



## The Richmond Claddagh

FEBRUARY 2013

<http://richmondias.org/>

The Richmond Irish American Society

[Click for the Calendar of Events](#)

**'Irish Eyes' Black-Eyed Susan** - Are you looking for new additions to your garden? I ran across this and thought to myself... I bet I can find a spot for these, - it's a tender perennial that occasionally returns for an encore the following year, but the 'Irish Eyes' black-eyed Susan is best treated as an annual flower. It's named for the green eye of its daisy-like bloom. Its height and habit make it look like a perennial, but it blooms nonstop all summer. It's not fussy about watering once established.



**Name:** *Rudbeckia hirta* 'Irish Eyes' From Better Homes & Garden - [Read about black-eyed susan.](#)

It will soon be St. Patrick's Day – and we Irish need your help at our IAS Tent at the Festival on Sat. and Sunday and the St. Pat's Parade on Church Hill on Saturday.

**1st** – if you can spare some time to work in the IAS Booth to meet and greet and hopefully convince folks to join the IAS please call or email Karon Bell 804-82-7835 or email <mailto:irishmom1958@gmail.com>

**2nd**– with regard to the Parade - We have this note from IAS member Gary McAuliffe.

“Hi Nancy, As you probably remember, I am the Head Marshal for the St Patrick's Day parade held annually on Church Hill. This year the parade will be on March 23rd. I have discovered that some of my marshals have conflicts and will not be able to attend. So, I thought I'd send you a note to see if you could put out a message to our membership and see if anyone wanted to be a marshal. The pay isn't great, the working conditions can be difficult (rain and cold sometimes), but the camaraderie can't be beat...and you get to wear one of those famous green vests! If anyone is interested, please call me at 804-513-3833 or email me at [gary.mcauliffe@novartis.com](mailto:gary.mcauliffe@novartis.com) “

### **First IAS Pub Supper of 2013**

**Sat. February 16 – 6pm**



Join us at [Capital Ale House](#) Western Henrico County location, at the entrance to Innsbrook [4024 Cox Road](#) (Cox Road & Broad Street)

Come to the “back room” and hoist a Guinness to salute your favorite team winning the Super Bowl, winter's bracing weather, your political party's electoral triumphs, a winning Lotto ticket, or your grandchild being named valedictorian. (If you find nothing so auspicious to celebrate, any of the less jubilant among us can cry in our beer.)

Speaking of beer ... if you sometimes stray from the noble Guinness brand to enjoy the wide world of frothy beverages, you'll be delighted to know that Capital Ale House Innsbrook proudly features [77 beers on tap](#), as well as two cask-conditioned "real" ales and over 250 bottled beers.

Oh, yes, they have [wine](#) and [spirits](#), too. And then [there's the food!](#) (Yes -ALL THESE LINKS WORK!)

Everyone attending will be invited to rate the Pub Night experience and vote on locations for future Pub Night social extravaganzas!

[http://vimeo.com/49328821!](http://vimeo.com/49328821)

Questions? Comments? Cries of protest? Please feel welcome to contact Seamus himself by **either** [jim.mahone@comcast.net](mailto:jim.mahone@comcast.net) or at **804-387-8124**.

**Many thanks** go to Kathryn O'Meara and Jim Bandeleon for working on photos of the Christmas Party for the newsletter. Unfortunately, I ran out of time to get them in this issue, so we'll celebrate Christmas all over again next month! It's a shorter newsletter too. But just a very busy month for me... Painting 4 rooms. Aaaargh, - need I say more???

### CUPLA FOCAIL GOES ONLINE!

New English-Irish translation website officially launched English-Irish dictionary first of its kind since 1959-

"Although the knowledge of Irish among the majority is, in general, very poor, there is a curious habit of flavoring one's speech by adding a few words from Irish, what is sometimes called using the *cúpla focal* (Irish 'couple of words') . . .

