news is we have no money tied up in inventory. There are plenty of items to choose from – so take this chance to get some goodies and help IAS at the same time. Now's your chance to wear our colors proudly – go shopping! (Think Christmas present!!)

By the way when you visit our IAS website

<http://richmondias.org> to look over all the new information on the website and most especially all the goodies in the new IAS store - be sure and hit the refresh button as soon as you log on to the site. A lot of updating and adding of new material is underway. The “refresh” will ensure that your browser is pulling up the current web page with all the new additions.

Random Thoughts & Quotes

Love is never defeated, and I could add, the history of Ireland proves it. (Pope John Paul II from a speech to the people of Galway, September 1979.)

The English language brings out the best in the Irish. They court it like a beautiful woman. They make it bray with donkey laughter. They hurl it at the sky like a paint pot full of rainbows, and then make it chant a dirge for man's fate and man's follies that is as mournful as misty spring rain crying over the fallow earth. (*T. E. Kalem on Brendan Behan's 1958 play “Borstal Boy”*).

In a literature class in Dublin some years back, students were given an assignment to write a short story involving all the important literary ingredients — Nobility, Emotion, Sex, Religion and Mystery. The winner was: "My God!" cried the Duchess. 'I'm pregnant. Who did it?'

Men always want to be a woman's first love. Women have a more subtle instinct: What they like is to be a man's last romance. (Oscar Wilde)

One of those little Odd Irish Facts That I Like To Share

Currently, there are 8 times as many people who speak Polish in Ireland as people who speak Gaelic.

Pub Supper – Saturday, September 15th

Time 6:00 pm, Place: Sullivan's Irish Pub,
South Railroad Ave, Ashland, Va.

Great news! Our fellow IAS member, Greg Sullivan has opened his Irish Pub in Ashland, Virginia. This has been anxiously awaited for some time, so this - our first Pub Social of the fall promises to be one of our best. Greg is planning live Irish music five nights a week, and is also working on a great Irish menu. And best of all for us - he is fine with separate checks for our group.

Directions: Take 95 North to the Ashland exit for 54 west / England Street. Take England Street to South Railroad Ave. make a left and look for the Irish Flag. The pub is just down the street from the Iron Horse restaurant on the opposite side of the street.

Please email or call Ed Mayers to let him know if you will be able to attend. This way we can have a good count for Greg. ehm1537@msn.com or 804-379-5577

Oct. 24th & 26th Irish Tenor in Concert at St. Bridget's Catholic Church in Richmond

Internationally acclaimed tenor Anthony Kearns will perform at St. Bridget Catholic Church, located at 6006 Three Chopt Road, on Wednesday October 24 and Friday October 26 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Kearns, known worldwide as one of the Irish Tenors, will give a solo performance of traditional Irish music, show tunes and classical pieces. Born in Kiltealy, Ireland, Mr. Kearns was selected as an original member of the Irish Tenors at age 27. Critics have compared Mr. Kearns to the great John McCormack and often refer to him as the Tenor of our Times. and Ireland's Best Living Tenor. Immediately following the concert, premier ticket holders will have an opportunity to meet Mr. Kearns at an elegant reception in the Church Commons. There will be a selection of fine desserts, cheeses and fruits as well as wine, beer and soft drinks. Coffee and tea will also be served.. To secure tickets, please call Courtney Karam at (804) 364-0105, or download the ticket order form at St. Bridget's website.

<http://www.stbridgets.org/events2.htm>

Pricing is: \$100 for admission to the post concert reception and concert seating in Rows 1 through 5. Concert only admission is \$50 for intermediate seating (Rows 6 through 15); \$35 for standard seating (Rows 16 through 25). Believe me – When Anthony sings – there are no bad seats in the house.

If it's Fall... it must be time for Celtic Festivals!

September 29th – The Games in Williamsburg.

Visit their website at www.wsfonline.org for event listings and admission costs. There is a super line up of Celtic activities and Celtic bands for the evening ceildhs and for the actual Games on Saturday the 29th. Other activities listed for Friday and Sunday.