The Internet bid 'Cead Mile Failte' to the newest English-Irish dictionary in over 50 years on Wednesday. [Folcoir.ie](http://folcoir.ie) is backed by Foras na Gailege, the body responsible for the promotion of the Irish language throughout the whole island of Ireland.

[The Irish Sun](http://www.theirishsun.com) reports that the new English-Irish dictionary is the first of its kind since Tomas de Bhaldraithe's version in 1959. The new Folcoir site boasts the additives of modern terms such as Tweeting, cloud computing and cyber bullying.

Irish President Michael D. Higgins officially launched the new website on Wednesday from the National Gallery in Dublin.

Though already launched, the online translation dictionary is very much a work in process. Presently, it features 7500 words, and by the end of January, it should reach about 30 percent completion. The final online and hard copy version is expected to be completed by 2015.

Editor Dr Padraig O Mianain said: "We wanted to reflect how Irish is spoken in Gaeltacht areas and we have incorporated audio recordings of pronunciations in the three main Irish language dialects as a further aid to learners of the language."

You can read more at this website: <http://www.irishcentral.com/news/Cupla-Focail-goes-online-New-English-Irish-translation-website-officially-launched-188105581.html#ixzz2JGk3Ut00> by [KERRY O'SHEA](#), IrishCentral Staff Writer

(And thanks to Frank Hardy and Kevin Donleavy for sending this note on.)

### Irish Valentine Thoughts – for you ---

- "Hearts are not to be had as a gift - hearts are to be earned." - William Butler Yeats (1865-1939) Irish Poet, Revivalist of Irish Literature
- A pity beyond all telling is hid in the heart of love. [William Butler Yeats](#)
- Affection is responsible for nine-tenths of whatever solid and durable happiness there is in our lives. [C. S. Lewis](#)

(Lovely thoughts - Makes one proud and happy to be Irish, don't ya think?)

### WHAT ARE YOU DOING THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?

#### OR AT LEAST ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY?

Are you tired of the "same old, same old" crowded bars on St. Paddy's Day? Pushing through the throngs to pay too much for warm green beer and hear semi-Irish music played way too loud?

Then come out to Virginia Repertory Theater at Willow Lawn Shopping Center – formerly known as The Barksdale Theater. It's located at 1601 Willow Lawn Dr., Richmond, VA 23230. (804) 282-9440

There will be an offering of Traditional Irish Music, featuring Kelly Kennedy and the group "Handsome Molly"! And there will also be Irish dancers, and guest musicians ready to offer lively tunes from the Irish Masters. And of course, there will be haunting songs from Central Virginia's favorite Irish songbird – Kelly Kennedy.

Local actors will present selections from the Golden Age of Irish literature.

Doors open at 6:30, there is cash bar, tables and plenty of room to spread out and dance if you get the urge!

It all starts at 7 pm and it's just \$10 @ the door. Music begins at 7:00 and its FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!" Plenty of well-lit parking!



**Handsome Molly**

**Wild West Irish Tours** = I found this neat tour company online and thought it sounded like a great way to see the West of Ireland. It's fit for small groups – and there are three videos below - the 1<sup>st</sup> link is about the tour company, where they go, accommodations, schedules, etc. The 2<sup>nd</sup> video is about the 2013 Gathering in Ireland – music, scenery, etc. The 3<sup>rd</sup> is information about various Gathering Events scheduled for this year. Just click on the links is you are reading this on line. Lots of you have asked ask me about an IAS trip to Ireland one day – HmMMMM -

<http://www.wildwestirishtours.com/>

<http://vimeo.com/49328821>

<http://www.thegatheringireland.com/>

### **The Atlas of the Great Irish Famine - Famine-related notes for the 1840s-1850s era**

The Great Irish Famine is the most pivotal event in modern Irish history, with implications that cannot be underestimated. Over a million people perished between 1845-1852, and well over a million others fled to other locales within Europe and America. By 1850, the Irish made up a quarter of the population in Boston, New York City, Philadelphia, and Baltimore. The 2000 US census had 41 million people claim Irish ancestry, or one in five white Americans.

**Atlas of the Great Irish Famine (1845-52)** considers how such a near total decimation of a country by natural causes could take place in industrialized, 19<sup>th</sup> century Europe and situates the Great Famine alongside other world famines for a more globally informed approach.

The Atlas seeks to try and bear witness to the thousands and thousands of people who died and are buried in mass Famine pits or in fields and ditches, with little or nothing to remind us of their going. The centrality of the Famine workhouse as a place of destitution is also examined in depth. Likewise the atlas represents and documents the conditions and experiences of the many thousands who emigrated from Ireland in those desperate years, with case studies of famine emigrants in cities such as Liverpool, Glasgow, New York and Toronto.

The Atlas places the devastating Irish Famine in greater historic context than has been attempted before and includes references such as:

- Non-Catholics/Protestants made up some 10 % of the total Famine emigrants.
- There was a progressive landlord in County Down who wrote in 1856: "In place of adequate security for tenants, I fear that the exterminating and consolidating is largely operating. It is the fashionable doctrine to call this improvement; but the extermination of human beings and the substitution of brute animals for the human race on the soil of Ireland, is not an improvement grateful to my mind."
- "The English MP, G.P. Scrope, charged the [British] Government with a policy of 'extermination' not by direct design, but 'by their deprivation of the means of living, of shelter, clothing, and of sufficiency of food.' "
- Emigrant remittances from the US to Ireland went from 460,000 pounds sterling on 1848 to about 7,404,000 pounds sterling in 1852

- A conclusion from non-Irish economist Joel Mokyr: "Most serious of all, when the chips were down in the frightful summer of 1847, the British simply abandoned the Irish and let them perish."
- In Ireland, "Fourth-class houses were defined as 'all mud cabins having only one room.' The fourth-class house is seen as one of the great symbols of poverty in pre-Famine Ireland."
- By 1851, the one-roomed mud cabins and many of their occupants had been swept from the land." (190)
- 1845, some 75,000 Irish went to North America. In 1846, about 100,000, 1847, about 214,000, 1848, about 177,000, 1851, some 245,000.
- "As historian Oliver McDonagh wrote, the 1847 exodus was less an emigration than a 'headlong flight of refugees,' which 'bore all the marks of panic and hysteria.' "
- "...West Cork, is often thought of as the epicenter of the Great Famine."
- Some 738 vessels carried emigrant passengers from 19 Irish ports in this era: Belfast, Cork, Dublin, Drogheda, Donegal, Galway, Killibegs, Kilrush, Derry Limerick, Moville, Newry, New Ross, Queenstown, Sligo, Tralee, Waterford, Wexford, and Youghal.
- During the Famine era, there were some 3,065 transatlantic crossings with Irish emigrants. Vessels out of Liverpool carried c. 90 % of these Irish to NYC.
- "Ships plying the Liverpool-New York trade route were invariably of superior quality to the infamous 'coffin ships' which sailed directly from Irish ports or ships that were bound for Canadian ports."

If you'd like more information on the book – where to find it and best prices, you can "Google" Amazon, Barnes & Noble, etc. Many thanks go to our good friend to the IAS, Kevin Donleavy, for sending along these historical notes from **The Atlas**.

**Irish Potato** - This white potato, one of the major starch sources worldwide, is not native to Ireland, but originated in South America. Because of its popularity in Ireland, the tuber was called an Irish potato by earlier American generations to distinguish it from sweet potatoes and because the potato was so closely associated with the Irish diet after the Great Famine.

I didn't know this - I guess I just assumed...