October 27th & 28th: The Richmond Highland Games

A great weekend of games, vendors, music and just plain Celtic fun. The IAS tent will be up and running and trolling for new members! If you'd like to volunteer an hour or two (or 3 or 4) please call Gloria Cahen (233-2113) to volunteer to help in the tent. These occasions are our best opportunity to meet and greet local and regional Irish folks who are seeking ways to learn about their Irish heritage. All you need to help out in the tent is a friendly disposition, a big smile and perhaps a bit of the blarney. Visit the games website for a complete program of activities. - www.richmondceltic.com

U of R Presents Two Irish Classes in October

Again this year, the University of Richmond is presenting two classes with an Irish theme. Several IAS members have attended other classes at U of R on Ireland and Irish themes before and they are always very good. Read over the descriptions and get your registrations in early – you don't want to miss out! Phone 804-289-8133 for registration information

Oct 15th – Irish Megalithomania – Class No. 70335 with Dr. Kenneth Ostrand, leading a discussion of the Irish megaliths of Newgrange, Knowth, and Tara. Using photographs, facts and Irish lore to explore the history, the origins and the myths of Ireland's ancient structures - some that predate the Egyptian pyramids. \$29 for class. Class is 6:30 – 9:00 pm and the deadline for registration is October 8th.

Oct 19th – Dublin Lecture and Dinner – Class No. 70336 – Dr Ostrand will present an Irish dinner featuring both the old and 'new' cuisine of Ireland. Afterward a "tour" of the city of Dublin and also a bit about the famous 'spots' just outside the city. \$59 for Dinner and lecture. Classes are from 6pm to 9pm and registration deadline is October 12th

Both of these sessions sound interesting and fun - we've attended some other sessions with Dr. Ostrand and enjoyed them (and others have told us that his dinner classes are truly tasty!)

Help Wanted

Of late – Jim Bandelean has been working to update, improve and enhance our IAS website www.RichmondIAS.org The website is a great asset for the Society, but one that takes more time than Jim is able to give because of the needs of his own business. . We are searching for a member to assist with the website to help in keeping the site updated. Some web building/maintenance knowledge and skills are required. If you think you could help us out, please contact Jim at 804-347-0924 (H) or 804-755-4309 (w) or email him at jbandelean@aim.com

The Joint Pub Night with St. Andrew's – On August 14th, the Irish and the St. Andrew's Society folks shared a fun pub night at Bailey's on Huguenot Road. It was a great turnout for both groups and so much fun getting better acquainted. St. Andrew's President, Dick Harman tells us that he's hoping for more joint functions like this. So are the IAS folks!

Does the IAS have your email address??

As in all things, sometimes we get notices of local or regional Irish events – but not in time to get the information to everyone in the newsletter. To get the information out to everyone, we do email notices to our members with the updates. If you have an email address, but have not shared it with IAS, please think about doing just that. Your email is never shared with any other organization or group. It is securely maintained and used only for IAS and Irish event notification. So if you haven't supplied the email address up to now, please send an email to Nancy Emig at bearfan46@verizon.net and your name and email address will be added to our IAS email list and you will be kept current with events and notices.

Our Emailed Newsletter Project: During the last month, IAS conducted a trial to provide the IAS newsletter by email - to as many of our members as possible. This attempt is due to many reasons, most of which are economical. Recent increases in the cost of postage for mailing and also the increase in the price of making hard copies of the newsletter for all members required that we look to less expensive ways of providing the newsletter. One other thing – is the time spent by yours truly in creating, assembling for mailing, posting and finally delivering to the Post Office. With nearly 150 newsletters – that's a lot of work. So if we can move folks to get the newsletter by email – the IAS comes out \$\$ ahead by cutting expenses and your humble newsletter editor saves time and wear and tear on “herself” on the manual labor involved. ☺
So – long story short. Those of you that haven't supplied your email address, please email it to me

now. For those that received my original email about sending the newsletter via email - if you haven't responded yet to let me know if you could accept either the Word Version or the Adobe PDF version of the newsletter – please do so today. Just email me bearfan46@verizon.net I'll be sending emails again to the members that haven't responded yet (sometimes we all get busy, so reminders are a good thing) No one will be forced to accept the newsletter by email – I know that some members don't have access to the Internet or a computer, and in that case - you won't be affected at all.

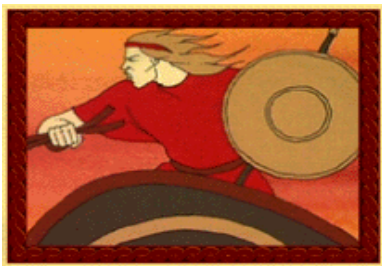
In those cases where Internet use is available - my hope is that down the road, we can post both the Word and PDF versions of the newsletter on the website and members will be able to access the newsletter in that manner.

Silent Auction 2007: Even though we are in the middle of summer, it's time to start planning for the 2nd Annual IAS Silent Auction scheduled for the IAS Christmas Party. Last year, the auction donations from our members raised an impressive \$1,033.00. (Many thanks again to our donors and our buyers!) The proceeds are all used for IAS operating expenses and in particular this year, helped with the cost of our 15th Anniversary party in May and the picnic.

Please start thinking about items that you could donate to the auction. Perhaps, a service you can offer, a book, craft items, a painting or print, or you may know someone who owns a restaurant or other business that might donate certificates for their services or goods. The only limit is your imagination. If you have something to donate or are looking for ideas please contact Ed Mayers - he can be reached at ehm1537@msn.com or 804-379-5577

Plannin' and Thinkin' Ahead

Ed Mayers has suggested a “Richmond IAS Day at Busch Gardens” for a club event next spring. It would include admission to all areas of the park, (Including their “Ireland” section) and a catered picnic lunch package. Pricing for park admission and the picnic for a club-sponsored event would be a bit discounted and would be separately priced for admission and the lunch. Suggested time frame: a Saturday or Sunday next May or June. The money would be due in advance to Busch Gardens and would be non-refundable. Please call or email Ed for more info – but especially to let him know if you might be interested in attending. Depending on response – Ed can pursue this further. ehm1537@msn.com or 804-379-5577



Cuchulainn {koo-hoo'lin} – of Irish folklore fame - was an ancient Gaelic hero who was endowed with superhuman qualities. His name means 'The Hound of Culainn', but he was first called Setanta. His parents were Dechtire and Lugh Lamhfhada (Lugh of the Long Hand / Pronounce "Loo Lawvodda"). At the age of five he left home to join the Red Branch Knights, the Ulster army of the king Conor Mac Nessa. With him he took his hurley (called camán in Gaelic), his silver ball, his javelin and his spear. He would hit the silver ball with the hurley, leap forward and hit it a second time before it touched the ground, toss the javelin ahead and then the spear, run after them all, catch the ball and javelin with one hand and the spear with the other. When he reached the palace at Emain Macha (Armagh), he beat 150 boys at hurling and other games.

Cuchulainn achieved his name at the age of seven when he killed the watchdog of Ulster belonging to Culainn, the smith and in return undertook to protect the kingdom of Ulster and its people himself. Cuchulainn became the leader of the Red Branch Knights. In battle, a 'Battle Fury', which looked like this, transformed him: From head to toe, his whole body trembled like a bulrush in a river torrent. His body turned right around inside his skin so that his heels, calves and hams appeared in front. One of his eyes drew right back in his head, the other stood out huge and red on his cheek. His mouth was distorted, twisted up to his ears so you could see his throat and a man's head would fit into it. His hair stood up on his head like hawthorn, and there was a drop of blood on every single hair. The light of the Champion stood out of his forehead as long and thick as a warrior's whetstone and from the top of his head rose a thick column of dark blood like the mast of a huge ship. When this happened the only way he could be calmed down was by being ducked three times in cold water.

During his lifetime he made a number of enemies, and one of these Queen Maeve of Connaught brought about his downfall. The Queen learnt of a great Brown Bull in Cooley, County Louth. The chieftain of Louth refused to let Maeve have his bull, so she resolved to get it by force. Secretly she promised her beautiful daughter in marriage to every leader in her army and so secured the help of every warrior outside Ulster. The army marched to Kells,

on the Ulster border and pitched camp. Maeve sought an interview with the Ulsterman and, amazed to find him a mere boy, offered him gold and great rewards if he would desist. Cuchulainn refused, but Maeve secured his agreement to fight one of her heroes each day at the ford that lay between, reckoning that this was better than losing one hundred every night to Cuchulainn's sling. Day after day Cuchulainn fought Maeve's warriors, overcoming Morrighu, the water goddess, during his fight with the hero Loich who he still managed to wound mortally. After more such combats and deceitful ploys by Maeve, Cuchulainn mounted his war chariot and hurled himself against the men of Erin. Maeve with her forces sorely depleted, resorted once again to single combat. She finally forced Cuchulainn foster brother Ferdia to face the Ulsterman, by threatening him with the spells of her Druids. After a great fight in which Ferdia almost proved almost a match for him, Cuchulainn badly wounded, emerged as the tragic victor. While he recovered from his wounds, the men of Ulster began to collect themselves, and the two armies faced each other on the plains of Meath. While this great battle was raging Maeve managed to capture the Brown Bull of Cooley, which she sent back to Connaught under escort. Eventually, through the intervention of Cuchulainn the Ulster army defeated Maeve's followers and they fled back to Cruachan, from whence they had originally set out.

Cuchulainn lived on after his incredible feats of prowess, but not for long. Maeve, having bided her time, once again brought an army together to seek revenge. She had no trouble in assembling a great number of warriors because there was scarcely one who had not a relative slain by the Ulster hero. But it was only by magic that Cuchulainn was eventually pierced by his own spear. With great difficulty, holding in his entrails, Cuchulainn tied himself to a high stone by a lake, because as a Gaelic hero 'he did not wish to die either sitting or lying: it was standing that he wished to meet his death'. His faithful horse protected him as he died, and it was only when a raven alighted on his shoulder that his enemies knew he was dead.