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

And ALWAYS click the links below to get the latest updates on upcoming events

<http://richmondias.org/events.php> or for a full month calendar of current events click here. [IAS Calendar](#)

<b>Sat Feb 16 Pub Supper 6 pm</b>	Join us at <a href="#">Capital Ale House</a> Western Henrico County location, at the entrance to Innsbrook <a href="#">4024 Cox Road</a> (Cox Road & Broad Street) – See More in Newsletter
<b>Monday Feb 18 IAS Board Meeting 7 pm</b>	The Board meeting is at O’Toole’s Restaurant 4800 Forest Hill Avenue, Richmond, VA 23225. All members along with their ideas and suggestions are encouraged to attend.
<b>Feb 26 &amp; 27 Tue &amp; Wed Gaelic Storm</b>	Tue. & Wed. Feb. 26 & 27: The Birchmere 7:30pm \$35.00 GAE LIC STORM 3701 Mount Vernon Avenue Alexandria, VA 22305 (703) 549-7500 –Visit the website for more information <a href="http://www.gaelicstorm.com/">http://www.gaelicstorm.com/</a>
<b>March 12<sup>th</sup> 2013 – 7 pm Celtic Crossroads Glen Allen Cultural Arts Center Tickets \$25 - +65 = \$2 disc 10+ 10% disc. 20+ 15% disc.</b>	The name <b>Celtic Crossroads</b> originates from a time in Ireland when neighbouring communities met at the crossroads between towns and villages to socialize – long before the pub tradition began. Experience the best that Irish music and dance has to offer with this group of seven highly talented singers/multi-instrumentalists and two dancers. Direct from Ireland, they take the art form to an entirely new level. Experience a wonderful fusion of musical genres, such as eastern European Gypsy, North American Bluegrass, world Classical and Jazz, and the various forms of Celtic music from around Europe and the rest of the world. Click on this link to see a video of the group. <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wDtEDAv0Js">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4wDtEDAv0Js</a> 2880 Mountain Road, Glen Allen VA 23060 804-261-2787 <a href="http://www.artsglenallen.com/">http://www.artsglenallen.com/</a> <a href="http://purchase.tickets.com/buy/TicketPurchase">http://purchase.tickets.com/buy/TicketPurchase</a>
<b>March 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Dedication of Historical Marker commemorating the Irish fatalities in the Civil War era Explosion of the Brown’s Island Munitions factory.
<b><a href="#">Danú</a> March 16 –SAT 7:30 Modlin Center Alice Jepson Theater – \$36.00 804-289-8980</b>	<a href="#">Danú</a> - Hailing from historic County Waterford, Danú is one of the leading traditional Irish ensembles today. Their standing-room-only concerts throughout Ireland feature high-energy performances and a glorious mix of ancient Irish music and new repertoire. For more than a decade, Danú’s virtuosi players on flute, tin whistle, fiddle, button accordion, bouzouki, and vocals (Irish and English), have performed around the globe and recorded seven critically acclaimed albums. <b>NOTE:</b> - Meet at the Modlin Center for the Arts and celebrate St. Patrick’s Day with a pre-show reception beginning at 6pm in the Booth Lobby. Discount available for Senior Citizens 62+ and groups of 20 or more - \$32/ticket. Tickets on line <a href="http://modlin.richmond.edu/tickets/index.html">http://modlin.richmond.edu/tickets/index.html</a>
<b>March 17, 2013 – The Chieftans Norfolk, VA</b>	<b>Chieftans – Norfolk – Sunday, March 17, 7PM Harrison Opera House, Norfolk</b> Tickets \$65, \$50, \$40, \$20 Celebrate the wearin’ of the green with the legendary Paddy Moloney and The Chieftains! For 50 years, these singing Celts have shared the beauty and joy of Irish music with audiences around the world. Plan an unforgettable St. Patrick’s Day, and get the best seats now with this special advance priority sale!
<b>Mar 23<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 24<sup>th</sup> Irish Festival St. Patrick’s Church Hill</b>	<b>Volunteers needed for Friday night set up and to work in the tent on Saturday and Sunday.</b>
<b>March 30<sup>th</sup> Richmond Folk Music</b>	<a href="#">Blue Ridge School of Irish Music</a> presents "An Evening of Irish Music and Dance" The students and instructors of the Blue Ridge Irish Music School (BRIMS) have been actively bringing traditional Irish music and dance in its most vital and exciting form to central Virginia since 1999