I hope you enjoy these small bits of Irish history and lore. If there is something special you would like addressed in the newsletter – please let me know. You can email me at beارفان46@verizon.net or you can mail me articles at the return address shown on this newsletter. I'd love to have our members contribute to the newsletter – either through articles or suggestions. Otherwise, you are destined to be the target of my monthly rants and raves. Nancy

What I Did On Summer Vacation

Sometimes -life is so good. In late August, my daughter, Mary Rose, and I took our first trip to Ireland. We landed in Dublin, explored the city for a day and then our tour was off to Northern Ireland and places west. Although (as you may have noticed) I am rarely at a loss for words, I can't even begin to describe the beauty. We drove through the Mourne Mountains, the Glens of Antrim, saw the Giants Causeway and traveled the rough roads of Donegal to the Burren and then the Cliffs of Moher. Every glance out the window was a picture postcard scene. I don't know what I was expecting – everyone said it was so pretty – but no one told me it would continue to take my breath away. In Belfast, we were in the neighborhoods, sadly made famous by the troubles. Quiet now, the huge billboards on the sides of buildings served as a silent reminder. Our guide told us that our Hotel was the most bombed building in Belfast during the troubles. Our room window faced onto the street so we looked down on the Crown Liquor Saloon (circa 1826). This is the neatest pub - some of the tables actually are enclosed with doors. The ultimate booth – I guess! At dinner that night, one of our companions ordered something with a British brand of alcohol (???) Our young waiter didn't know what he was ordering – and the man told him it was a British brand. The young man said, "Ah But you're in Ireland now, what else could I get you" After Belfast, we came to Derry. Waiting for our local guide to take us a walking tour – we were called to group by a young Asian man, who introduced himself as Francis, Aloysius, Patrick, Michael, An Ling McNamara! Irish Dad and Chinese Mom he explained. What a treasure he was -thick Irish brogue and fluent in Gaelic and wonderful stories about Derry – historical and present day. We next stopped in Westport.. such a neat little town.. we went to Matt Malloy's pub – and the worst of all things happened. After Mary Rose and I left.. they tell me that Matt Malloy himself, came in to sing with the crowd. AAAARGH!

All through our trip – I found myself thinking about my Murphy family that came from Ireland. When you stand on the shore and look at that expanse of ocean, you realize what a hard and scary trip that had to be in 1835. My family, Cornelius, Mary and 2 babies under 4 yrs came to America on a schooner with a lot of other Irish crammed onto their ship. Not the ocean liner kind of crossing. Whenever I'd look out the tour bus window and see the ocean, or the remains of a small rock building, or the walls of a long crumpled church – I'd get a catch in my throat. I was going to have a hard time leaving Ireland after 7 days.. what thoughts must have gone through their minds as they packed up to leave forever.

Someday you'll be glad I bored you with Irish trivia!



Red Hand of Ulster is the official seal of the O'Neill family. It is believed to have originated from a mythical tale wherein two chieftains were racing across a stretch of water in a bid to be the first to reach the land and claim it as his own. Realizing his foe would touch the land first; one chieftain cut off his hand and threw it onto the shore, thereby claiming the land before his adversary reached it. The Red Hand is one of the only emblems in Northern Ireland used by both communities in Northern Ireland although it is more associated with the Protestant community. Catholics see it as representing the nine counties of Ulster while Protestants see it as representing the six counties of Northern Ireland. The Red Hand of Ulster appears on many murals and flags.

The IAS Board Meeting – At the July 22nd Board meeting, our new President Gloria Cahen announced committees and appointments for the upcoming year:

Programs – Dan Begley
Special Events – Sonya Moore & Karon Bell
Membership – Nancy Emig
Newsletter & Emails – Nancy Emig
Fund Raising – Ed & Linda Mayers
Pubmaster – Ed Mayers
Hospitality – Carmel Miney, Pam Hardy and Maureen Toibin
Publicity – Maureen & Jim Kelly
Memorials and Awards – Larry David

Say – Did You Know??

- The word "**slogan**" comes from the Irish *sluagh-ghairm*, which means "war cry."
- The word "**galore**" comes from the Irish *go leor*, which means "enough" or "plenty."
- Though it's only one of many theories, there are those who believe the term "put the kabash" on something comes from an old Irish phrase "**cie bais**," which means "cap of death"

And that's it for this month. Stay safe and stay well

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